

ABRAM: BRAVE, GIVING, LOYAL
Genesis 14

INTRODUCTION

We have begun a rather long character study of Abraham, the man known as a friend of God. Even as a young believer, Abram has been learning to trust God for guidance on his life's path and decisions. Lot, Abram's nephew, chose the rich plain of Jordan as far as Sodom to pitch his tent. But the Lord directed Abram to move his tent to Hebron – a place of communion and worship.

Genesis 14 contains the first recorded war of armies in Scripture, Lot's capture, and Abram's coming to his rescue. We will meet Melchizedek, a very interesting character. Abram's actions in this chapter give insight into a man who has the right perspective in life. Great lessons for us to learn too!

DIGGING DEEPER

Read Genesis 14 several times. In this study, we will focus on Abram's character and actions. How does the Lord equip and guide a life surrendered to Him? As the Lord brings victory and blessings, how should we think and respond? Selah.

Pray for wisdom and understanding, and let's begin.

- I. Verses 1-6. War of nine kings. Powerful and strong enemies align to do battle over goods, possessions, and especially people. This is war. Remind you of anyone?
- II. Verses 7-10. The Dead Sea. The battle campaign continues into the area where the Dead Sea is today. Consider the spiritual illustration this body of water provides. Contrasted with the Sea of Gallilee (where fresh waters flow IN AND OUT), the Sea of Death simply takes in living fresh water. But there is no outlet. The result is extremely salty, stagnant water. With no life. Spiritual vitality comes from giving out, not only taking in living water. Does your life have an outlet to provide living water to others?
- III. Verses 11-16. Abram's rescue of Lot. Opting for an easy life in Sodom, Lot is now taken captive. News comes to Abram. He takes time and risks his resources; preparing, planning and going a great distance to deliver his undeserving nephew trapped and taken captive by an enemy. It's not convenient, but he is willing to go and deliver a family member held captive. Jude 1:23
- IV. Verses 17-20. Meet Melchizedek. Could this be a Christophany, an Old Testament appearance of Jesus? Many think so, with good reason. King of Righteousness, King of Peace, Priest of God Most High, brought bread and wine... The Holy Spirit surely wants Melchizedek to point to Jesus. Psalm 110; Romans 5:1, 17; Hebrews 5:5-10, 6:19-20, 7:1-28. Now consider Abram's response – And he gave him a tithe of all. Not under any law or compulsion, Abram freely gave to Melchizedek. Compare Proverbs 3:5-10, Haggai 1:3-11 & Malachi 3:6-12 with giving principles from 2 Corinthians 8-9. Selah
- V. Verses 21-24. Abram's loyalty to God Most High. No compromise or willingness to risk his relationship with God Most High, Abram maintained his loyalty. He couldn't be bought! Do you have a price that might cause you to break loyalty to Jesus Christ? You cannot be a friend to God and the world at the same time. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20.

CONSIDER God Most High has lessons for us from Genesis 14. How do Abram's attitude & actions speak to you?

- Delivering those in captivity - Is there someone He wants you to bravely share the gospel with?
- How about your time, talents, and finances – Is He speaking to you as a giver?
- Loyalty and a consecrated life - Are you set and settled in unwavering loyalty to Him?

PRAY

- Upcoming CCFL events – NE Pastor's Conference 9/26-28, Shepherd School 10/24-11/4
- School of Ministry – new students for this semester, teachers, ministries to serve in
- New Bible studies – Foundations Class, Inductive Bible Study Class, Women's Bible Study
- Calvary Chapel Christian School - Pray for new & returning students and their teachers
- Home Fellowships - that discipleship & fellowship would flourish in small groups
- Praise the Lord for Irular project in India moving along. Pray for resources to complete the task.