

# ABRAHAM

## Mercy and Kings

Craig Smith • July 1, 2018

The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom. One who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. (Gen. 14:11-13a)

### Strong faith and a merciful heart...

- **See the crisis of another as a call to action** – “When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan...He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.” (Gen. 14:14, 16)

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.  
(Matthew 5:7)

### Two kings and a significant choice...

After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, King's Valley).  
(Gen. 14:17)

- **King of Salem (it's all about God)** – “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.’” (Gen. 14:18-20a)

- **King of Sodom (it's all about me)** – “The king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.’” (Gen. 14:21)

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit...  
(Phil. 2:3a)

- **Abram chose the glory of God** – “But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have raised my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, and have taken an oath that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’” (Gen. 14:22-23)

☞ **Note: “Melchizedek” means “king of righteousness”**  
– “Salem” means “peace.”

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.”  
(Psalm 110:4)

**Melchizedek the earthly king points you to Jesus the eternal king...**

And what we have said is even more clear if another priest like Melchizedek appears, one who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to his ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” (Heb. 7:15-17)