

Genesis Chapter 14

Ge 14:14-16 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. **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. **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.

Lot's decision to live the good life didn't last long. His enviable social media account came to a screeching halt when his city was taken captive. In his arrogance he believed he could walk away from God and still enjoy life in his own strength (Mt.5:36, 6:27). Little did he know what would be on the morrow (Jas.4:13-17, Pr.27:1-2, Mat.6:33-34).

Believers sometimes look at this prosperous (but lost) world and are "allured through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness", 2Pet.2:18. David even contemplated the prosperity of the wicked (Ps.73:1-20). But scripture instructs us not to envy sinners (Pr.23:17-18) The bible reveals the end of the sinner (Pr.11:4-7, Ps.9:17, Ps.37:35-40)

The bible gives a better formula for life. First, fear God and keep his commandments (Ec.12:13, the greatest commandment for today is to be born again, Jn.3:7, 1Jn.3:23). **Second**, enjoy what God has given you and mind your own business (Ec.5:18-19, 7:16, 1Th.4:11-12). **Third**, don't be entangled with this world (Gal.4:9, 5:1, 1Jn.2:15).

Lot still seemed to be Abrams Achilles heel (*perhaps because he had no son of his own*) and he sought to save him. Be careful to discern the difference between helping and enabling (or bailing out, Pr.19:19). It may be that Lot would have been reformed in his captivity. But instead, he was restored back to Sodom where he continues to make a mess of things.

Ge 14:17-18 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**.

Vs.17 uses the same basic verbiage as **Heb 7:1** 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;

This was a pivotal moment in Abram's life. It came just after a major conquest. He had just "slaughtered" four of the most powerful kings of his time and recovered all the people and goods that were taken. No doubt these same people would desire him as their king (*this happened to Jesus*, Jn.6:15, 26-27). What would Abram do? Would he cast away God's plan and pursue a worldly kingdom? A spiritual decision had to be made. As a result, two kings came to meet him. One was the god of this world (king of Sodom); the other was the King of Salem, priest of the most high God, vs.18.

- **The first one to speak** appears to be Melchizedek, **Ge 14:19-20** 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 thine **enemies** into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

So, who is Melchizedek? He is exactly who the bible says he is – he is the king of righteousness and peace, the priest of the most high God who abideth continually, **see Heb.7**. In short, he is the pre-incarnate manifestation of Jesus. Melchizedek brings bread and wine with him (vs.18) which are the elements of the Lord's supper (1Cor.11:23-26). He gives glory to God and blesses Abram spiritually. He also declares that Abram's enemies are delivered into his hands.

- **The king of Sodom speaks** next and makes his appeal, **Ge 14:21** And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, **Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself**.

Satan is not willing to submit to God, let alone any man – like Abraham. Satan wants worship and the souls of men. Therefore, the king of Sodom requests the rule of the people in exchange for riches. This is how Satan buys a man's soul (Mat.16:26, Job2:4). Be careful who you do business with or take favors from (Pr.22:7, 23:1-8).

Ge 14:22-24 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 shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, **lest thou shouldst say, I have made Abram rich: 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.

Abram chose right and pledged his allegiance to God. He said, "I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD". He would not associate himself with or be enriched by Sodom. In the eyes of the people, he must have looked like a legalistic snob. After all, the king was only being kind. But we don't compromise our convictions because of the kindness or goodness of people. This is a slippery slope and is how ecumenicism is started. People tolerate false doctrine, false bibles, bad music, bad morals, etc. in the name of not offending the lost, and say things like, "We need to love them to Christ". All the while continuing to lower their standards.