



THE BEGINNINGS!

The Book of Genesis

Victorious Faith!

Genesis 14:1-24

Message #15 of 50 – S912

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@ Hawk Ranch, Murrieta, CA



Sunday Morning Service

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Victorious Faith!

Genesis 14:1-24

Opening Comments

- Good morning – turn to **Genesis 14**
- Today we continue our journey through **Genesis: THE BEGINNINGS!**
- One of the things that faith has taught me is that there is no enemy greater than my God
- And that means there is no battle that I can face that He isn't able to make me victorious
- And that means that I do not have to be afraid when the enemy lines up to attack me – because God is with me **Joshua 1:9**

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

- True faith does not believe that you are invulnerable in those battles
- There is a chance that fighting the battles this life will throw at us will include some amount of pain and suffering
- As you walk in faith, you are not invulnerable, but you are immortal
- In our study for today, Abram is going to be drawn into a battle
- God helps him to against a far superior foe
- It is what happens after the victory that is of particular interest to us
- If we are walking in faith in this life, there will be battles that God wants us to win through Him
- We have a spiritual enemy who doesn't like to lose
- And after every victory there will be a spiritual battle that only faith in God can carry us through to victory and deeper faith in God
- And it is our faith in God that allows us to experience His promises, power, and presence
- Let's pray and ask the Spirit to help us walk in greater faith
- **Pray**

Teaching

- **Victorious Faith!**
- Last week we saw Abram after he had failed to trust God in Egypt
- He didn't live in his failure – he grew through it to deeper faith

- A conflict arose between him and his nephew Lot because the land was not able to support both of them
 - So Abram suggested that they separate and gave Lot the choice of where to go
 - Abram was a man of faith, not perfect, but being perfected
 - Lot was a man driven by his passions and desires – he was carnal
 - Lot chose to go toward the plain of Jordan, near the Dead Sea
 - It was an area that was lush and fertile
 - It was also the area near Sodom and Gomorrah
 - And that ended up being a problem for Lot – and then eventually for Abram
 - **Genesis 14:1-4**
 - It will be four kings against five – and Lot is going to be caught in the middle
 - **Genesis 14:5**
 - ‘Rephaim...Zuzim...Emim’ included giants, similar to Goliath
 - These four kings had no trouble beating giants
 - **Genesis 14:6-10**
 - The five kings were no match for the giant-killing kings of the north
 - **Genesis 14:11-12**
 - Notice here it says Lot is dwelling – ‘in Sodom’
 - In the last chapter it said ‘he pitched his tent near Sodom’
 - This is a problem because the reputation of the Sodomites was well known **Genesis 13:13**
- But the men of Sodom were exceedingly wicked and sinful against the LORD.**
- There is a spiritual lesson for us in that
 - Abram chose to trust in God and was led to dwell in Hebron
 - Lot chose to seek out what he thought would make him happy
 - The closer you choose to dwell to the things of this world, the more likely you are to get caught up in the junk that is happening in the world
 - You may be able to resist the temptation of the evil around you, but you will have to pay an unnecessary price when that evil does something evil

- Lot chose to live in Sodom because there was something there that attracted him – that promised to make him happy
- Now here he is being led away in chains, along with his whole family, experiencing who knows what kinds of indignities
- We might ask him, ‘Was it worth it?’
- The problem with walking in the flesh rather than in the Spirit is that the way of the flesh promises happiness without pain
- It never shows you the eventual cost of that path
- Jesus told us plainly what that path includes **Matthew 7:13-14**
Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.
- Lot is experiencing the destruction promised on the broad way
- He has no reason to hope for anything but pain and loss
- Thankfully God has another plan
- **Genesis 14:13-16**
- What has always struck me about this account is the matter-of-fact manner in which Abram’s victory is described
- In two verses we are told that Abram chased down and defeated four kings who had defeated every foe they faced, including giants
- Humanly speaking, this is a tremendous victory
- Abram believed something about God
- Something a prophet said later to King Jehoshaphat **2 Chronicles 20:15**
Thus says the LORD to you: ‘Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle *is* not yours, but God’s.
- That is the key to victory in this life – letting God fight the battles
- So, Abram marches victoriously back to Canaan, with his nephew Lot, his family, their possessions, as well as everything else the four kings had taken in spoil
- This is a pivotal moment in Abram’s life
- He is going to be approached by two kings – they couldn’t be more different – they represent the battle that all true believers will face
- The first one is Bera, king of Sodom
- **Genesis 14:17**

- Bera, the king of Sodom is ruler over a people God describes as ‘exceedingly wicked and sinful’
- It is not hard to imagine that Bera was not a good man
- Next, the other king
- **Genesis 14:18**
- Salem – will later be identified as Jerusalem, aka Zion **Psalm 76:1-2**
In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel. In Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion.
- In the Bible names have meanings which are important for understanding the message God is trying to communicate
- Salem means ‘peace’ – Melchizedek is the king of peace
- In many ways Melchizedek is a type or picture of Christ
- In Isaiah 9:6 Jesus is referred to as the Prince of Peace
- Melchizedek’s name means ‘king of righteousness’ or ‘righteousness is king’
- Jesus is the righteousness of God and by faith in Christ, God’s righteousness is imputed to us **2 Corinthians 5:21**
For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
- Melchizedek was a Canaanite king who worshipped God
- Not only did he worship God, he was a priest of God Most High
- Jesus is both ‘King of kings’ and our ‘great high priest’
- The king of Sodom came empty-handed
- Melchizedek came with bread and wine – to refresh the travelers
- We can’t miss the symbolism of this – a picture of Communion
- Not only do we remember Christ’s sacrifice for our redemption
- But it is also meant to refresh our souls as God’s grace washes over us
- Melchizedek brings more than bread and wine
- **Genesis 14:19-20a**
- God promised to bless Abram – here is a confirmation of that promise
Genesis 12:2-3
I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”
- Melchizedek also identifies God Most High as the reason Abram was able to defeat the four kings
- Abram responds to Melchizedek

- **Genesis 14:20b**

- Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe of everything that he had captured from the four kings
- ‘tithe’ means ‘a tenth part’
- Melchizedek is a mysterious character in the Bible
- All we know about him is found in these few verses
- And yet he is so important that Abram would give this Canaanite king a tenth of all he had
- And later he would be described as a symbol for the coming Messiah

- **Psalm 110:4**

The LORD has sworn and will not relent, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

- Abram gave a tithe to Melchizedek as an act of faith and worship of God
- By giving Melchizedek a tenth of all, Abram was giving a portion of what God gave him back to God
- That is the basis for giving that we practice today
- All that we have comes from God, and when we give, it is an act of faith and worship, given to God for use in the service of God
- We can imagine Bela, king of Sodom watching all this, he speaks up

- **Genesis 14:21**

- Bela seems to be acting in a gracious and generous way
- But Abram sees through the deception

- **Genesis 14:22-24**

- Bela’s offer came with strings attached
- If Abram had accepted his offer, he would have owed the king of Sodom something
- That was a debt Abram didn’t feel comfortable owing
- Abram passed this test of faith with grace and humility
- After winning the great victory over the four kings of the north Abram resisted the temptation to revel in his victory – instead he took the first opportunity to worship God through a giving of the tithe to Melchizedek
- Three quick things before we close
- First, the enemy is real and the battles will come

- Be on the lookout, but don't be afraid
- Any battle God leads you into is a battle He intends to fight for you
- Second, don't fight battles you don't have to
- If Lot had not been in Sodom, he probably wouldn't have put Abram in the place where he would need to rescue him
- Third, after the battle, return to worship
- Rejoice in the victories God wins, but get back to worshipping and serving God as quickly as you can
- Life is so much better when God is winning our battles for us
- Walk in faith in Jesus Christ in the Spirit and you won't fight any unnecessary battles
- And the ones you do fight, let God do the hard parts
- He never loses – with God, you are always on the winning side
- **Pray!**