



“God’s Heroes”

Poised to Rescue the Perishing

Genesis 14:12-16

Our success depends on our:

I. Maturation - “trained, born in his own house” (vs. 12-14a)

Maturity is not the result of age, but of personal growth.

It takes time to develop:

A. Character – “Abram the Hebrew”

B. Confederations – “confederate with Abram”

resources

C. Consociates – “trained servants, born in...house”

Team members

II. Methodology – “and when Abram heard” (vs. 14b-15)

It takes tactics that are :

A. Serious – “armed his trained servants”

B. Sustained - “pursued unto Dan...Hobah”

C. Strategic - “and smote them”

III. Motivation - “And he brought back ” (v. 16)

It takes thoughts that stir our:

A. Conscience – “all the goods....and his goods”

B. Commitment – “brought again his brother Lot”

C. Compassion – “the women also, and the people”

Sentence Sermon:

“Faith is the victory which enables believers to be great blessings to others.”

Additional Verses

- *I Corinthians 1:27*
- *Judges 7:7, 16*
- *II Kings 7:6*
- *Galatians 5:13-23; 6:10*
- *I Samuel 11:11; 14:6*
- *Matthew 5:16, 44-45*
- *Philippians 2:3-4*
- *II Corinthians 9:8-11*
- *Galatians 3:14*

Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Why do you think this passage was included in the scriptures?
- 2. How would you describe the reaction of Abram upon hearing of his nephew’s capture?
- 3. Do you think this passage argues against pacifism? Why or why not?
- 4. What would drive Abram to pursue for over 120 miles?
- 5. What are some of the tactics Abram used to defeat the four kings? Can you think of others who copied these tactics after this? (Hint: I Samuel 11:11; Judges 7:16)
- 6. Why do you think scripture records the details of what was returned in such specificity?
- 7. What conclusions can we draw about Abram and Lot from the phrase “brought again his brother Lot?”

Conclusion:

God is not looking at How strong you are,
How influential or rich you are.
He’s looking at your availability and willingness.

INTRO:

Do you remember the 6 day war

Do remember theIsrael being vindicated by God

>>> Little country of Israel with a big punch....it

started long ago with a man called Abram.

V. 12

- And they took Lot = He was snatched away
 - Abram's brother's son = connection to the promise and the ownership of the land
 - Who dwelt in Sodom = much closer connection than previously disclosed "towards" became "dwelt in"
- And his (Lots) goods = "all????"
- And departed. = same words as verse 11 ...GONE gone !!

V. 13

- And there came one that had escaped = one of the people from Sodom...perhaps Lot had a friend.
- And told Abram = must have known about the closeness of their relationship...must have been no bitterness between them?? Or at least they were convinced that Abram would not let past disagreements stop him from lovingly helping his nephew.
- The Hebrew =Eber who was great grandson of Shem and relative of Abram..."one from beyond"

-- first usage of this word...became common for Israelites to be referred as (34:14; 40:15; 43:32)

- For he dwelt = contrasts where Abram lived with where Lot lived and the results thereof.
- In the plain of mamre the Amorite
- Brother of Eschol
- Brother of Aner
- And these were confederate with Abram = in an alliance

V. 14

- And when Abram = enter the key person in God's plan at the time **...it does say when not after...Abram is sensitive and responsive not bitter and callous**
- Heard = It got back to him...stuff usually does
- That his brother was taken captive = not really a brother but a "brother"Do you have someone who is not really a brother but is a "brother?" ...May we be that way with all our brothers and sisters here at FBC !!
- Was taken captive = unable to live free ... what are some ways that people can be taken captive?
- He armed his trained servants = obviously he believed in an armed citizenry ...**He was not a pacifist or someone who believed that godliness and incapacity have any connection.**
- Born in his own house = "natural born citizens"

- 318 = Do you know anything about the number 318? Yes, it is even, composite, divisible by 2 or 3...**IT IS less than four king's armies**
- Pursued them = was not easy...took initiative...not simply waiting for God to bring them across his path
- Unto Dan = did not give up on a long path...some things that are important take a lot of effort over an extended period of time...persistence = **120 miles from Hebron**

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V. 15

- And he = STRATEGY ...it is a good idea to use the brain God gave you ...preparation broadens impact.
 - And he divided himself against them, he and his servants =
 - By night =
 - And smote them =
 - And pursued them unto Hobah=**160 miles from Hebron**

V. 16

- And he = SUCCESS
 - Brought back all the goods

- Also brought again his brother Lot = back to Sodom...you take the boy out of Sodom but not the Sodom out of the boy...**Lot obviously had not connected his recent plight to his way of life...no change coming...but more harm coming!**
- And his goods = Lot did not suffer much loss at all...disrupted Abram's life but ...hey, Lot has all his stuff...like a drunk uncle I once knew.
- And the women also = they always suffer when men do stupid things
- And the people = who all do we affect? A lot of people's lives are touched by our lives ...some positively and some negatively. Abram and all believers are placed in positions to be a great blessing to the sinners around them.

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On such occasions, war assumes a grander aspect, is freed from its conventional and hireling character, unfrocked of its tame uniform, and catches the wild light of liberty and the free breeze of the mountains.

Why did Abram wage war??????????

I. IN THE CAUSE OF MAN.

1. The sacredness of natural affection.
2. The noble generosity which forgets the faults of friends or kindred in their distress.
3. The heroism which sacrifices self for the benefit of others.

II. II. IN THE CAUSE OF GOD.

1. His engaging in war cannot be accounted for, except on the supposition that he had a Divine warrant for his conduct.
 - (1) As a private individual he would not have the right to wage war.
 - (2) His chance of success, to all human appearance, was small.
2. He wages war as the ruler and proprietor, by Divine right, of the land.

(T. H. Leale.)