

# GENESIS 14

Four kings from Mesopotamia, the area north-east of Canaan, were seeking to restore their sovereignty over the entire length of the strategic trade route which went through Canaan. Genesis 14:8-11 describes the battle of those four kings, led by Chedorlaomer, against the five kings of the west in the Valley of Siddim. The kings of Sodom and Gomorrah, with their allies, were defeated.

## **Abram in troubled times. V 1-11**

We are still in the season where Abram has not yet become Abraham. He is still waiting for his son to be conceived.

There is great unrest as well as struggles for power in the region at this time. Like today, Abraham is seeking to be godly in a very ungodly world. The Amalekites who would be an enemy to Israel for generations are mentioned. Some of the men in the battle fall into tar pits. The horrors of war are sadly nothing new. Today, there is still aggression and hatred as people try to destroy each other to gain land.

## **Lot is taken hostage v12**

The overall view regarding Lot is that he was a godly man. However, we know the godly are not spared troubles. Hostage-taking today presents so many horrors, and for Lot and his family they must have battled many fears. A similar thing happened to David and his men, when an Amalekite raiding party carried off their families (1 Samuel 30). The men threatened to stone David. We know Satan is a hostage-taker and it is only the blood of Jesus which can release us from his grip.

## **Lot's rescue. Abram the fighter. V13-16**

Lot, Abram's nephew is one of those taken with all his goods.

Abram raises an army of 318 people. He arms them to be able to fight and then pursues those who have taken Lot captive. He divides his forces carefully and attacks at night. He rescues Lot and others. We too must be prepared for spiritual warfare as we seek to rescue people from Satan's kingdom and bring them to God. This took courage and determination and leaders today must

not shirk the battle, by engaging in prayer and evangelism, as we seek to bring people into the kingdom of God.

### **Encounter with Melchizedek v 18-20**

At this time Abraham encounters Melchizedek. We do not know for certain who he is. Some say he is Christ Himself in one of His rare appearances before being born at Bethlehem.

The Old Testament warns that men should keep to the office given them by God. A priest must remain a priest and a king must remain a king. Judgement befell those like Saul and Uzziah who tried in disobedience to do both roles.

Melchizedek was both king and priest: his name means 'King of Righteousness. He was King of Salem (which means King of Peace).

### **Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King**

Melchizedek brought bread and wine. An amazing picture of Jesus who at the last supper broke bread as a symbol of His body and drank from a cup a picture of His blood which was to be shed on the cross.

He blessed Abram, honouring him and respecting how his enemies had been given over to him. Melchizedek gave a tithe of all that he had recovered to Abram. This is the first mention of tithing (giving a tenth) in the Bible.

We find further mention of Melchizedek in Hebrews chapter 5 and 7.

### **Encounter with the king of Sodom v 17 and v 21-24**

This encounter is powerful. Abram acknowledges the greatness of his God. The king wants to bless Abram, but he refuses any help and is content with the riches God has given him. His wealth and standing will come only through his faith in God.

### **Points to consider**

We live in a troubled world. Do we appreciate the sovereignty of God over everything that happens to us and in our world?

How do we respond when our families suffer?

Do we regard Satan as a hostage-taker?

In what ways do you see Melchizedek as Christ like?

Are we zealous that people should see God's grace and give Him the glory in our lives?