

# GENESIS 14: THE PRIEST-KING OF SALEM

## I. OVERVIEW

- A. Chedorlaomer king of Elam – like a high king (king of kings)
  - i. Allied with kings of Shinar, Ellasar, Goiim
    - a. Babylonian kings<sup>1</sup>
  - ii. Kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, Bela (Zoar) served him for 12 years
    - a. Canaanite kings (promised land)
  - iii. They rebelled in the 13<sup>th</sup> year
- B. In the 14<sup>th</sup> year, Chedorlaomer and allies invaded six other people groups
  - i. Rephaim, Zuzim, Emim, Horites, Amalekites, Amorites
    - a. Cleared out for future descendants of Abram and Lot<sup>2</sup>
      - i. Ammonites, Moabites, Edomites, Ishmaelites
  - ii. The five rebellious kings came against them in battle in Valley of Siddim
    - a. They were defeated
- C. Lot was kidnapped by Chedorlaomer's armies
  - i. Abram was told by an escapee
  - ii. Abram gathered 318 men and pursued Chedorlaomer, defeated him
- D. On his way home, Abram met Melchizedek, king and priest of Salem
  - i. Blessed by Melchizedek
  - ii. Gave him tenth of everything
  - iii. Returned stolen possessions, people to king of Sodom

## II. DWELLING IN SODOM – V. 12

- A. Last we saw, Lot was still living in tents outside the city
- B. Now he made his home in the wicked city<sup>3</sup>
  - i. Psalm 1:1 ***Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;***
- C. Notice the progression of compromise
  - i. This compromise leads to being taken captive into Babylon

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<sup>1</sup> Stephen, Armstrong. "Genesis 2011 - Lesson 14A." *Verse by Verse Ministries International*, 12 Sept. 2011, [versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_14a](http://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_14a). Accessed 19 May 2023.

<sup>2</sup> Armstrong

<sup>3</sup> Armstrong

### **III. ABRAM THE HEBREW – V. 13**

- A. Literally, *one from beyond, pass over, cross over*<sup>4</sup>
- B. Set apart from surrounding peoples
  - i. In contrast to Lot
    - a. Sodom knew Lot was a stranger related to Abram
    - b. But also tried to live as one of them<sup>5</sup>

### **IV. TWO KINGS COME OUT TO MEET ABRAM**

- A. King of Sodom
  - i. To reclaim his people – to take
  - ii. And to make Abram rich
- B. King of Salem
  - i. To bless Abram by God – to give
  - ii. And to bless God

### **V. MELCHIZEDEK – V. 18**

- A. Means “king of righteousness”<sup>6</sup>
- B. Both king and priest
  - i. Kings of Israel were forbidden to do this
    - a. King Uzziah burned incense before the altar and was struck with leprosy<sup>7</sup>
  - ii. Only David was able to do both
    - a. Worship in tabernacle, wear priestly garments
  - iii. Abram tithed to him
    - a. Recognized his authority
    - b. Abram was not only one who worshipped God in Canaan
      - i. Not even the most important worshipper of God<sup>8</sup>

### **VI. BREAD AND WINE – V. 18**

- A. Same meal as at the Lord’s supper

### **VII. BLESSED – V. 20**

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<sup>4</sup> Guzik, David. “Study Guide for Genesis 14.” *Blue Letter Bible*, 2018, [www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik\\_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-14.cfm](http://www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-14.cfm). Accessed 19 May 2023.

<sup>5</sup> Armstrong

<sup>6</sup> Guzik

<sup>7</sup> Guzik

<sup>8</sup> Armstrong, Stephen. “Genesis 2011 - Lesson 14B.” *Verse by Verse Ministries International*, 19 Sept. 2011, [versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis\\_2011\\_lesson\\_14b](http://versebyverseministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_14b). Accessed 19 May 2023.

- A. Melchizedek blesses both Abram and God
  - i. Priest's duty is to minister to both God and men<sup>9</sup>

#### **VIII. I HAVE LIFTED MY HAND – V. 22**

- A. Abram made an oath to God Most High
  - i. While speaking with Melchizedek – uses same title for God
- B. Abram was blessed by God from Melchizedek
  - i. It is God who made him wealthy<sup>10</sup>
  - ii. King of Sodom wanted to make him wealthy
    - a. Abram refused to take anything

#### **IX. POINTS TO JESUS:**

- A. Lot was rescued from sin by kinsman redeemer who left safety
  - i. Rescuer defeated a strong king of nations who enslaved Lot and plundered the enemy<sup>11</sup>
  - ii. BUT Lot returned to sinful city
    - a. Lost everything later in God's judgment<sup>12</sup>
- B. Melchizedek is picture of Jesus
  - i. High priest and king
    - a. Psalm 110:4 ***The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind, "You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek."***
  - ii. King of righteousness and peace
  - iii. No beginning or end
  - iv. Blesses God and man
  - v. Brings out bread and wine

#### **X. QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION**

- A. What does the comparison between Lot and Abram's living situations tell us about our level of compromise in our lives? What changes when we live set apart for God?

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<sup>9</sup> Guzik

<sup>10</sup> Guzik

<sup>11</sup> Guzik

<sup>12</sup> Guzik

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- B. What are the dangers of a king who is also a priest? Why can we trust Jesus as a King and Priest?

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- C. What can we learn about Jesus from the titles “King of Righteousness” and “King of Peace”?

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- D. What can we learn from Abram and Melchizedek about generosity among believers?

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- E. Why did Abram refuse to attribute his wealth to worldly means? What are the dangers of ignoring God as the source of our blessing?

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#### **XI. FURTHER STUDY**

- A. What is the connection between the armies fleeing to the mountains in verse 10 and Lot fleeing to the hills in Genesis 19:17? See Amos 3:7.

- B. Peter calls us a “royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). What are our duties as a royal priesthood?

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- C. How does the bread and wine point to Jesus’ role as a King and Priest?

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- D. List some differences between the order of Melchizedek and the order of Aaron as detailed in Hebrews 7.

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- E. How did Jesus both fulfill the priestly order under the law and become a better priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:20-18)?

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