

Genesis Chapter 14

V: 1-2 4 bad kings from the Chaldees attack 5 bad kings from the Jordan Valley.

- The land of Shinar is in the area of Babylon and the tower of Babel.

Speaking of Nimrod:

Genesis 10:10 “And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, Erech, Accad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.”

1st mention of “war”.

This whole area will eventually be destroyed by God:

Deuteronomy 29:23 “The whole land is brimstone, salt, and burning; it is not sown, nor does it bear, nor does any grass grow there, like the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in His anger and His wrath.”

V: 3-9 They all came to battle near the shore of what is today the dead sea in the Valley of Siddim.



- They served or were under tribute to Chedorlaomer for 12 years and rebelled in the 13th year. (**1st mention** of “13”)
- Different numbers in the Bible often represent different things: 3 = trinity, 5 = grace, 6 = man, 7 = completion, 8 = new beginning, 9 = Melchizedek, 10 = law.
- 12 is considered the number of submission in the Bible, and 13 is the number of rebellion, the number of Satan.
- 13 steps to gallows, 13 turns of the rope on a noose. 40 lashes minus 1 = 39, or 3 X 13.

V: 10-11 JD Rockefeller was reading this portion of scripture when he realized that according to the Bible “there’s oil in them hills” – he later established Standard Oil Co. and became rich. – Reading the word of God is profitable in many ways...

- The kings led by Chedorlaomer from the Chaldees are victorious, Sodom & Gomorrah along with the other kings and cities are overthrown and plundered. The kings of Sodom & Gomorrah fled - ran away while their people are taken captive.
- The Chaldeans led by Chedorlaomer were a powerful military force.

V: 12 “*They also took Lot*” – no seeming distinction between Lot and all the rest of the stuff or people. Guilt by association.

1 Corinthians 15:33 “Do not be deceived: evil company corrupts good habits.”

2 Corinthians 6:14-18 “¹⁴Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what agreement has the temple or God with idols? For you are the temple or the living God. As God has said: I will dwell in them and walk among them, I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” ¹⁷Therefore “Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord, Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.” ¹⁸I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.”

V: 13 Abram – “*the Hebrew*” **1st mention** of this term.

- Not a Canaanite, not an Amorite, or any of the other ethnic descriptions, he is distinct, Abram is a Hebrew. He is set apart from the rest of the inhabitants of the land.

Psalm 4:3 “But know this that the LORD has set apart for Himself him who is godly; the LORD will hear when I call to Him.”

- Hebrew (H-4630) “ibriy” - “i-ih-brie” Abraham’s lineage traces back to Shem through Eber. Eber features the root letters of “Hebrew” (‘br), The term Habiru found in documents throughout the Middle East is equal to the OT Hebrew.

As all of this goes down, where do we find Abram? Right where he was before!

“*For he dwelt by the terebinth tree of Mamre...*” (Hebron / Mamre, richness & communion)

- Fruit in Abram’s life, hard lessons learned from his Egypt experience.
- Famine is serious, but war; being caught between two sides in a war – that is dangerous ground.
- We see Abram un-moved, still dwelling in that place between “richness” & “communion.”

Psalm 91 (turn to / read:)

Psalm 62:6 “He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.”

- Trusting in the Lord, not going anywhere – kind of just watching the fireworks
- Right up until Abram heard that they took Lot and his family. (Mistake)

V: 14 Abram immediately goes into action, he knows what to do.

Psalm 37:23 “The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way.”

Proverbs 3:5-6 “⁵Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not upon your own understanding, ⁶in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.”

¹ Samuel 10:7 “And let it be, when these signs come to you, that you do as the occasion demands; for God is with you.”

- Seemingly without hesitation Abram arms his “*318 trained servants*”, meaning that Abram has other servants are not “trained” for or skilled at combat. Too old, too young, women.
- This also speaks to Abram’s great wealth, God has blessed him indeed.
- Without batting an eye Abram risks everything to save his nephew Lot.

2 Peter 2:7-8 “⁷And delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked ⁸ (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds).”

- Having God’s promise of protection gave Abram boldness.

Romans 8:31 “...if God is for us, who can be against us?”

- Abram knows that God has promised to make him a great nation, to make his descendants as the “dust of the earth” – which hasn’t happened yet, he knows that God’s word is true – so he’s just going to go for it!



“We are invincible until the day the Lord calls us home, then we’re toast.”

- Abram is determined, he pursues Chedorlaomer all the way to Dan; 120 miles to the North of Israel, then to Damascus which is another 60 miles.
- I would guess that the combined military force that has just conquered the area comprised of 5 kings, that they had way more than 318 soldiers, we’re not told, but I’m sure Abram was way outnumbered - and it didn’t matter because God was with him.

V: 15 Abram the tactician – we haven’t seen any indication that Abram was a military man – where does he get the wisdom, and the plan of attack?

Psalm 144:1 “Blessed be the LORD my Rock, who trains my hands for war, and my fingers for battle.”

- God gives Abram the victory!

Exodus 15:6 “Your right hand, O Lord, has become glorious in power; Your right hand, O Lord, has dashed the enemy in pieces.”

- Abram catches up to Chedorlaomer north of Damascus – long trip.
- Divides his forces, and attacks at night.
- The fact that they “chased” them, means the enemy was routed and fled.

V: 16-17 God gives Abram the victory, Abram brings back all the people and the goods. God delivered Abram against huge odds.

This is all part of God keeping His promise to Abram:

Genesis 12:2 “I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.”

- Word of this battle and victory was sure to spread: this set a pattern still followed today. Israel the smallest country in the middle east surrounded by “superior” forces, population, and economic resources - and victorious against all odds.
- The kings who had initially been attacked, who fled from the battle – now they come out to greet Abram.

Proverbs 19:4 “Wealth makes many friends...”

- Notice they don’t show up until after Chedorlaomer is defeated – useless!
- Valley of Jehoshaphat / King’s Valley. Mt Olives / Zion.

V: 18 “*Melchizedek*” = “The king of righteousness” king of “Salem” = peace (1st mention)

- Known as the priest of “*God Most High.*” (El-Elyon). (1st mention)
- Brings out bread & wine – communion elements pointing to Jesus.
- Wine = “yayin” (un-fermented, grape juice)
- We partake of these things in remembrance of Jesus, Abram was a partaker of these things in anticipation of Jesus.
- Just like being between “Bethel” the house of God, and “Ai” – the heap / dump – Abram again has to make a choice.
- Abram wisely chooses “Righteousness & Peace”. Again, lesson learned from Egypt.

V: 19-20 Melchizedek blesses Abram of “*God Most High*”, who delivered the enemy.

- Abram then gives Melchizedek a tithe / 10th of “all” / the loot. (1st mention of tithe)

- **Melchizedek is an interesting person:**

Psalm 76:2 “In Salem also is His tabernacle, and His dwelling place in Zion.”

Psalm 85:10 “Mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace kiss each other.”

- **1st priest** mentioned in the Bible.
- There is no description of his genealogy – He has no beginning.
- There is no description of his history or end – He has no end.
- He only has a legacy of service & worship of the Most High God.
- Very much like the ministry of Jesus as described in **John 1:1** that has no beginning and no end – His genealogy is eternal, no beginning, no end.

Psalm 110:4 Speaking of the Messiah / Jesus the psalmist declares - 1,000 years later:

Psalm 110:4 “The Lord has sworn and will not relent, You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

- One of the characteristics of our Lord Jesus is that He is incomparable.

Isaiah 46:5 “To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal and compare Me, that we should be alike?”

- Then God’s Word turns right around and compares Jesus and Melchizedek. Is this a contradiction? No, they are One and the same.
- The writer of Hebrews refers to Melchizedek 9X’s:
Hebrews 5:6, 20, 6:20, 7:1,10, 11, 15, 17, 21.

Hebrews 7:1-10 (Turn to / read:)

- Thus far there are only two priests of the order of Melchizedek, and they are the same.

Jesus speaks about Abraham:

John 8:56-58 “⁵⁶Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it as was glad. ⁵⁷Then the Jews said to Him, You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham? ⁵⁸Jesus said to them, Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.”

- Abraham recognized Melchizedek as representing God who called him to Canaan by giving Him his tithes.
- Melchizedek assumed / acknowledged His superiority not only in receiving those tithes, but by pronouncing a blessing upon Abram.

Hebrews 7:7 “Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the greater.”

- Melchizedek invokes the name of “**God Most High**” – “**EI-Elyon**” – stressing the absolute superiority of the true and living God as opposed to the multitude of idols and pagan gods. “**Possessor of heaven and earth**” – the Creator.
- Jesus is our great High Priest – not from the Levites, or the sons of Aaron – but in the order of Melchizedek.

Hebrews 7:11-22 - [read](#)

Hebrews 7:26 “For such a high priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens.”

- No man living could meet these requirements except Jesus – no one qualifies for the Priestly order of Melchizedek except Jesus Himself.
- Only One so described could meet our need for a Savior, to atone for our sin.

Zechariah 6:12-13 speaks of the 2nd coming, King, Priest, throne – Jesus is only recognized as a Priest in the order of Melchizedek.

- This appearance of Melchizedek to Abram is actually a “**Theophony**” – a pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus. (2nd / first was in Genesis 12:7).
- Melchizedek’s name means “King of Righteousness” – Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 1:30 that Jesus is our righteousness.

1 Corinthians 1:30 “But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.”

- “Salem” means peace, Melchizedek is the “King of Salem”, Isaiah 9:6 describes Jesus as the “Prince of Peace”

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

- Melchizedek had no beginning and no end.

[Jesus said:](#)

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.”

V: 21 The king of Sodom wanted the people / “souls”, cared nothing for the riches. Satan is the same way, one is just a means of getting the other.

- The goods are offered - trap set & baited.

V: 22-24 Abram is still benefitting from his lesson in Egypt – focused on what is important. He is not a slave to his riches.

- It looks like God had already had a conversation with Abram about this, and that Abram had raised his hand in an oath that he would take nothing from the king of Sodom.
- Abram is more concerned about his testimony in this world, than the riches of this world:

1 John 2:15-17 “¹⁵Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world - the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life - is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

- Abram’s faith was in God, he would not let another be able to say that the king of Sodom made him rich. The others can have their share, but I’ll take nothing.
- It’s not just about the blessings that God pours out in our lives – it’s about the glory. God gets all the glory!

Isaiah 42:8 “I am the Lord, that is My name; and My glory I will not give to another.”

- What gave Abram the faith / strength to resist this temptation?
 1. Communion – looking to Jesus
 2. Tithe – focused on giving, worshipping, and serving Him.