

# GENESIS

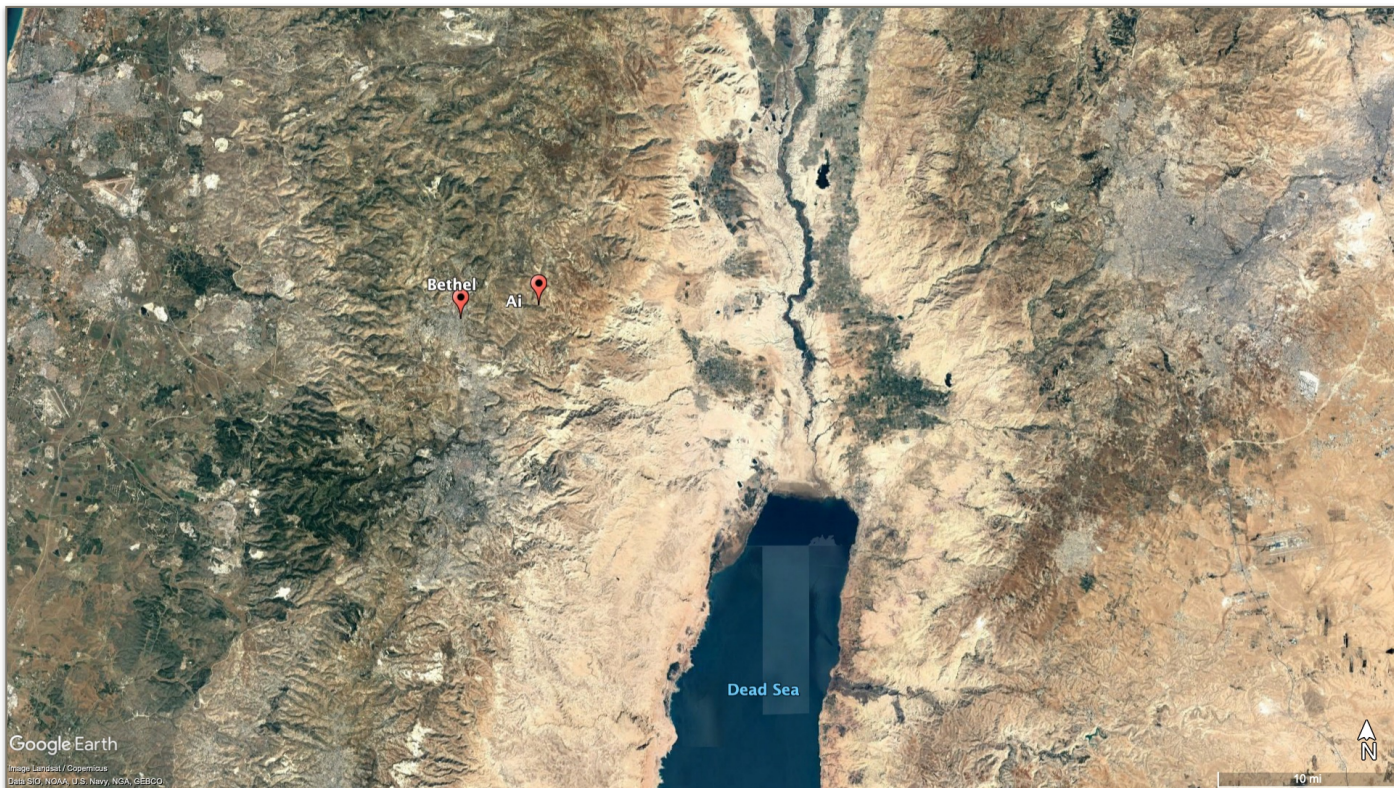
## Genesis 13-14 | "Separation & War"

**INTRO:** Abraham is returning from Egypt, where he had gone because of a lapse of faith ([Gen. 12:10](#)). I find it fascinating that those men who have been used by God as examples of those who believed and trusted God, did have lapses to their faith. That encourages me because I have times when I have a lapse of faith and do things that I later regret, and like Abraham, have suffered the consequences of trying to "help God out" in doing His work.

**NOTE:** The lapses of faith always have consequences and costs us in the end. Abraham did not come out of Egypt totally unscathed. It was in Egypt that Abraham picked up Hagar and Sarah took her to be her servant girl ([Gen. 16:1](#)). Of course, that caused problems later, which continue to the present day.

### I. ABRAM SEPARATES FROM LOT (13)

#### THEIR RETURN FROM EGYPT (v. 1-4)



#### A. (v. 3)

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1. **"And he went on his journeys from the south even to Bethel, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning, between Bethel and Hai;"**
  - a. "Hai" = Ai
    - 1) Abram's Ai is a different city than Joshua's Ai ([Josh. 7-8](#)).
      - a) Abram's Ai = Et Tall<sup>1</sup>
      - b) Joshua's Ai = Khirbet el-Maqatir<sup>2</sup>

### B. (v. 4)

1. **"Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first: and there Abram called on the name of the LORD."**
  - a. Abram went back to the place where the Lord had last appeared to him and where he built an altar unto the Lord.
  - b. Many times, there is a blessing in returning to that place where you first met God.
    - 1) Cf. [Revelation 2:4-5](#) - To the Church of Ephesus, Jesus said, "Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent."

### ABRAM'S SUGGESTION TO LOT (v. 5-9)

### C. (v. 9)

1. **"Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to**

<sup>1</sup> DMS 31° 55' 0" N, 35° 17' 18" E Decimal 31.916667, 35.288333

<sup>2</sup> DMS 31°54'54.35"N 35°15'1.07"E Decimal 31.9150964008453, 35.2502967975444

From Israel Antiques Authority [https://survey.antiquities.org.il/index\\_Eng.html#/MapSurvey/70/site/Kh.%20el-Mukatir%20%5B84%5D](https://survey.antiquities.org.il/index_Eng.html#/MapSurvey/70/site/Kh.%20el-Mukatir%20%5B84%5D)

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***the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left."***

- a. "separate thyself, I pray thee, from me"
  - 1) With the wealth amassed in Egypt, there is so much livestock that there are PROBLEMS DEVELOPING BETWEEN ABRAHAM AND LOT.
    - a) **NOTE:** The sojourn in Egypt also affected Lot, and he didn't come away unscathed. He got a taste of the fleshpots of Egypt, which would draw him to Sodom.
  - 2) The problems that developed between them CAUSED THE NECESSITY OF DIVISION.
    - a) Division is not always a bad thing. There are times when brethren get to a place where they can't dwell together anymore, and there isn't enough space.
      - i. Cf. [Acts 15:36-41](#) - As Paul and Barnabas were beginning their 2nd Missionary Journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them, but Paul said, "No way! He bailed on us last time, and he's not going with us." Well, *the contention was so sharp between them*, that they separated. Barnabas took Mark, and Paul took Silas, and they went their separate ways.
      - ii. **NOTE:** I believe that God often uses division to accomplish His purpose, which sometimes is to further His work.
        - a. In this case of Paul and Barnabas, these were 2 solid brothers that divided, yet God used it to have 2 missionary teams instead of just one.

### LOT CHOOSES TO GO TOWARDS SODOM (v. 10-13)

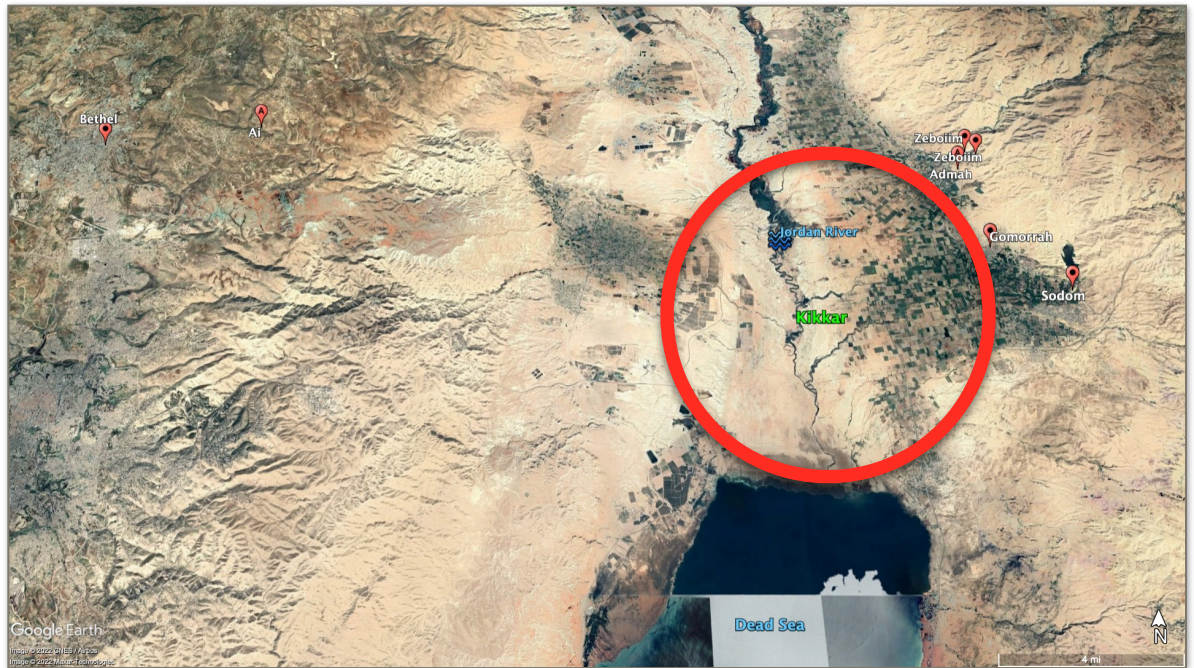
#### **D. (v. 10)**



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1. **"And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar."**

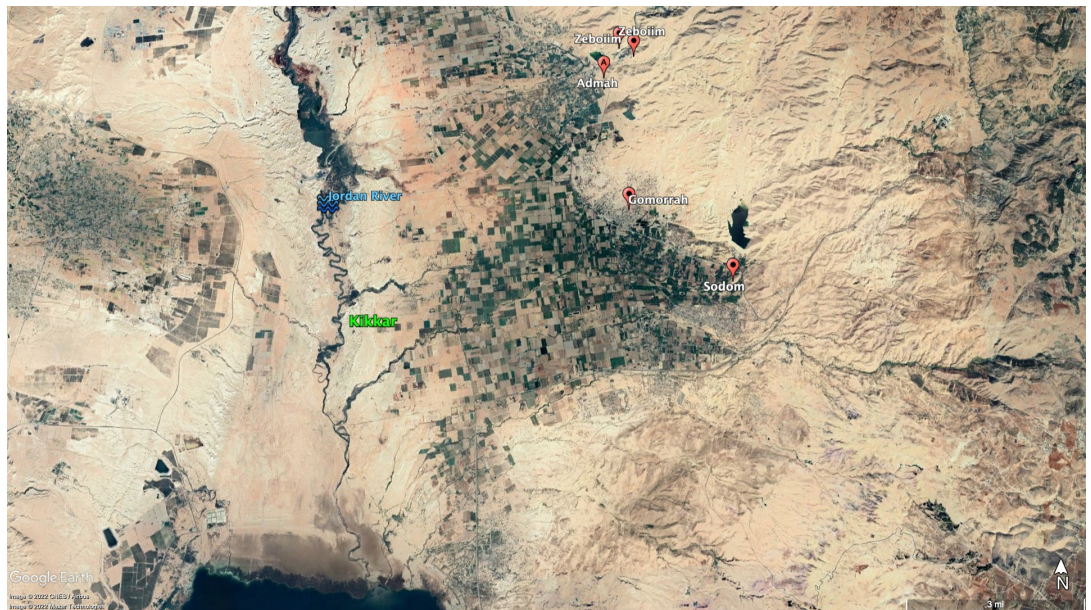
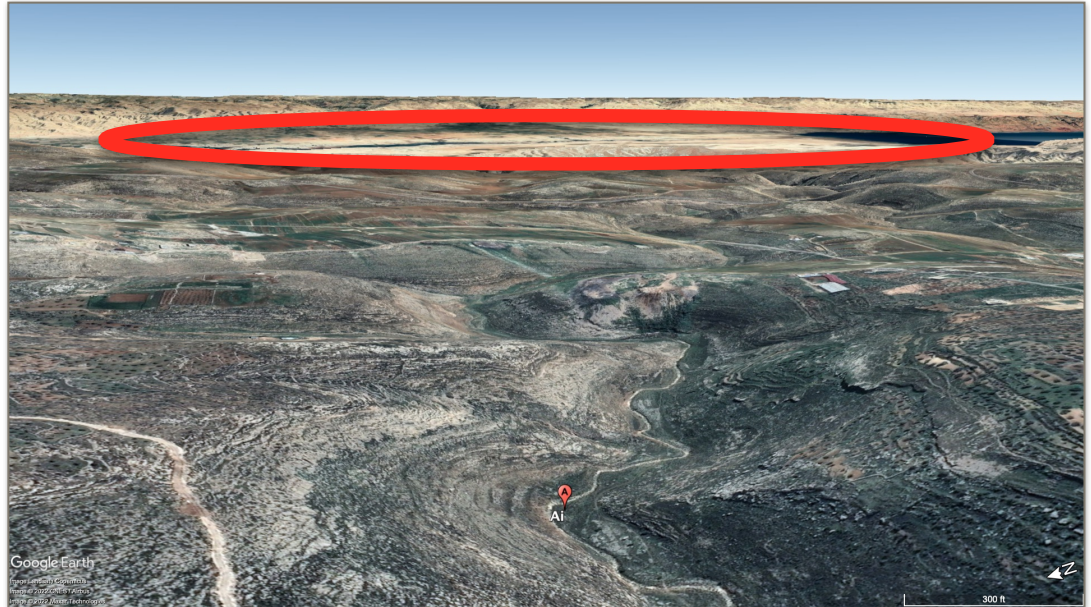


- a. "the plain of Jordan"
  - 1) "plain" - Heb. *kikkar* - "circle; disc; round talent; round loaf"
    - a) The idea of the shape of a *coin* or *tortilla*.
  - 2) Sodom and Gomorrah were in a Region that was:
    - a) *Flat, circular, disc-shaped*.
    - b) Able to be seen from the mountain *between Bethel and Ai* (v. 3-4).
    - c) Where the Jordan River was located ("of Jordan").
      - i. **NOTE:** The traditional location of Sodom at the SE part of the Dead Sea does not fit this criteria. Once the Jordan goes into the Dead Sea, it is no longer "of Jordan".



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- 3) Dr. Steven Collins, an Archeologist and Dean of Trinity Southwest University in Albuquerque, New Mexico, locates the city of Sodom at modern *Tall el-Hammam*, in Jordan.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> <http://nebula.wsimg.com/5e3f98b5a2648cd4ee9724ccc490bf03?AccessKeyId=AD0C503627C3B88E5A7F&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>  
<http://nebula.wsimg.com/54b4210fca6e6db21d793bbfa1f8649?AccessKeyId=AD0C503627C3B88E5A7F&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>  
[http://www.academia.edu/9733189/The\\_Geography\\_and\\_History\\_of\\_Tall\\_el-Hammam](http://www.academia.edu/9733189/The_Geography_and_History_of_Tall_el-Hammam)  
<http://geekychristian.com/evidence-sodom-is-tall-el-hammam/>  
<http://www.tallelhammam.com/related-publications.html>

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### E. (v. 11)

1. **"Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other."**
  - a. I can imagine that this was difficult for Abraham.
    - 1) Abraham had no children, and sort of adopted Lot.
    - 2) Lot was the only family that he had around, and now he's going down the hill to Jericho on his way East to Sodom.
  - b. **NOTE:** For the first time, Abraham is ready to *fully* obey the command that God first gave him in Ur of the Chaldees, where the Lord said, "*Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee.*" (Gen. 12:1)
    - 1) **KEY:** Abraham was not willing to *fully* follow God's command, so the Lord used the circumstances in his life to bring him to a place of *full* obedience.
  - c. **NOTE:** God will allow things into your life to get you to that place of full obedience.
    - 1) **Illust.** - The Lord told Jonah to go to Ninevah. Jonah could have taken the easy way and just went to Ninevah, but he didn't. He took the hard way to Ninevah.
    - 2) There's an easy way to follow the Lord, and a hard way to follow the Lord. God will still get His will accomplished. Which way do you want to go?
    - 3) There have been times when you come to place of: "Lord, I don't care what you want. You can have it! I'll finally do it! Just give me some peace!"

### F. (v. 12)

1. **"Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom."**

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- a. Lot was not fully in the cities yet, but near enough to enjoy some of its advantages.
  - 1) Too many Christians are in an "in between" state. They want the spiritual benefits of fellowship with God, yet they also want the carnal benefits of fellowship with the world. And it never works!
    - a) Cf. **Matthew 12:30** - Jesus said, "*He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.*"
    - b) Cf. **James 4:4** - "*Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*"
    - c) Cf. **1 John 2:15-17** - "*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.*"
- b. **NOTE:** This was the beginning of the DOWNWARD SPIRAL of Lot, which brought tragedy upon his family.
  - 1) "Pitched his tent toward" Sodom. (**Gen. 13:12**)
  - 2) "Dwelt in" Sodom. (**Gen. 14:12**)
  - 3) "Sat in the gate" of Sodom. (**Gen. 19:1**)

### THE LORD PROMISES ABRAM THE LAND OF CANAAN (v. 14-18)

#### **G. (v. 14)**

1. **"And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:"**



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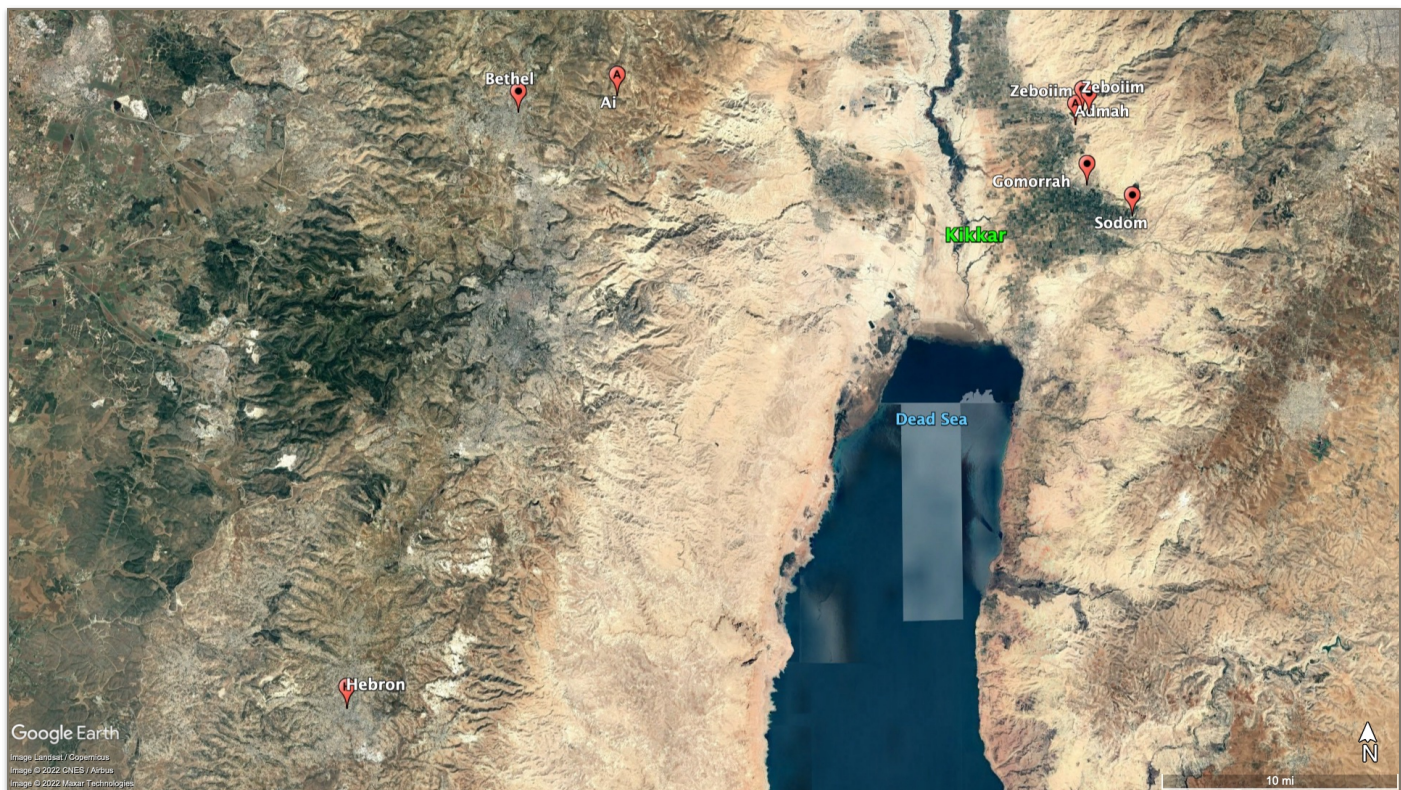
## Genesis 13-14 | "Separation & War"

- a. "And the LORD said unto Abram, *after* that Lot was separated from him"
  - 1) Abraham also may have been feeling lonely and hurt, and it is in those times so often when God is able to speak to our hearts.

### H. (v. 18)

1. "Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the LORD."

- a. Abram went down to Hebron and worshipped the Lord there.





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### II. ABRAM RESCUES LOT (14)

#### BATTLE IN THE VALLEY OF SIDDIM (v. 1-12)

##### A. (v. 1-2)

1. ***"And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; That these made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela, which is Zoar."***



##### a. **THE INVADERS:**

- 1) *"Amraphel king of Shinar"*
  - a) *Shinar* is the area of Babylon (**Gen. 10:10; 11:2, 9**) in modern-day Iraq.
- 2) *"Arioch king of Ellasar"*

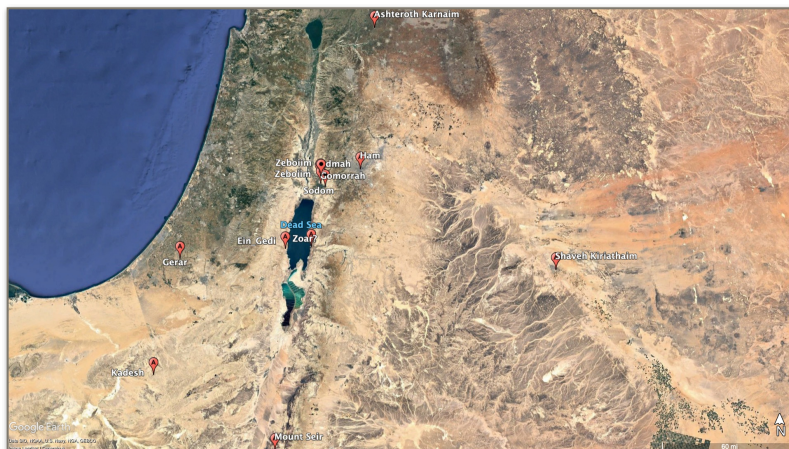
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- a) *Arioch* is a Hurrian name, and in Hurrian it would be Eri-ku. In the Mari Tablets, the name is found as Arriyuk.<sup>4</sup>
    - i. Some historians identify *Arioch* as Rimsin, king of Larsa.
  - b) Ancient legends tell us that he was the grandson of Semiramis, Nimrod's wife.
- 3) "*Chedorlaomer king of Elam*"
- a) Elam is the ancient name for Persia, or modern-day Iran.
- 4) "*Tidal king of nations*"
- a) "*nations*" - Heb. *Goiim* - "*Gentiles*"

### b. THE DEFENDERS:

- 1) "*Bera king of Sodom*"
- 2) "*Birsha king of Gomorrah*"
- 3) "*Shinab king of Admah*"
- 4) "*Shemeber king of Zeboiim*"
- 5) "*king of Bela, which is Zoar*"



<sup>4</sup> Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum. The Book of Genesis commentary, p. 426  
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### B. (v. 3)

1. **"All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea."**

a. "the salt sea" = Dead Sea

### ABRAM RESUES LOT (v. 13-17)



### C. (v. 14)

1. **"And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan."**

a. "he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen"

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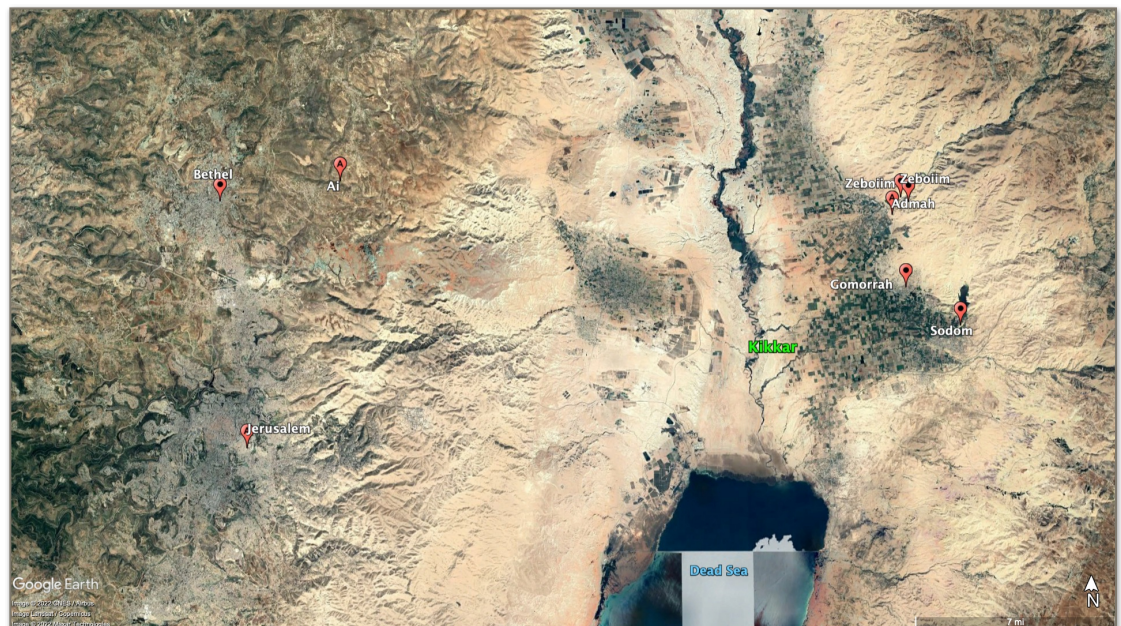
- 1) This shows the wealth of Abram — he had a TRAINED ELITE FORCE.
  - a) **NOTE:** If there were 318 trained servants, and that doesn't include women and children, then Abram may have had 1,000+ in his caravan.

### ABRAM AND MELCHIZEDEK (v. 18-20)

#### D. (v. 18)

#### 1. **"And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God."**

- a. "Melchizedek" - Heb. "king of righteousness"
  - 1) From two Hebrew words: *melek* ("king") & *zedek* ("righteousness")
- b. "Salem" - Heb. "peace"
  - 1) This is the root for the name *Jerusalem*, which at this time was a Jebusite city.



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- c. **NOTE:** Melchizedek is the King of RIGHTEOUSNESS and the King of PEACE.
- 1) Cf. **Hebrews 7:2** - *"To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;"*
  - 2) **NOTE:** The order is important - Righteousness always precedes peace.
    - a) You cannot have *peace* until you have *righteousness*!
    - b) *Righteousness* is the path to *peace*!
      - i. Too often, people try to find peace in escape.
        - a. They try to escape by turning to the bottle or drugs.
        - b. They try to escape by staying busy.
          - i. Busyness is often just an escape from reality.
    - c) They try to escape by amusement or entertainment.
  - 3) **KEY:** You will only find true peace in righteousness.
    - a) Righteousness in your standing with God.
    - b) Righteousness in your daily living.
    - c) Once you are right with God, the rest falls into place.
      - i. Cf. **Matthew 6:33** - Jesus said, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*



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4) **KEY:** Melchizedek is a type of Jesus Christ, especially in that Jesus must be your *King of Righteousness* before He can become your *King of Peace*.

d. "he was the priest of the most high God"

1) Cf. [Psalm 110:4](#) - "The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek."

### E. (v. 19-20)

1. "And he blessed him, and said, **Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.**"

a. "And he blessed him"

1) The concept of giving a blessing had to do with rank.

a) In the O.T., the son never blessed the father, the father blessed the son.

b) The blessing went from the more authoritative to the junior.

2) The writer of Hebrews will make the point that Melchizedek blesses Abram, which means that Melchizedek in a sense is ranked above Abraham

a) Cf. [Hebrews 7:1-25](#)

b. "And he gave him tithes of all"

1) "tithes" - Heb. "a tenth part" = 10%

a) **NOTE:** This preceded the Law given to Israel, and shows that Abram gave 10% of what he had to the priest, God's representative to the people, so that Abram was really giving it to God.

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### ABRAM AND THE KING OF SODOM (v. 21-24)

#### F. (v. 21-22)

1. **"And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:"**

a. *"I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth"*

1) **NOTE:** God is so good and patient in giving a final witness to the people of Sodom through Abram.

a) The king and the people of Sodom were rescued temporarily, which only because of the patience and grace of God in wanting to give them a last opportunity to repent.

b) Abram shares the true God with the king of Sodom, which was already a wicked city ([Gen. 13:13](#)), and gives them a chance to repent. However, even though Abram rescued those of Sodom, and they experienced the grace of God and knowledge of the true God, they failed to respond spiritually and turn away from their sins.

2) **KEY:** However, even though they were rescued at this point, they all died in the coming judgment when Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed ([Gen. 19](#)).

b. *"lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich"*

1) Abram didn't want to take any of the glory away from the Lord, so he turned down the money.

a) **Illust.** - Pastor Chuck Smith was a great example to us in the ministry. There was a man that offered to give the church \$1-million dollars for their building project, but Chuck told him that he

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couldn't accept it because then this man would get the credit for the building instead of God.