

# Midweek Study

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# In the Footsteps of FAITH

Genesis 12-36

## Victorious Faith

(Genesis 14:1-24)

### I. The Conflict (14:1-11)

The **revolt** of 5 city-states (14:1-4)

The **retribution** from 4 city-states (14:5-11)

### II. The Casualty (14:12)

Lot is now “living in Sodom”. Lot was evidently associating so closely with the residents of Sodom, that they took his family captive when they attacked Sodom.

Wiersbe writes, “Lot followed the path of **friendship** with the world (James 4:4), then **love** of the world (1 John 2:15–17), then **conformity** to the world (Rom. 12:2), and finally, **judgment** with the world (1 Cor. 11:32). Lot thought that Sodom was a place of peace and protection; however, it turned out to be a place of warfare and danger!”<sup>1</sup>

### III. The Conquest (14:13-16)

Abram decides he will get involved. Stuart Briscoe states, “He could have rationalized: ‘It’s none of my business!’ ‘They got what they deserved!’ ‘The odds are too great!’ ‘What about me?’ But if he did not get involved, injustice would not have been countered and suffering would not have been alleviated.”<sup>2</sup>

Abram gathers an army of 318 trained men in his household, which means his estate probably included hundreds or thousands of servants. He was indeed a wealthy man. He covers 120 miles all the way past Dan (north).



<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe, *Wiersbe's Expository Outlines on the Old Testament* (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1993), Ge 14:1–12.

<sup>2</sup> Paraphrased from Stuart Briscoe, *Expository Nuggets from Genesis and Exodus* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994), 38.

## IV. The Communion (14:17-24)

### 1. Abram **Receives** Melchizedek, King and Priest of Salem (14:17-20)

- Who was Melchizedek?
  - **Luther** believed he was Shem. According to the dates provided in **Gen. 11**, he would have lived 35 years longer than Abram. But Hebrews 7:3 says he had no father or mother.
  - **Origen** believed he was an angel.
  - **Ambrose** believed he was the pre-incarnate Christ.
- "Salem" means "peace". "Jerusalem" means "founding or possession of peace". Salem is Jerusalem. Jerusalem was not established until **1000 BC**. It was occupied by the pagan Jebusites until David came and bought Araunah's threshing floor. (see **2 Sam. 24:24**.)
- "Melchizedek" means "King of righteousness" (He is a type of Christ, see **Hebrews 7:1-4**).
- The commentary in Hebrews adds the information that Melchizedek was "**without father, without mother, without descent [i.e., 'genealogy'], having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abides a priest continually**" (**Hebrews 7:3**). The same writer strongly stresses the superiority of Melchizedek to Abram, as well as to the Levitical priests who descended from Abram. He also notes again the fact that it was witnessed of Melchizedek (that is, in **Psalms 110:4**) that he did not die.<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Abram **Refuses** Bera, King of Sodom (14:21-24)

- Wiersbe writes, "So, when Abraham rejected Bera and accepted Melchizedek, he was making a statement of faith, saying, 'Take the world, but give me Jesus.'"<sup>4</sup>

## Applications for Today

- 1. Stay in God's protection.** See **Psalm 91**. Lot left God's protection when he "pitched his tent toward Sodom." God directs His children (which is not always in a place of safety), but if you choose to live in rebellion toward God's will, you are placing yourself outside of His protection.
- 2. Godliness can be seen in a passive humility and an active courage.** In **ch. 13**, Abram is selflessly allowing Lot to choose the land. In **ch. 14**, Abram is boldly taking the initiative to rescue Lot.
- 3. Preparation time is not wasted time.** These men were prepared to go after Lot and rescue him. The time for preparation is before the moment for action arises. (See **Proverbs 16:9** and **1 Peter 3:15**). Abraham Lincoln once said, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe."
- 4. Honor the Lord with the tithe (10%).** Abraham commenced tithing (**Genesis 14:20**), Moses commanded tithing (**Deut. 12 and 14:22-23**), and Jesus commends it (**Luke 11:42**).

<sup>3</sup> Henry M. Morris, *The Genesis Record: A Scientific and Devotional Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1976), 319.

<sup>4</sup> Warren Wiersbe, *Be Obedient*, "Be" Commentary Series (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1991), 38.