



114

Cities of Refuge east
of the Jordan 4:41-43

- God had identified these to Moses earlier now before crossing the Jordan these cities are established.
 - Bezer in the land given to the Reubenites
 - Ramoth in Gilead in the land of the Gadites
 - Golan in Bashan in the land of half of the tribe of Manasseh.



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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- The setting 4:44-49
 - Encamped across the Jordan from the Promised Land
 - God's victories over their enemies are fresh in their minds.
 - Under the slopes of Mount Pisgah where Moses will soon get his last look at the Promised Land before he dies.

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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Instructions concerning the commandments and a call to remember.
 - Learn them
 - Be careful to do them
 - Remember when God spoke to them at Mount Sinai
 - Realize that the covenant of God belongs to them just as truly as the covenants that were made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Recalling God's commands given directly to the people at Sinai.
 - The Israelites had lived for generations in a country where multiple gods were worshipped. God began his instruction by identifying that He is Yahweh their God. He is the One who showed Himself real and superior by His acts of deliverance from Egypt.
 - In the pagan world there were many deities imagined and worshipped. Monotheism was a radical change in this view. Yahweh rightfully claims to be the only one true and living God and will tolerate no rivals.
 - Closely related is the prohibition of making any visual representation of Yahweh since no created thing can adequately represent Him.

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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Recalling God's commands given directly to the people at Sinai.
 - God rightfully requires exclusive devotion from His people
 - Although God does not hold people accountable for other's sins the stern, clear and strong warning is the influence parents have on ensuing generations for those who do not give God the honor He deserves.
 - Conversely there is the powerful influence of practicing and instilling an exclusive love for God with the resulting obedience.

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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Recalling God's commands given directly to the people at Sinai.
 - Using the name of a god was common in pagan practices of magical formulas, blessings and curses. The name of Yahweh was never to be used in this manner. The idea is trying to manipulate a situation or a person for personal purposes by obligating a deity to act on your behalf.
 - In Exodus the basis of setting aside the seventh day for rest was God's rest on the seventh day after the six days of creation.

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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Recalling God's commands given directly to the people at Sinai.
 - Here an application is made that that Israelites knew what it was like to be forced to work relentlessly. The Sabbath Day rest extended to all people within the territory of the Israelites.
 - A designated day of rest was a departure from the practices of the world and was the most visible distinguishing mark of the fact that the Israelites served the One true and living God. A seven-day week has no foundation other than the commands of Yahweh.

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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Recalling God's commands given directly to the people at Sinai.
 - The apostle Paul notes that the command to honor father and mother is the first commandment with a promise (Ephesians 6:2). In the last chapter and the next chapter an emphasis is made on the responsibility of the parents to teach the Law of God to their children in word and deed. This will position them for fullness of life and preservation in the land God is giving them.

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Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Recalling God's commands given directly to the people at Sinai.
 - God's people are to hold in highest regard:
 - Human life
 - Marriage
 - The personal property of others
 - The reputation of others
 - God's people are to recognize the inherent danger of desiring something because another person has it.

123

Establishing God's commandments in the hearts of a new generation. 4:44-5:33

- Recalling God's commands given directly to the people at Sinai.
 - This marked the end of the verbal instruction by God to His people.
 - God inscribed these Words on two tablets of stone and gave them to Moses.
 - The people, impacted by God's glory and greatness, requested that Moses act as a mediator since they were afraid they would be consumed by His presence.
 - God accepted this proposal and expressed his desire that they would continue in this attitude so they would remain obedient to Him.
 - Another appeal is made to this new generation that they, in contrast to their predecessors would be careful to obey the commands of Yahweh.