



6th Commandment: Do Not Kill

Video Transcript

Chapter 1: The Meaning of *Ratsakh*

0:00-1:31

Tim: All of our contemporary English translations render this sixth command as, “You shall not murder.” Two words in Hebrew. *Lo’* is the Hebrew word for “not” or “no.” And then it’s just the single verb, *ratsakh*. So the word *ratsakh* is used in 1 Kings chapter 21 to describe when Ahab took the life of this guy, Navot, to get his land.

Jon: Hmm.

Tim: So *ratsakh* can describe premeditated murder, but almost half of the times that *ratsakh* appears, occurs talking about the cities of refuge.

Jon: Hmm.

Tim: And so these are six cities in ancient Israel that were set apart as, like, an asylum so that a *rotseakh*—the killer, who has struck a person unintentionally—can flee there.

Jon: Hmm. We wouldn’t call that “murder.”

Tim: No.

Jon: We’d call that “manslaughter.”

Tim: Exactly. So I think our English word “kill” can refer to intentional or unintentional.

Jon: So don’t kill.