

Less is Greater Than More

Genesis Chapter 14

Gen 14:1 **4 Kings Beat 5 Kings** vs 1-12

And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim,

Gen 14:2 {that} they 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 (that is, Zoar).

Gen 14:3 All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).

Gen 14:4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled.

Gen 14:5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim and the Zuzim in Ham and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim,

Gen 14:6 and the Horites in their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness.

Gen 14:7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and conquered all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

Gen 14:8 And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) came out; and they arrayed for battle against them in the valley of Siddim,

Gen 14:9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar--four kings against five.

Gen 14:10 Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country.

Gen 14:11 Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed.

Gen 14:12 They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.

- *Chedorlaomer Ruled over the kings in the area. 12 years (vs 4)*
 - *These five king had enough and rebelled*
 - *1st mention of war* *Kings = War King = Peace (1 king Jesus)*
 - *Many Kings there will be war, When there is 1 King there will be peace*
 - *Archaeologist Nelson Glueck documents the destruction left by these kings: "I found that every village in their path had been plundered and left in ruins, and the countryside was laid waste. The population had been wiped out or led away into captivity. For hundreds of years thereafter, the entire area was like an abandoned cemetery, hideously unkempt, with all its monuments shattered and strewn in pieces on the ground."*
 - *Chedorlaomer's battle strategy was to defeat surrounding allies*
 - *Rephaim = Strong Ones*
 - *Zuzim = Powerful Ones*
 - *Emim = Terrible Ones*
 - *Horites = Cave Dwellers*
- The Lesser defeated the greater number*
- *The 5 Kings were in rebellion*
 - *Didn't count the cost (could they defeat the tyrant)*
 - *Proverbs 24:6 "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors [there is] safety."*
 - *Luke 14:31-32*
 - *Lot (Spurgeon preached on this: Believers who conform (hang with) the world Will suffer for it. (suffer their consequences)*

Gen 14:13 **318 Men Beat 4 Kings** vs 13-16

Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram.

Gen 14:14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Gen 14:15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

Gen 14:16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.

- vs 13 1st mention of this word Hebrew = crossed over
- Faith:
 1. is Proactive not Reactive - 318 Men trained for war
 2. Nurtures Help - 4 allies
 3. Leads - not follows
 4. Goes the Distance - does not fade away "as far as Dan"
 5. is Wise - "divides his forces ...at night"
 6. is Victorious
- Ecc 9:18 "Wisdom [is] better than weapons of war"
- 1 Tim 1:18-19a "This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:"

Appl: What do you do when a brother is taken by the enemy?

Are you prepared?

How far will you pursue?

Gen 14:17 **Blessing Beats Taking** vs 17-24

Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.

Gen 14:19 He blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

Gen 14:20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." He gave him a tenth of all.

Gen 14:21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself."

Gen 14:22 Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth,

Gen 14:23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, for fear you would say, 'I have made Abram rich.'

Gen 14:24 "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."

- *Two Lessons Demonstrated Here*
 1. *After a Great Victory It Is Not Time To Let Down Your Guard*
 - 2 Kings Come to Abram
 - King of Sodom (1st thing - wants something / but sells idea by offering goods to Abram vs 21

- *King of Salem (Melchizedek) (1st thing - Blesses Abram + God asks for nada Brings Bread & Wine*
- *Abram gives him a tithe of all his possessions (Not Income)*
- *Who Is Melchizedek????*
 - i. *Though Melchizedek seems like an obscure figure, he figures to be a very important Old Testament person. Psalm 110:4 says the priesthood of the Messiah is a priesthood according to the order of Melchizedek, as opposed to being of the order of Aaron. Hebrews chapters 5 through 7 makes a great deal of this idea.*
 - ii. *Hebrews 7:3 describes Melchizedek as without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, remains a priest continually. Because of this passage, some have thought Melchizedek is actually a pre-Bethlehem appearance of Jesus.*
 - iii. *Others have suggested he is Seth, Noah's son, or Job, or an angel; or even some have fancifully speculated Melchizedek is an outer-space visitor, an "unfallen Adam" from another planet, sent to observe the progress of God's work of redemption for this fallen race.*
 - iv. *"The question cannot be said to be settled completely . . . otherwise, the identity of Melchizedek would have been agreed on by Bible scholars long ago." (Morris) But we can, at the very least, say he was a remarkable type or picture of Jesus.*

2. *Position Yourself to Allow Only God to Make You Rich*

- *Appropriate for a victorious warrior to receive spoils of war*
- *Abram had made some vow and he keeps it here*
- *Doesn't hold his vow over the other 4 allies*
- *Abram demanded all the glory go to God*
 - When we are willing to pursue human measures of success in the flesh through worldly, fleshly methods, how can we really say God has given success, if it should come? How much better to let God raise you up, so He gets the glory, and so you know it was His work.*

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