

# Taking Refuge in the God of Mercy and Justice

Joshua 20

## Psalm 91:1

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the  
Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the  
Almighty.

Sir Charles Laughton

Sir Charles Laughton

I know the Psalm

She knows the Shepherd

## Psalm 91:1

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the  
Most High  
will rest in the shadow of the  
Almighty.

## Summary of Joshua 20

Joshua 20:9 (NIV)

Any of the Israelites or any foreigner residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.

# Joshua 20

Cities of Refuge - Mercy  
Avenger of Blood - Justice

# Cities of Refuge





# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

1. Place
2. Way
3. People

# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

1. Place
2. Way
3. People

The Avenger of Blood  
Vs  
The Cities of Refuge

# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

1. Place
2. Way
3. People

Matthew 11:28-29 (NIV)

Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

Matthew 11:28-29 (The Message)

1. Place
2. Way
3. People

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest.

# Solomon Ecclesiastes 2

“Come now, I will test you with pleasure...

“Everything is meaningless, a chasing after  
the wind

In Augustine's Confessions, he  
opens with his famous prayer

“You have made us for yourself,  
and our heart is restless until it  
rests in you.”

## John 3:36

Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for **God's wrath** remains on them.

# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

1. Place
2. Way
3. People

Way to Cities of Refuge  
– easily accessible



# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

John 14:6 (ESV)

1. Place

2. **Way**

3. People

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

1. Place
2. Way
3. People

Joshua 20:9 (NIV)

Any of the **Israelites** or **any foreigner** residing among them who killed someone accidentally could flee to these designated cities and not be killed by the avenger of blood prior to standing trial before the assembly.

# Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy

Romans 1:16b (NIV)

1. Place
2. Way
3. People

...it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.

1. Cities of Refuge and God's Mercy
2. Avenger of Blood and God's Justice

# Avenger of Blood and God's Justice

Joshua 20:1-2 (NIV)

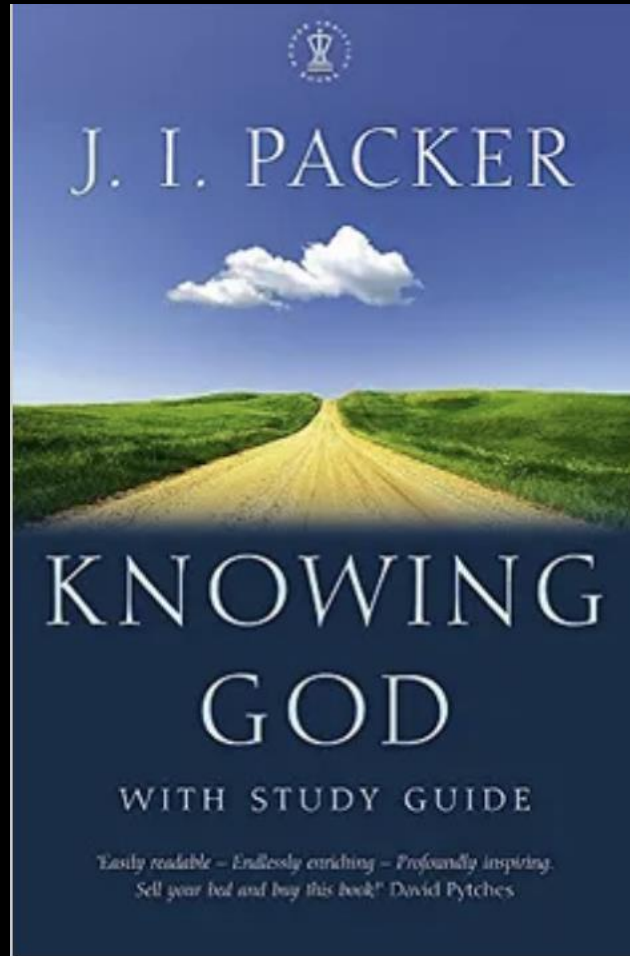
1 Then the LORD said to Joshua: 2 "Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.

# Avenger of Blood and God's Justice

The Avenger of Blood is  
Responsible for carrying out justice

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# Avenger of Blood and God's Justice



“Do you believe in  
divine judgment?”

# Joshua 20

Cities of Refuge - Mercy  
Avenger of Blood - Justice



# Mercy and Justice of God

We can appreciate the  
Mercy of God only when we  
recognize the Justice of God.

How well do we know our God?

How well do we know our God?

## Knowing God – A W Tozer

What comes to our mind when we think about God is the most important thing about us. If we can extract from any man a complete answer to the question “what comes to mind when you think about God”, we might predict with certainty the spiritual future of that man.

Yet this I call to mind

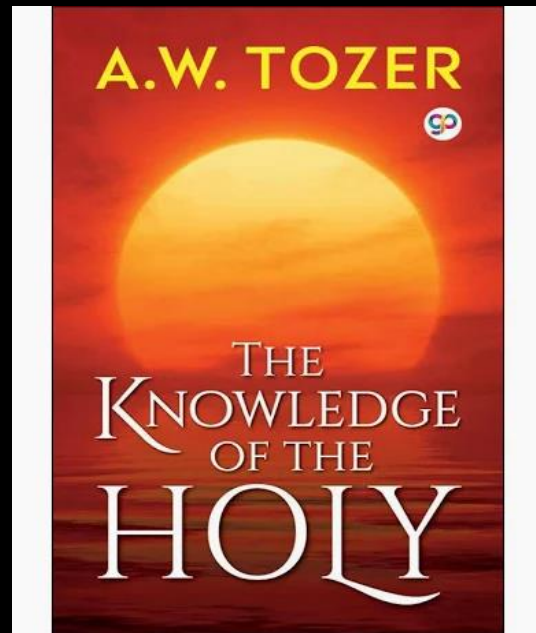


# Yet this I call to mind



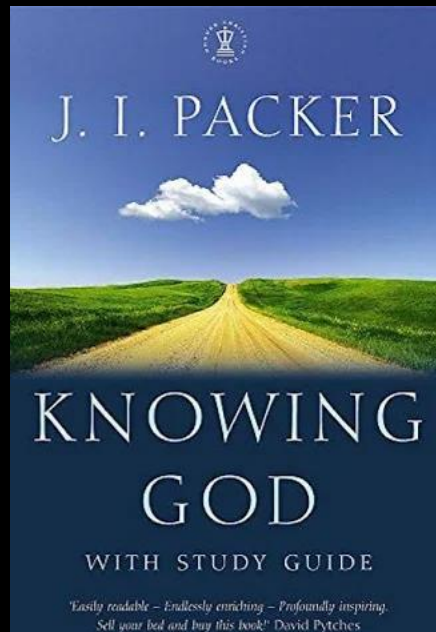


# 1. Resource



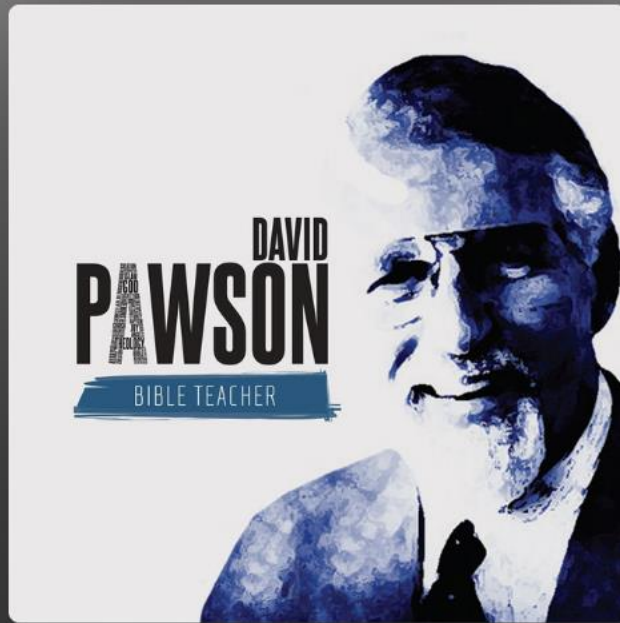
I write not for professional theologians but for plain persons whose hearts stir them up to seek after God Himself

## 2. Resource



Our aim in studying the Godhead must be to know God himself better. We must seek in studying God to be led to God.

### 3. Resource



Spotify – David Pawson,  
Characters of God

HIJ - Holiness, Indignation, Justice  
KLM - Kindness, Love, Mercy



# Challenge

To grow in our  
knowledge of  
our God

# Challenge

To grow in our  
knowledge of  
our God

# Aspiration

We know the Psalm  
We also know the Shepherd