

d. The order to assign cities to the Levites (xxxv.1-8)

The tribe of Levi is not to receive a separate area, but its members are to be assigned forty-eight cities, scattered through the territory of all the other tribes. The carrying out of this provision is described in Jos.xxi.

e. The order to set aside cities of refuge (xxxv.9-34)

This is the fullest description of the regulations concerning the cities of refuge--regulations designed to prevent the starting of blood feuds, but so guarded that they would not in any way protect a real murderer. Briefer descriptions of their purpose are contained in Moses' farewell address in Dt.xix.1-13, and also in connection with the designation of the three cities west of the Jordan (Jos.xx). The three cities east of the Jordan were set aside by Moses before his death (Dt.iv.41-43).

f. A further order regarding inheritance by women (xxxvi.1-13)

The death of Zelophehad without male heirs had led his daughters to request a special provision, so that they might receive his inheritance (xxvii.1-11). This now led to a new problem. The men of the tribe, who had just received their territory, feared that this provision might lead to alienation of the territory to another tribe, in case the women married outside the tribe. In answer the Lord commanded that the provision permitting women to inherit should require that the marriage of such women be confined to men of their own tribe, so that the tribal areas would not become mixed.

These are the commandments (13). This verse forms a conclusion to the whole passage from xxvi to xxxvi, with its varied enactments in preparation for entrance to Canaan.