

Genesis 14:1-24

The Book of Genesis is the book of beginnings. An understanding of Genesis is essential in understanding the rest of the bible.

Genesis 14:1-20

- 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;** “and it came to pass”... this opening verse of words is repeated many times in the bible. This verse lists a whole bunch of kings and the places they ruled. These places and names are mentioned in secular tablets that archeologists have found in the Mideast.
- 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.** Vale = valley. The salt sea is the current Dead Sea.
- 4 **Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.** Chedorlaomer is mentioned quite a bit in ancient documents, so he must have been very powerful. The other kings paid him lots of money for 12 years, and in the 13th 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,** Chedorlaomer waited a year after the rebellion, and then in the 14th year he took the kings, the giants of the time and went to the rebels to punish them and make them start paying again.
- 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.** The Amalekites is another race of giants in that time, no less than 7 feet tall.
- 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;** here's 5 kings going up against 4 kings, making a great war.
- 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.** 4 kings joined together in a group against 5 kings.
- 10 **And the vale of Siddim was full of slimepits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain.** slimepits are tar pits. The vast oil fields of the world were already set up by God. They were already being defeated and they ran for the hills.
- 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.** Remember Lot had his choice of the land to take, and he followed his greed and took the great material things over the rightful land he should've taken, and now it's taken all away and Lot became a slave to these kings.
- 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.** This is the first time we see the word Hebrew used in the bible. Most scholars believe the word Hebrew means a wanderer in the Hebrew language. Abram had an alliance built with these men mentioned here. In those days, it was wild. There was no legal system or police force. It was the strong battling the strong or just taking over the weak. Here Lot is called Abram's brother for some reason. Abram could've thought, Lot got his just desserts. I'll let him rot there. But Abram looks at Lot as his spiritual brother and forgives all the crap that happened between them earlier with the land choices, and goes to save Lot. We need to take that lesson and save our spiritual brothers from debt, pain, whatever situation they got into by making bad

choices. We need to help others when we can, because we are brothers, we are related in the spirit. This is an example for us to live by.

- 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.** Notice the wealth and power Abram has accumulated... there are 318 well-trained soldiers born into Abrams group, but it's not all the men he had. This is a blessing from God. The bible does not say God helps those who help themselves...it says God helps/blesses those who serve Him. Abrams wealth is proof.
- 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.** Abram chased them all the way to Damascus, one of the oldest inhabited cities on the face of the earth. This city will play a big part in the future.
- 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.** So Abram and his people go get Lot and their people, and bring them back along with all their wealth.
- 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.**
- 18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God.** For the first time, a man by the name of Melchizedek is mentioned. This mysterious man comes out of nowhere, and his name is a combo of 2 Hebrew words which means King of Righteousness. He comes and helps Abram from no where. We wonder how much God revealed to others...where did he really came from. He was a powerful King-Priest.
- 19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:**
- 20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered your enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.** in this time, the custom was if you worshipped a deity or person of high stature, you tithed to them. A tithe is a tenth of all you had – all your belongings, all the spoils of war. Abram gives Melchizedek 1/10 of all his spoils of war. Psalm 110:4, Melchizedek is mentioned that Jesus Christ will be a king like Melchizedek. He's also mentioned in Hebrews. Was Melchizedek actually Jesus Christ? We just don't know. Similar attributes are: they were both priests, not of the Leviticus tribe. They're from an order that had no beginning. Each was superior to Abram. Abram tithed to both. Melchizedek's beginnings and endings are never mentioned, no mention of his genealogy. It is not recorded anywhere. Each is the King of Righteousness and Peace.

Hebrews 7:1-4 (for a look at Melchisedec)

- 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;** The higher blesses the lower.
- 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;** Abram tithes to both.
- 3 Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abides a priest continually.** No beginning and no end.
- 4 Now consider how great this man *was*, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils.** Abram tithed to this man, he was so great

Genesis 14:21-24

- 21 ¶ And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.** The great world is stepping out again, the devil is trying to entice Abram again and make him fall.

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- 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up my hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,** Abram declined to be enticed. He stood behind the Lord with solid faith and loyalty.
- 23 That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* your, in case you should say, I have made Abram rich:** Abram swore to God before he went to war that he wouldn't take more than his share, so that later the evil kings can't come around and say Abram took their goods. He didn't need their goods. The lesson to us is to let God give us our blessings. We don't need to take anything that isn't ours.
- 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.** These men can take their portions. Just leave us the food we need to eat for this battle. That's all we need. Abram didn't need the worldly wealth from these heathen kings.