

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 kings¹
 - ii. Kings of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, Bela (Zoar) served him for 12 years
 - a. Canaanite kings (promised land)
 - iii. They rebelled in the 13th year
- B. In the 14th 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 Lot²
 - 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 city³
 - 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

¹Stephen, Armstrong. "Genesis 2011 - Lesson 14A." Verse by Verse Ministries International, 12 Sept. 2011, versebyversemministry.org/lessons/genesis_2011_lesson_14a. Accessed 19 May 2023.

² Armstrong

³ Armstrong

III. ABRAM THE HEBREW – V. 13

- A. Literally, one from beyond, pass over, cross over⁴
- 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 them⁵

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”⁶
- 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 leprosy⁷
 - 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 God⁸

VI. BREAD AND WINE – V. 18

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

VII. BLESSED – V. 20

⁴ Guzik, David. “Study Guide for Genesis 14.” *Blue Letter Bible*, 2018, www.blueletterbible.org/comm/guzik_david/study-guide/genesis/genesis-14.cfm. Accessed 19 May 2023.

⁵ Armstrong

⁶ Guzik

⁷ Guzik

⁸ Armstrong, Stephen. “Genesis 2011 - Lesson 14B.” *Verse by Verse Ministries International*, 19 Sept. 2011, versebyversemministry.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 men⁹

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 wealthy¹⁰

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 enemy¹¹

ii. BUT Lot returned to sinful city

a. Lost everything later in God's judgment¹²

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?

⁹ Guzik

¹⁰ Guzik

¹¹ Guzik

¹² Guzik

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

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

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

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?

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?

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

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

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)?
