

Cultivate Genesis Study

Chapter 14

Read and meditate on Genesis Chapter 14 this week
and prayerfully answer the following questions before Tuesday's class.

In Chapter 14, we read of the first recorded war, in the Bible. As the populations increased and cities were formed after God's dispersion during the Tower of Babel in chapter 11; kings began to form alliances and selfish human nature caused conflicts between neighbors.

This was war between nine godless kings, but a battle that took captive Abram's nephew Lot. An example to us that the God that created the heavens and the earth will use the ungodly to show us how the choices we make have devastating results.

1. Read in Proverbs 16:14, 10:12, 28:25, and 29:22. Choose one and write down an insight the Lord showed you about conflict.

Read Genesis 14:1-12

The consequences of our choices; God is so loving and gracious to give us real life examples of how the decisions we make for our lives can have devastating consequences. It is important that we are teachable and that we seek God for His wisdom.

2. Did Lot seek God's wisdom before he made his choice to live in the Jordan Valley? _____

Do you think that God was trying to get Lot's attention? Explain

In Genesis 14:12 we see Lot taken captive along with all his goods. When we let the lust of our eyes lead us as opposed to seeking God and preferring others, we will often find ourselves in compromising situations just like Lot. He faced the consequence of choosing to live in Sodom. He gets taken prisoner along with the wicked men.

If you sit too close to the fire you will get burned.

Give God thanks for all the times He has guided you away from the asphalt pits of this world.

Warren Wiesbe had this to say about the war and Lot. "Archaeologists have confirmed the historical accuracy of this account of the first war in the Bible. When Lot moved into Sodom (v. 12), he lost the protection of "the Judge of all the earth" (18:25) and had to suffer the consequences. 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!"

3. Take the time to read the scriptures that Mr. Wiesbe has listed in this quote. Did one or more speak to you? Write down what the Lord showed you through His word.

Have you or someone you know suffered consequences of keeping the wrong company?

Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

4. What lessons do we need to learn from God in these verses?

"When we go out of the way of our duty, we put ourselves from under God's protection, and cannot expect that the choice made by our lusts, should end to our comfort." Matthew Henry

We are to be in the world but not of the world. Lot choice to live in the world. How are we to live in this world? I looked up one word: sheep and found this verse. Palms 95:6-11

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down;

Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For He is our God,

And we are the people of His pasture,

And the sheep of His hand.

Today, if you will hear His voice:

"Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion,

As in the day of trial in the wilderness,

When your fathers tested Me;

They tried Me, though they saw My work.

*For forty years I was grieved with that generation,
And said, 'It is a people who go astray in their hearts,
And they do not know My ways.'
So I swore in My wrath,
'They shall not enter My rest.'"*

Lot had no rest because of his choices.

Read Genesis 14:13-16

Have you ever really pondered the fact that our sin does not only affect us? Abram, who did not choose to live in Sodom, is now grieved by the thought that his nephew was taken captive. Not only does it affect Abram but 318 of his trained servants must go and risk their life to rescue Lot.

Abram's situation was similar to that of Gideon in chapters 7 and 8 in the book of Judges. Gideon led just 300 men against 135,000 Midianites and the Lord gave him victory.

In this day especially, we must remember that God is able to give a trusting and obedient minority victory over ungodly forces that vastly outnumber us.

5. How can we demonstrate our love and trust of God in our daily lives? How might that be a witness to the unbelieving world?

Read Genesis 14:17-20

Melchizedek, king of Salem, 'the priest of the most high God', is an intriguing individual. David mentions him again 900 years later in Psalm 110. Then 1000 years later he's mentioned in Hebrews (5:6, 10; 6:20; 7:1-21).

6. Write down descriptions given of Melchizedek throughout the verses mentioned. Hint – even Bible scholars debate over who he is.

7. Read Hebrews 4:14, Hebrews 3:1

Do you often think of Jesus as being your High Priest? The One who entered the Holy of Holies, His blood as the perfect sacrifice for your sin? Write your thoughts.

The first mention of tithes in the Bible is Genesis 14:20. In many ways, tithes are seen as a form of worship. Money can have power over our lives and keep us from what the Lord wants us to focus on. Read Malachi 3:8-12; Luke 16:13-17; Luke 22:35; 1Timothy 6:10; 2Timothy 3:2; Hebrews 13:5.

8. What do these verses teach you?

Examine your relationship to money. Does it distract you from your love and pursuit of the Lord? How much do you trust the Lord to provide for you?

Read Genesis 14:21-24

The king of Sodom was grateful for Abram coming to their rescue. However, Abram had sworn to God, that he would not partake of the spoils of war. Remember that Sodom had a reputation for evil. Why would Abram want to associate with, by taking from an evil king, when God has promised His blessing?

Abram's provision would come from God's promise and God's covenant with him, not through man's power or wealth. Re-read Genesis 12:1-3.