

Part 5 – Abram's Fight & Fealty

Genesis 14:8 And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim;

9 With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; four kings with five.

10 And the vale of Siddim was *full of* slime pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain.

11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way.

12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

- Lot merely looked east to some well-watered plains.
 - A place that would meet all his needs.
- Then Lot merely made his dwelling so he could see what was going on in the cities...
 - he didn't live there, but outside of there.

- Now he merely lives in Sodom.
 - His great wealth now gone.
 - He is fighting a battle for a wicked city
 - He is now taken prisoner in a war he ought to never have been in

13 And there came one that had escaped and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

14 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.

15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of Damascus.

16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

- Lot made a poor choice...we all do, time and again.

- Lot's inevitable end to the choice to hold his wealth his way lost his wealth and brought him to a place of bondage.
- We can often make the wrong choice
 - We will choose to live by sight and not by faith
 - We can “pitch our tent” towards cultural acceptance
 - We will choose so many things over just obeying God
 - Like work
 - Friends and family
 - Social activities
 - REST
 - So many options that aren't in and of themselves wicked
 - But it is the first step away from living and walking by faith
 - These steps will have us, like Lot, so far away from God's plan for our life
 - We merely chose to work so we could pay our bills...well-watered plains
 - We merely chose our family activities to strengthen our bonds...now my grown kids don't want to go to church

- We merely chose social activities (like little league or boating or neighborhood parties...now church just seems like a boring waste of time
- We merely chose to rest since we worked all week, and Saturday is filled with so many activities...I just needed to rest, now my family spends Sunday's...doing our own thing
 - Like Lot we learn that Small compromises lead to great disasters
- Enter Uncle Abram...who to me in our story is a type of Christ and the body of Christ.
- Abram took those born in his house that were trained...
 - this would be the body of Christ that have learned to walk with Jesus and are battle ready.
- Then Abram went and invaded the enemy's camp and delivered Lot and got back what possessions he and the other inhabitants of Sodom had.
- God will allow us to make our choices and then allow our choices to reach their inevitable end.
 - Then He who is rich in mercy will deliver us from our plight using one of His greatest resources here on earth, His Church,

- to help bring the wayward to a **place of possible repentance...still their choice.**
- Sadly, Lot did not return to dwell with Uncle Abram...**another poor choice.**
 - Another choice that will reach its inevitable end.
- But our focus is not on Lot's choices today, but Abram's faith...

Abram Blessed by Melchizedek

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.

19 And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:

20 And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

22 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,

23 That I will not *take* from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that *is* thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

- **Oh to be proclaimed blessed by Jesus!**

- What if we just looked to the Lord for our blessings
- That's not to say God won't use the devil's resources to accomplish these things...that is up to Him
- Abram wasn't going to let anything in Current Culture to claim that he was wealthy because they were good to him
- What if we just let God bless us however He desires...
- Then we honor Him with what He blesses us with!
 - When we don't honor God with our life's blessings...

- **Malachi 3:8** Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

9 Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

- **You might be like, that's Old Testament Pastor...ok**

- **2Corinthians 9:6** But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so *let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all *things*, may abound to every good work:

9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth forever.

- **Matthew 22:17** “Tell us therefore, What thinkest thou? Is it lawful to give tribute unto Caesar, or not?”

18 But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, “**Why tempt ye me, ye hypocrites?**

19 **Shew me the tribute money.**” And they brought unto him a penny.

20 And he saith unto them, “**Whose is this image and superscription?**”

21 They say unto him, “Caesar's”. Then saith he unto them, “**Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's.**”

- **I know none of us want to pay taxes...but Jesus said that we should**
- **He also said to “Render unto God the things that are God's”**
- **Whose Image are we made in?**

- **Shouldn't then our lives be given to Him**
 - **This is so much more than just what in in our bank accounts**
- Abram is being told how blessed he is by Jesus Christ manifested in Melchizedek.
- **Oh, wait...** Jesus said to Thomas, once Thomas touched the nail scared hands,
 - **John 20:29** Jesus saith unto him, "**Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed.**"
 - I've been proclaimed blessed by Jesus!
 - You, if you believe, have been proclaimed Blessed by Jesus
 - So who is it that can call you cursed...or damned...or bring you into condemnation?