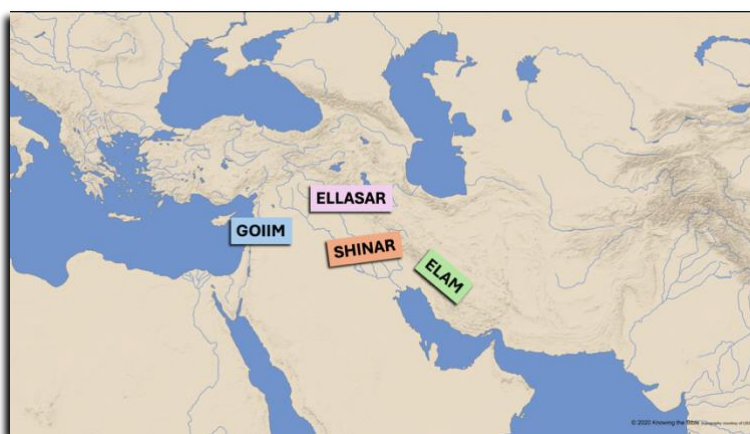


Chapter 14

¹ In the days of **Amraphel** king of Shinar, **Arioch** king of Ellasar, **Chedorlaomer** king of Elam, and **Tidal** king of Goiim, ² these kings made **war** with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). ³ And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).



- **War** – 1st mentioned in Bible
- **Amraphel...Shinar** – Babylonian Empire [Bible], Iraq [Today]
- **Arioch...Ellasar** – Assyrian Empire [Bible], Northern Iraq/
- **Chedorlaomer...Elam** – Persian Empire [Bible], Iran [today]
 - **Daniel, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah,**
- **Tidal...Goiim** – ²³ the king of Dor in Naphath-dor, one; the king of Goiim in Galilee, one; ([Joshua 12:23](#))

⁴ Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. ⁵ In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶ and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran on the border of the wilderness. ⁷ Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar.

- defeated – These four kings achieved a great victory over the entire region.

⁸ Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim ⁹ with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five.



- [MAP]

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. ¹¹ So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. ¹² They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.

- Sodom and Gomorrah fled – They were defeated
- Let's look at **Lot**



- [Genesis 13:12](#) – ¹² Abram settled in the land of Canaan, while Lot settled among the cities of the valley and moved his tent as far as Sodom.
 - [Genesis 13:12](#) ^{KJV} Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and pitched his tent toward Sodom.
- dwelling in Sodom,
 - Lot got close.
 - The natural tendency of man is for sin, not righteousness.
 - From childhood, we have to teach people what is good and right. The bad and wrong are the natural state of fallen man.
 - Lot is the picture of the compromised believer.
 - What was Lot thinking when the Armies came through, plundering everything?
 - Why didn't I just stay with the safety of Uncle Abram?
 - How did I get mixed up in this mess?
 - It looked so good on paper, but now it's a disaster.
 - So many people today know this script by heart!
 - Why would God let this happen to me?
 - If he was doing the “Missionary/evangelism dating thing” (Meaning that you will be the godly influence to bring an unbeliever to Christ), it didn't work! He is the one who was conformed.
 - If God sent him that would be one thing, But he never asked. He went with his eyes.
- and his possessions – These are the reasons he separated from Abram in the first place [Genesis 13:6-11](#)

¹³ Then one who had escaped came and told Abram **the Hebrew**, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram.

- What was Lot thinking as he was bound and now walking back northward, passing the road that leads back to Abram?
- Did he see one of the prisoners escape? Did he help orchestrate it?
- Was it one of his people who knew to run to Abram?
- As Lot was taken farther and farther north, did his hope turn to despair?
- He knew this road; he traveled it when he left UR and Haran and came to this land.

- **the Hebrew** – 1st use of the term “Hebrew”
 - Possible meaning: pass over, cross over, from beyond the river
 - Eber? – [Genesis 11:14-16](#) Abram’s great-great-grandfather’s grandfather.

¹⁴ When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his **trained men, born in his house, 318** of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

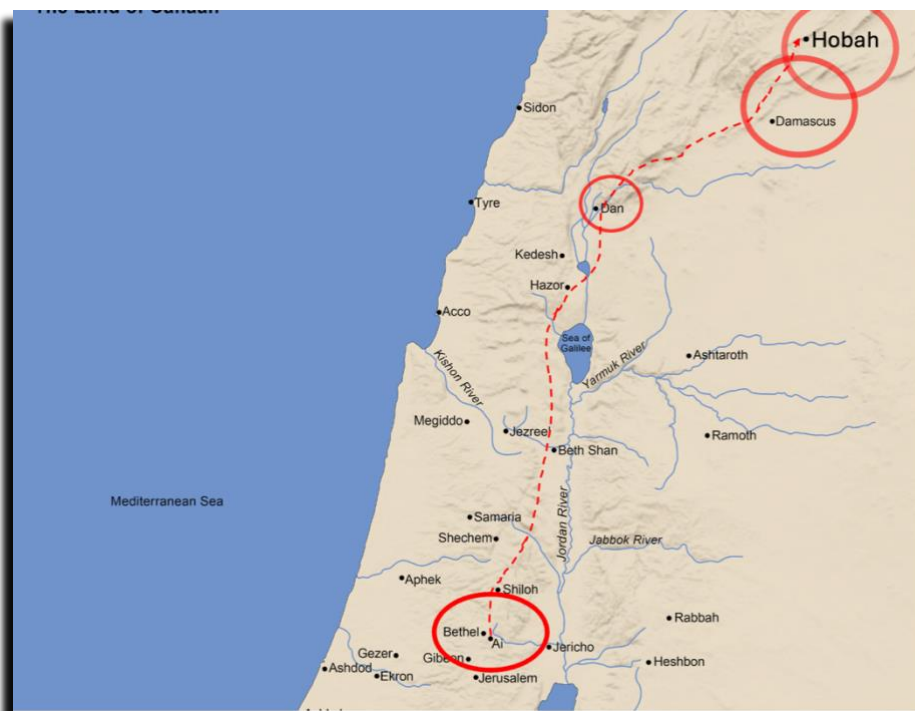
- Hollywood made a movie about **the 300** –



- The story centers on King Leonidas (Gerard Butler), who leads 300 Spartans in their fight against the Persian 'God-King' Xerxes.
 - This [Xerxes/Ahasuerus](#) will become Esther’s husband ([Esther](#)).
 - Abram had the original Mission Impossible force!
 - **Gideon** gets an honorable mention here also! [Judges 7:5-8](#)
 - **300 vs 150k**
- **trained men, born in his house, 318** –
 - Abram had a small army! A percentage of his household was 318 men.
 - Not counting women and children.
 - We often think of him alone, yet he had a massive caravan of dependent people.

¹⁵ And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶ Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

- divided his forces against them by night – **159** each side!!!!
 - This was some Delta Force/ Navy SEAL/ James Bond type stuff right here!
 - The enemy was probably systematically wiped out through stealth
 - They could not assess the size of the threat, except that they might be surrounded.



-
- I am running a few minutes late; my previous meeting is running late
- 135 mi from Damascus, Syria, to Jerusalem.
- **Abram the redeemer** –
 - This action prefigures what Christ did for us.
 - We were taken as prisoners by sin and death (Like Lot).
 - Enemies who demanded payment/ tribute
 - We were unable to save ourselves (Like Lot).
 - For many of us, what looked so nice at first turned into an unmitigated disaster.
 - Our only hope was in the man of God, and the God of that man
 - Our hope, like Lot's, was in “the Family member” who could do something about our situation.
 - He became one of us to redeem us
 - – [Galatians 3:13](#) Christ **redeemed us** from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for **us**—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—
 - This family member left His comfort and home and came to where we were prisoners.
 - This man of God came and won us back, brought back all that was lost!
 - All of Lot's possessions and household were saved
 - This won't be the last time Lot is saved from harm.

Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

¹⁷ After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

- the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him – Now they were defeated

¹⁸ **And Melchizedek** king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was **priest** of God Most

High.) ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,

Possessor of heaven and earth;

²⁰ and blessed be God Most High,

who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

- Valley of Shaveh – Jerusalem area
- **Melchizedek**
 - Melek – King
 - Tzedek - Righteousness
- king of **Salem**
 - Salem – Peace
 - Most Jewish commentators agree that it equates to Jerusalem.
 - The next time we hear of Jerusalem is in Joshua and they have a king called Adoni-Zedek
- Bread and Wine – this is similar to what we do when we take communion/ fellowship
 - Melchizedek brought enough for everyone.
 - The bread represents the body of Christ, and the Wine represents the new covenant
 - Just a little side note: Story of Joseph: Baker (Bread) was killed, the cupbearer (Wine) lived, Genesis 40
- **priest** – 1st mention of “Priest”
 - Someone to go between God and man.
- **“God Most High”** – Most High God 1st use of term!



- Monotheism existed before Israel existed.
 - Nimrod tried to confuse the world and get people to worship demons, wood, stone, and stars.
- Here we see a clear mediator between God and man.
 - Job, Jesus ([1 Timothy 2:5](#))
- Many see this man as a Christophany (Christ in the Old Testament)
 - Christ is both Priest and King! Only one to hold that title in the bible besides Melchizedek.
 - There **is no consensus** among scholars/ pastors. Some say he just prefigures Jesus.
- Hebrews elaborates on his priesthood – [Hebrews 7](#)
 - Psalm 110 mentions him in pointing to the priesthood of Jesus – [Psalm 110:4](#)
 - The priesthood of Jesus is not like or according to the Jewish priesthood we see in Exodus/ Leviticus/ Numbers & Deuteronomy. **It is greater!**
 - Melchizedek was not from Abram; he was from Noah, but not Abram.
 - Yet, both Abram & Mel worship the same God!
 - Melchizedek did not have to become part of Abram’s family to worship God
 - Christians do not need to become Jews to worship God.
 - God’s 1st official priest is not Jewish

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ²¹ And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.” ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ ²⁴ I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share.”



- the share of the men who went with me – Abram does not impose his religious position on his men.
 - This is important for us. God may speak to us about something specific, but that does not mean we are to impose that on others in Christ.
 - I’ve seen well-meaning Christians judge and look down on other Christians because they don’t observe a Saturday Shabbat, take communion every Sunday, read from the KJV only, speak in tongues, or don’t speak in tongues, or even go to Calvary Chapel.
 - If God has put on your heart to take a Saturday Shabbat, then fine, it’s another thing to judge others who do not, as somehow in sin or grave error.
 - Same with communion, tongues, Bible manuscripts, or church affiliation.
 - We can debate vigorously without dividing on non-essential issues.
 - They might be essential to you but be very careful not to go into Pharisee land and look down on folk for not being like you in religion.
 - This “Religious” attitude does not please God.

The Lord bless you and keep you;

the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;

the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.