

Chapter 19

Certain cities of refuge must be assigned for casual manslaughter. 11. Wilful murder punished by death without remission, 15. so it be convinced by two or three witnesses. 16. False witnesses punished with the pain, which the crime objected deferueth.

Vhen our Lord thy God hath destroyed the nations, whose land he wil deliuer to thee, and thou doest possesse it, and dwellest in the cities and houses therof: ² three cities shalt thou separate to thee in the middes of the Land, which our Lord thy God wil geue thee in possession, ³ ^a)preparing diligently the way: and thou shalt diuide the whole prouince of thy Land equally into three partes: that he which for murder is a fugitiue, may haue neere at hand, whither to escape. ⁴ This shal be the law of the murderer that fleeth, whose life is to be sau'd: He that striketh his neighbour vnwitting, and that is proued yesterday and the day before to haue had no hatred against him: ⁵ but to haue gone with him simply vnto the wood to cutte wood, and in cutting of wood the axe flipped out of his hand, and the yron falling from the handle strooke his freind, and killed him: he shal flee to one of the cities aforefaid, and liue: ⁶ lest perhaps the next kinsman of him, whose blood was shed, pricked with sorow, pursue, and apprehend him if the way be too long, and stricke his life, that is not guiltie of death, because he is proued to haue had no hatred before, against him that was slaine. ⁷ Therefore I command thee, that thou separat three cities of equal distance one from an other. ⁸ And when our Lord thy God shal haue dilated thy borders, as he sware to thy fathers, and shal geue thee al the Land, that he promised them, (⁹ yet so, if thou keepe his commandmentes, and do the thinges which I command thee this day, that thou loue our Lord thy God,

^a The way to the cities of refuge were paved, and markes set for direction, that he which fled might not erre in his way.

and walke in his wayes at al time) thou shalt added to thee other three cities, and shalt duple the number of the three cities aforefaid: ¹⁰ that innocent blood be not shed in the middes of the Land, which our Lord thy God wil geue thee to poffeffe, lest thou be guiltie of blood. ¹¹ But if any man hating his neighbour, lie in wayte for his life, and rife and ftrike him, and he die, and he flee to one of the cities aforefaid, ¹² the ancientes of his citie shal fend, and take him out of the place of refuge, and shal deliuer him into the hand of the kinfeman of him, whose blood was fhed, and he shal die. ¹³ ^{a)}Thou shalt not pitie him, and thou shalt take away the guiltie blood out of Ifrael, that it may be wel with thee. ¹⁴ Thou shalt not take, and transferre thy neighbours boundes, which thy predeceffours did fette in thy poffeffion, which our Lord thy God wil geue thee in the Land, that thou shalt receiue to poffeffe. ¹⁵ One witneffe shal not ftand againft any man, whatfoeuer finne, or wickedneffe it be: but in the mouth of two or three witneffes shal euerie word ftand. ¹⁶ If a lying witneffe ftand againft a man, accusing him of preuarication, ¹⁷ both of them, whose the caufe is, shal ftand before our Lord in the fight of the prieftes and the iudges that shal be in thofe daies. ¹⁸ And when fearching moft diligently, they shal finde that the falfe witnes hath faid a lie againft his brother: ¹⁹ they shal render to him as he meant to doe to his brother, and thou shalt take away the euil out of the middes of thee: ²⁰ that others hearing may haue feare, and may not be bold to doe fuch things. ²¹ ^{b)}Thou shalt not pitie him, but life for life, eie for eie, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foote for foote shalt thou exacte.

^a This was fayd to the whole people who muft not intreate for the murderers pardon: but the kinfmen of him that was flaine, might remitte the punifhment.

^b This pertained to the Iudge: who without partialitie muft do iuftice.