

Genesis Chapter 14 Commentary

1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; 2 That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar. 3 All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. 4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled. 5 And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim, 6 And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Elparan, which is by the wilderness. 7 And they returned, and came to Enmishpat, which is Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezontamar. 8 And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; 9 With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five. 10 And the vale of Siddim was full of slime pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. 11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. 12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

We see that Lot, who was a hindrance to Abram being obedient to God, is settled in a very bad place. We see; being carried away captive didn't teach Lot anything, and he goes right back to where he was. We will find him still there later on when God destroys Sodom & Gomorrah.

13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

I believe that we see in this phrase "**Abram the Hebrew**" evidence that he was being used to preserve true worship of God almighty in the lineage of Christ. We shall see further evidence of this as we follow the life of Abram in the scriptures.

14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

"he armed his trained servants," We note here; Abram armed those of his own house. This is a good lesson for the church. How? The church has a duty, and obligation, to train each member with the word of truth, and to train them in the ways of warfare in this life. We are surrounded by the satanic forces of evil. Unsaved persons detest the name of God. They especially detest the name of Jesus Christ and are aroused to fight those who believe in, and mention, the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Parents, first, have the responsibility to teach their children and bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. The Church has the obligation to assist the parents in this effort by helping them teach the children, and by teaching the parents themselves.

This is how we are to bring up children; who are taught and trained for warfare as they should be. They in turn will bring up their children the way they should be, and the church has continuing life through this teaching, and its influence will grow over time in the world.

If we neglect to train our church membership in the ways of war; we will not have any defense in the day of trouble and will be carried away as Lot was.

Next we note; Abram was willing to put his life on the line to rescue his family out of the hand of the enemy. This is a lesson to us; we should be willing to come to the aid of our brothers and sisters in Christ when they are in trouble. Remember the example Jesus set in scripture, and the declaration of that in: ***Joh 15:13 "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."***

15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

We see a strategy of warfare here displayed. Abram divided his people up; to come at the enemy from several different places. They developed their attack strategy in the darkness; to catch the enemy unawares.

What has that to do with us? Our defense is our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Jesus came incarnate, veiled in human flesh, and the enemy could not discern that he was the Messiah; because they were blinded by darkness; as seen in: ***2Co 4:4 "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*** They rose up against Christ, took him captive, and killed him upon the cross. They never realized; this was the way that Christ would deliver us, all of God's people, from the captivity of our enemy, satan and his forces of evil.

This reveals the prophetic picture to us; we are captive, in this world of sin, by our inherit sin nature, and we dwell in the cities of ungodliness. Christ Jesus, when we are born again, delivers us from the captivity of our enemy. Thus; we see; Abram saving his nephew Lot and his family; as an image of Christ rescuing us from sin and satan.

16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

Do you see the prophetic picture of Abram saving Lot and his family; as the picture of Christ saving the whole family of God? Remember that Christ saved all of God's people and they are secure in his hand as seen in:

- ***Joh 17:12 "While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost,"***
- ***Joh 18:9 "That the saying might be fulfilled, which he spake, Of them which thou gavest me have I lost none."***

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

Apparently, the king of Sodom was not slain but escaped somehow. This is a picture of how satan is still ruling Sodomites in this world today.

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

Melchizedek, in scripture, gives us a prophetic picture of Christ, as we look at the definitions of his name and also his actions. Melchizedek means: *king of right, to reign; inceptively, to ascend the throne; causatively, to induct into royalty, to be or make right (in a moral or forensic sense) cleanse, clear self, be righteous(-ness).*

"king of right" Since all things were created by Christ then it is his right to be King over them, as seen in these references:

- ***Eph 3:9 "And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:"***
- ***Col 1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"***
- ***Re 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."***

"to reign" this is a prophetic picture of what we find in:

- ***Re 11:15 "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."***

"to ascend the throne" What did Christ do after his resurrection?

- ***Mr 16:19 "So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God."***
- ***Heb 12:2 "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."***

"to induct into royalty" What Christ did for us, as seen in:

- ***Ro 11:24 "For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?"***
- ***Re 1:6 "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."***
- ***Re 5:10 "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."***

"to be or make right, cleanse, clear" This is exactly what Christ's shed blood did for us, cleansed us from all sin, and made us right with God the Father.

"be righteousness" Christ is our righteousness:

- **Ro 5:19** *"For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous."*
- **Re 19:8** *"And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints."*

Genesis 14:18 *"he was the priest of the most high God"* This is the first priest of God mentioned in scripture. This is indeed a prophetic picture of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. Here are some scriptures that teach us this truth:

- **Ps 110:4** *"The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."*
- **Heb 7:1-3** *1 "For this Melchisedec, 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 by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually."*
- **Heb 8:1** *"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heaven;"*

Salem is defined as *an early name for Jerusalem* which means; *peaceful*. It is another portrait of Christ as recorded in:

- **Isa 9:6** *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace."*

"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God." Jesus Christ brought forth bread and wine in establishing the Lord's Supper, our communion sacraments.

19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

We see that Melchisedec blessed Abram in the name of the Lord. Then we see that Melchisedec acknowledges that the Lord is the possessor of Heaven and earth. We will find later on in scripture that Christ created all things and therefore all things are his to do with as he pleases.

- **Eph 3:9** *"And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:"*
- **Col 1:16** *"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"*
- **Re 4:11** *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

Melchisedec blessed God for the blessings; he was bestowed on Abram, in delivering him from his enemies. God does the same thing for us when we are in obedience.

Here we have the first mention of tithes in the scripture. Tithes by definition means; *ten, or a tenth part*. We will find later in scripture; God will command his people to give tithes. We find also in New Testament scripture a reference to this in:

- ***Heb 7:1-17; 1 "For this Melchisedec, 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 by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually. 4 Now consider how great this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. 5 And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham: 6 But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises. 7 And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. 8 And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. 9 And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. 10 For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him. 11 If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron? 12 For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law. 13 For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, 16 Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life. 17 For he testifieth, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec."***

21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

In Genesis 14:21-23 we see, in a figure, that Abram does not buy into the Sodomite way of doing things. He flatly refuses to take anything from him because of his vow to God. How careful we ought to be in living our lives in the keeping of our vows to God, and refusing to take gain from satan.

We find in scripture in; ***1Ti 6:10 "For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*** We see; Abram had made a covenant with God "***I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD***" when he went to war. He honored that covenant promise; and the love of money did not suck him into the snare of sin.

This is a lesson that teaches us; when we are born again and join the local church; we have made a vow to God, as Abram did: "***I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD***" and we are to demonstrate our promise of faithfulness to God. We are to show; the love of doing, that which is right; is greater than our love of money, and the present pleasures and evils of this world.

24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

Notice that Abram refused to take possession of what God had prospered him to do (we should acknowledge that all we have is of God not ourselves). He didn't force his values and his binding oath to God on his friends. These men were not of Abram's family but were Amorites and were akin to the Sodomites.

This reminds me of other scriptures, seen in:

- ***De 25:4 "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox when he treadeth out the corn."***
- ***1Co 9:9 "For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?"***
- ***1Ti 5:18 "For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward."***
- ***Lu 10:7 "And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire."***

Abram provided a principle; the daily sustenance of his armed forces, from the providentially provided spoils of war. This teaches us that we having been called to arms in the warfare of Good against evil, are given our daily sustenance from our Commander in Chief, Jesus Christ, through the provision to us from the accomplished warfare of Christ. We are given the bread, and water, of life to sustain us here in time on the earth. Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! What a Saviour!