

Genesis 14

Scriptures:

Notes:

Scriptures:

¹ And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel

Notes:

'Shinar' = Babylon

'Arioch' & 'Tidal' = modern Turkey

'Elam' = modern Iran

king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar,

Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of

nations,

1471 -

Scriptures:

² that they made war with Bera king of Sodom,


Notes:

Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah,

Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela

(that is, Zoar).

Scriptures:

³ All these  joined together in the Valley of Siddim

Notes:

(that is, the Salt Sea).

Scriptures:

⁴ Twelve years ⁴ they ⁵ served Chedorlaomer, and in

5647 - in
bondage

Notes:

the thirteenth year ⁴ they ⁵ rebelled.

4775 -

Scriptures:

⁵ In the fourteenth ^{4th} year Chedorlaomer and the

Notes:

These peoples included giants – people of great stature, like later Goliath.

kings that ^{4th} *were* with him came and attacked the

Rephaim in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzim in

Ham, the Emim in Shaveh Kiriathaim,

Scriptures:

⁶ and the Horites in their mountain of Seir, as far

Notes:

as El Paran, which *is* by the wilderness.

Scriptures:

⁷ Then they ^{4 M}turned back and came to En Mishpat

Notes:

(that ^{is}, Kadesh), and attacked all the country of

the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who dwelt

in Hazezon Tamar.

Scriptures:

⁸ And the king ⁵  of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah,

Notes:

the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the

king of Bela (that *is*, Zoar) went out and joined

together in battle in the Valley of Siddim

Scriptures:

⁹ against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king

Notes:

of nations, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch

king of Ellasar—four ⁴ [👑] kings against ⁵ [👑] five.

Scriptures:

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim *was full of* asphalt

Notes:
Josephus referred to the Dead Sea as
the Asphalt Sea.

pits; and the ^{S M}kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled;

some fell there, and the remainder fled to the

mountains.

Scriptures:

¹¹ Then [✠]they [✠]took all the goods of Sodom and

Notes:

Gomorrah, and all their [✠]provisions, and went their [✠]

way.

Scriptures:

¹² They [✠]also took Lot, Abram's brother's son who

Notes:

Lot had greedily chosen the best part of the land and now he is being led away captive to an uncertain fate.

dwelt in Sodom, and [✠]his goods, and departed.

13 Then one who had escaped came and told

Notes:
'the Hebrew' – first occurrence.

Abram the Hebrew, for he dwelt by the terebinth

trees of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol

and brother of Aner; and they *were* allies with

Abram.

Scriptures:

¹⁴ Now when Abram heard that his brother was

taken captive, he armed his three hundred and

eighteen trained *servants* who were born in his

own house, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Notes:

Abram could have left Lot to the choice he had made. Lot chose the best of the land and pitched his tent near Sodom and then later moved into Sodom. Abram could have let Lot experience all the consequences of his choices.

Lot may have escaped this whole thing if he had not chosen to live in Sodom.

Abram had 318 men that he was able to arm for this rescue mission. That was a decent sized army for those times.

Pursued from Hebron to Dan – about 120 miles.

How like our Savior was Abram in this moment? Jesus looked down upon us and saw us being led away by our sins and poor choices toward certain destruction. He didn't wait for us to be worthy of redemption. Jesus left heaven and came down to rescue us.

Scriptures:

15 ^AHe divided his forces against ⁴⁴⁴them by night, and

Notes:

In chapter 12 Abram lies out of fear for what might happen to him because of Sarai's beauty. And now just two chapters later he is pursuing a victorious army of seasoned soldiers to rescue his nephew. What a difference faith can make!

^Ahe and his ^Aservants attacked ⁴⁴⁴them and pursued

In a stunning act of faith Abram attacks these four kings and their armies after they have defeated every enemy in their path and taken great spoil. Abram may have been an exceptional leader, but this can only be attributed to the grace of God. It was God's victory.

⁴them as far as Hobah, which ^{is} north of

Damascus.

Scriptures:

¹⁶ So ^Ahe brought back all the goods, and also

Notes:

brought back his ^Abrother Lot and ^Lhis goods, as

well as the women and the people.

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him at

Notes:
With every great victory comes great temptation. One of the most dangerous times for any Christian is during times of great success.

the Valley of Shaveh (that *is*, the King's Valley),

"So often those who have been stellar in adversity are derailed by success. Their behavior changes to take advantage of their fame. Faith in God reverts to faith in self. The begin to believe the good press. And so weakened, they succumb to temptations they had easily resisted before." (Hughes, 2004) page 210

after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer

and the ⁴~~king~~^{king} who *were* with him.

Scriptures:

Psalms 76:1-2 -

In Judah God is known;
His name is great in Israel.

2 In Salem also is His
tabernacle,

And His dwelling place
in Zion.

Psalms 110:4 - The LORD
has sworn

And will not relent,
“You are a priest forever
According to the order of
Melchizedek.”

Hebrews 7:1-10 -

For this Melchizedek, king
of Salem, priest of the Most
High God, who met

Abraham returning from the
slaughter of the kings and
blessed him, 2 to whom
also Abraham gave a tenth
part of all, first being
translated “king of
righteousness,” and then
also king of Salem,
meaning “king of peace,”

3 without father, without
mother, without genealogy,
having neither beginning of
days nor end of life, but
made like the Son of God,
remains a priest continually.

4 Now consider how great
this man was, to whom
even the patriarch Abraham
gave a tenth of the spoils.

5 And indeed those who are
of the sons of Levi, who
receive the priesthood, have
a commandment to receive
tithes from the people
according to the law, that is,
from their brethren, though
they have come from the
loins of Abraham; 6 but he
whose genealogy is not
derived from them received
tithes from Abraham and
blessed him who had the
promises. 7 Now beyond all
contradiction the lesser is
blessed by the better.

8 Here mortal men receive
tithes, but there he receives
them, of whom it is
witnessed that he lives.

9 Even Levi, who receives
tithes, paid tithes through
Abraham, so to speak,

10 for he was still in the
loins of his father when
Melchizedek met him.

Hebrews 4:14 - Seeing then
that we have a great High
Priest who has passed
through the heavens, Jesus
the Son of God, let us hold
fast our confession.

18 Then Melchizedek ^{king} of Salem brought out

bread and wine; he ^M ~~was~~ the priest of God [△] Most

High.

Notes:

‘Salem’ = Jerusalem

‘Melchizedek’ = king of
righteousness. He was a Canaanite
king who believed in and served the
One True God.

Abram was refreshed by
Melchizedek with the bread and
wine.

There is a picture of Communion in
this scene. Melchizedek is a type of
Christ, our ‘great high priest’ ([Heb.
4:14](#)). Communion should be a time
of remembering and refreshing.
Remembering what Christ did for us
and refreshing our soul in the joy of
our salvation.

Scriptures:

19 And ^Mhe ^Ablessed him and said:

1288 -

Notes:

'possessor of heaven and earth' –
"God's cosmic power is the ultimate
ground of faith." (Hughes, 2004)
page 211

The person who is able to bestow a
blessing is greater than someone who
is being blessed.

"Blessed be Abram of God [△]Most High,

5945 – "elyon"
(el-yone) -
Supreme

Possessor of heaven and earth;

7069 – to possess
as a result of
creation

Scriptures:

20 And blessed be God [△]Most High,

Notes:

The king of Sodom attributed
Abram's victory to Abram.
Melchizedek attributed it to God.

'tithe' – Abram saw that
Melchizedek was a man of faith
(priest of the Most High God) and
validated his ministry by giving
Melchizedek a tenth of all the spoil.
By giving the tenth to Melchizedek
Abram was giving it to God.

Who delivered ^Ayour enemies into ^Ayour hand."

4042 – hand
safely over

"Giving is an act of worship, a
rightful response to a contemplation
of Calvary." (Phillips, 1980) page
130

Abram, who is fresh off a great
victory, meets Melchizedek, and
recognizes that he is someone to be
respected and revered. Abram has is
displaying great humility in this act
of giving a 'tithe' to Melchizedek.

And ^Ahe ^Mgave him a tithe of all.

4643 – "one-
tenth"
First occurrence.

Scriptures:

²¹ Now the ^{king} of Sodom said to Abram, “Give

Notes:

It is not unusual for a believer to experience spiritual attack immediately after a spiritual victory. Satan seeks to take away any spiritual momentum they have built up. It is when Christians should be most alert.

^{me} the persons, and take the goods for ^{yourself}.”

“If the king of Salem typified Christ, the king of Sodom typified Satan.” (Phillips, 1980) page 130

This is Satan’s way – to trade souls for spoils. There are many people in the world who have succumbed to the devil’s temptation to trade souls for spoils. They have built a career at the expense of God’s calling into a ministry.

Scriptures:

²² But Abram said to the ^{king} of Sodom, “I have

Notes:

Abram called upon his faith to respond to Bera, king of Sodom. Abram knew that Bera was a wicked king over a wicked city.

raised ^{my} hand to the Lord, God Most High, the

3068 - YHWH

Possessor of heaven and earth,

Scriptures:

23 that I ^Awill take nothing, from a thread to a

sandal strap, and that I ^Awill not take anything that

is [👑]yours, lest you [👑]should say, 'I have made Abram [👑]

rich'—

Notes:

This was a declaration of dependence upon God alone.

There is an underlying concern on Abram's part that Bera would believe that Abram owed him something if Abram accepted Bera's offer.

"Faith looks beyond the riches of this world to the grander prospects God has in store." (John F. Walvoord, 1983) page 54

Some might assume that Abram is making a mistake here. Maybe God is trying to use the king of Sodom to bless Abram and will point to the 'blessing' Abram received in Egypt. The whole account in Egypt is a failure of his faith. Abram chooses to respond in true faith, trusting God to prosper him and He promised.

Scriptures:

²⁴ except only what the young men have eaten,

Notes:

and the portion of the men who went with me:

2506 – share,
allotment

^{AA}Aner, ^{AA}Eshcol, and ^{AA}Mamre; let them take their ^{AA}

portion.”

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