

**Remembering the Source of Blessing as Abram Goes to War
(Genesis 14)**

Grace Chapel May 27, 2009 Dr. John Niemelä

INTRODUCTION

REVIEW

12:1–9 After Terah’s death in Haran, God told Abram to leave his father’s house & household; God would make him a great nation & bless him so that he would bless others, so Abram went to Canaan where the Lord revealed Himself again and gave the land to Abram, who then built altars to the Lord and worshipped Him throughout the land that the Lord gave him (claiming that land for the Lord)

12:10–20 A severe famine caused Abram to sojourn in Egypt; he told Sarai that her beauty would cause Egyptians to kill him, but to spare her alive; she was to say that she was his sister, so that he would be blessed & live; Pharaoh took her into his house & bestowed a great dowry on Abram, but Pharaoh’s whole household (other than Sarai) became quite sick; Pharaoh rebuked Abram for the evil resulting from saying that she is his sister, because it created the possibility that intimacy could have occurred; Pharaoh gave Sarai back & deported Abram, w/ Sarai, & all that belonged to Abram

13:1–18 Abram left Egypt w/ Sarai, Lot & wealth; returned to Bethel & called on the Lord; Abram & Lot’s herds overtaxed the land, so strife arose between their herdsmen while Canaanites looked on; Abram ended the strife because he & Lot were relatives (letting Lot choose land); Lot chose the Jordan valley w/ much water; so they separated; Abram dwelt in (the uplands of) Canaan, but Lot dwelt in the cities of the plain (even wicked Sodom); God reaffirmed the promise of innumerable seed; God invited Abram to investigate the land; Abram settled near Hebron and built an altar (to worship the Lord)

NEW EXPOSITION

(14:1–3) Summary: Four eastern kings fought five western kings at the Dead Sea

(14:4) [The reason the eastern kings fought the western kings was that] the western kings rebelled in the thirteenth year after serving them for twelve years

They rebelled by _____

(14:5) In the fourteenth year, the kings of the east came, first attacking the Rephaim, the Zuzim, and the Emim east of the Jordan River

(14:6) (continuing southward) they attacked the Horites as far as the Gulf of Eilat (Aqaba)

(14:7) They turned north and attacked the Amalekites and the Amorites

(14:8–9) Then they attacked the five kings near the Dead Sea

(14:10) Some of the western kings [and their men] fell into tar pits around the Dead Sea and some [including the king of Sodom] escaped to the mountains

(14:11–12) They pillaged Sodom and Gomorrah, taking Lot [and others] captive before departing northward

(14:13) An escapee told Abram in Hebron (who was dwelling with his Amorite allies)

(14:14) Upon learning about Lot's capture, Abram armed his 318 men [his allies armed theirs] and went north to Dan

(14:15) After dividing his forces, Abram [and his allies] divided forces and attacked, pursuing [survivors of the initial attack] as far as Hobah

(14:16) Thus, Abram rescued all of the booty, Lot, and the other male and female captives

(14:17) After Abram returned from defeating Chedorlaomer, the king of Sodom met Abram near what is now Jerusalem [more about what happened will follow]

(14:18–20) After Abram saw the king of Sodom, Melchizedek (king of Jerusalem) brought Abram bread and wine and blessed both Abram and God Most High, the creator, who granted Abram victory; then Abram gave Melchizedek a tithe of [Abram's] whole portion

mlk = king of *tsdk* = righteousness

(14:21) The king of Sodom had offered to give Abram all the booty from Sodom if Abram would return the people to him

(14:22–24) Abram said that his loyalty is to God Most High, the creator, so he will not be enriched by the king of Sodom (lest he claim to have enriched Abram), but Abram does not speak for his allies nor for the food eaten by his own men

CONCLUSION