

ABRAHAM: A Saint Interacts with Marauding Mesopotamians, Melchizedek and the Most High God: Genesis 14

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1A. INTRODUCTION:

- 1b. The critical arguments against the chapter:
 - 1c. The distance of travel – **anachronistic**
 - 2c. The route of the invaders – **mistaken**
 - 3c. The names of the Mesopotamians – **fictitious**
 - 4c. The victory by Abraham – **incredible**
 - 5c. The cities of the plain – **mythological**
- 2b. The unique aspects of the chapter:
 - 1c. The Bible's first reference to war and peace:
 - 2c. The first mentioning of Melchizedek and Jerusalem:
 - 3c. The usage of unique terms and names:
 - 4c. The variety of applications for today:



2A. THE ANTAGONISTS IN CONFLICT: 1-4

- 1b. The rivals in the conflict: 1-3
 - 1c. The marauding Mesopotamians:
 - 1d. Amraphel, King of Shinar
 - 2d. Arioch, King of Ellasar
 - 3d. Chedorlaomer, King of Elam
 - 4d. Tidal, King of Goiims
 - 2c. The confederate Canaanites:
 - 1d. Bera, King of Sodom
 - 2d. Birsha, King of Gomorrah
 - 3d. Shinab, king of Admah
 - 4d. Shemeber, King of Zeboiim
 - 5d. The King of Bela or Zoar



ABRAHAM UND MELCHISEDEK 1. Mose 14, 18-20

2b. The reason for the conflict: 4

- 1c. The rendering of tribute for 12 years
- 2c. The rebellion in 13th year
- 3c. Revenge in the 14th year

3A. THE ARENA OF THE CONFLICT: 5-12

1b. The route of the invaders: 5-7

2b. The routing of the inhabitants: 8-14

1c. The pursuit of the Canaanites: 9-10

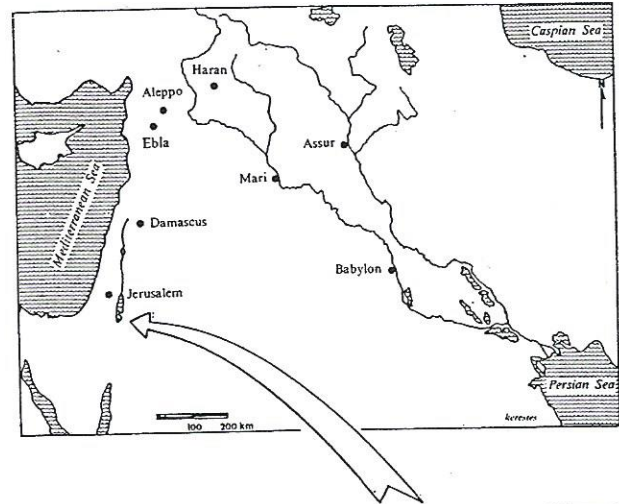
2c. The problem of Lot:

1d. He **looked** toward Sodom: 13:10 – cupidity

2d. He **moved** toward Sodom: 13:12 – carnality

3d. He **lived** in Sodom: 14:12 -- compromise

4d. He **ruled** with the city fathers: 19:1 -- catastrophe



The Five Cities of the Plain		
	Genesis 14	Ebla
Sodom	səḏōm	si-da-mu
Gomorrhah	ʿāmōrāh	ʿa-ma-ra
Admah	ʾadmāh	ad-ma
Zeboiim	səbōyīm	si-ba-i-um
Bela	belaʿ	be-la

4A. THE ALLIANCE AGAINST THE CONQUERORS: 13-16

1b. The strength of Abraham: 13-14

2b. The strategy of Abraham: 15

3b. The success of Abraham: 16



5A. THE AFTERMATH OF THE CONFLICT: 17-24

1b. The happiness of the godless people: 17

2b. The honor from the godly priest-king: 18-20a

1c. His person:

1d. The **historical** reference to Melchizedek: Gen. 14

2d. The **poetical** reference to Melchizedek: Ps. 110

3d. The **doctrinal** reference to Melchizedek: Heb. 7

2c. His position: priest-king of the Most High God (El-Elyon, 19, 22)

3b. The humility of the gracious patriarch: 20b-24

- 1c. His tithe:
- 2c. His testimony:
- 3c. His tokens:

6A. THE APPLICATIONS FROM THE CONFLICT:

1b. **Personal** applications:

- 1c. The believer, like Abraham, is **informed** about problems.
- 2c. The believer, like Abraham, is **touched** by compassion.
- 3c. The believer, like Abraham, is **moved** to act.
- 4c. The believer, like Abraham, is **willing** to sacrifice.
- 4c. The believer, like Abraham, is **ready** to die.
- 5c. The believer, like Abraham, **should help** the undeserving.
- 6c. The believer, like Abraham, is richly **rewarded**.

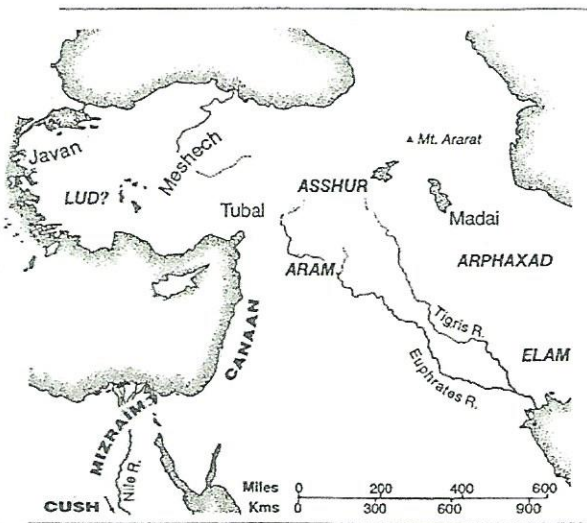
2b. **Political** applications:

- 1c. **Arms** are not wrong in certain situations.
- 2c. **Bloodshed** may be required to rescue the innocent.
- 3c. **Commendation** is given for righteous conflict.
- 4c. **Defense** of the helpless is a witness for the Lord.
- 5c. **Existence** involves preparation for self-defense.
- 6c. **Fighting** is not merely justified for self-defense (Luke 22:36).
- 7c. **God** blesses altruistic wars fought unselfishly.

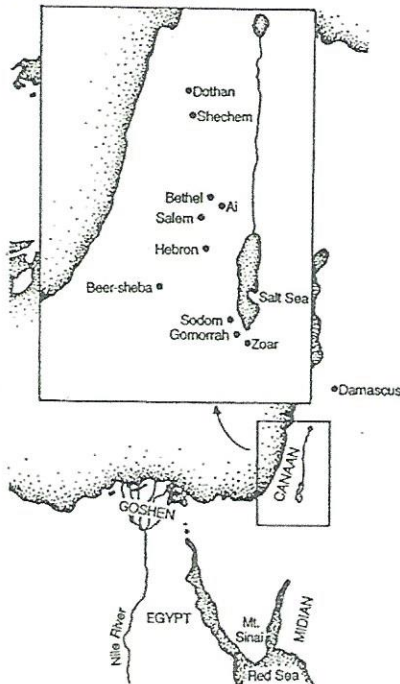
Abraham was engaged in a conflict for a just cause for which he was blessed of God. Though Abraham was not directly affected by the war, it involved his nephew Lot and prompted him in an altruistic fashion to pursue after his enemies.

The wars the United States has waged of late have been altruistic, e.g. WW I, II, our conflict in Viet Nam, our intervention in the Dominican Republic and Iraq, as well as our present military assistance in crisis areas of the world, such as Afghanistan. Altruistic wars are the noblest kind of wars. On a personal level, greater love has no man than when he lays down his life for his brother (John 15:13). That is even more true on a national level, when a nation is willing to sacrifice its own in behalf of a weaker nation in mortal danger.

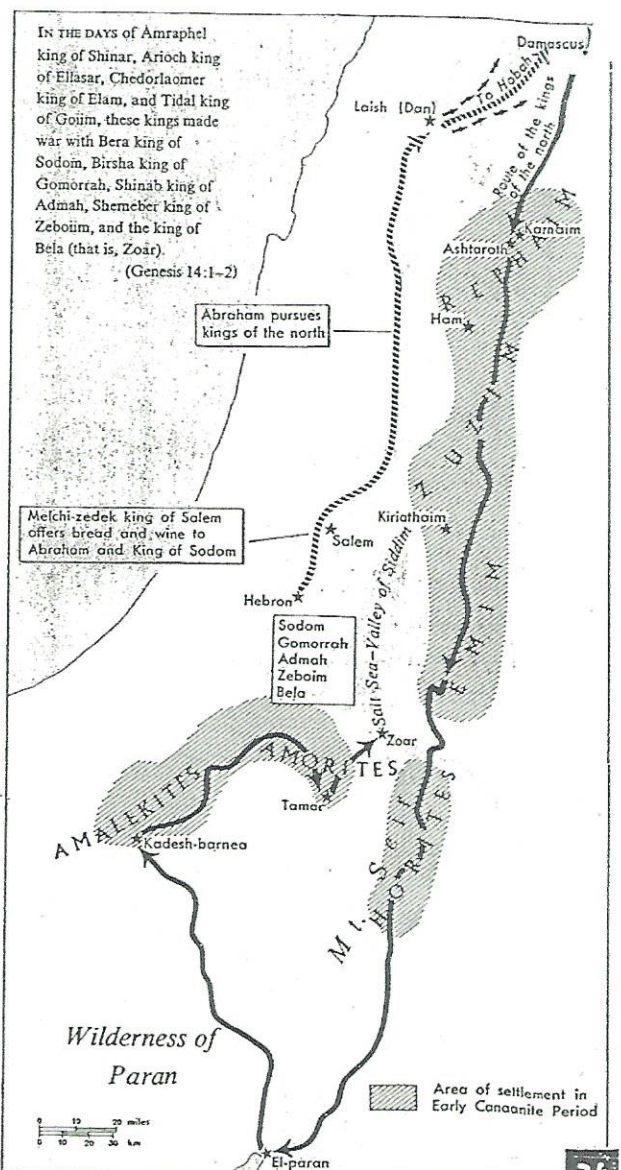
Some things are worth fighting and dying for and primary among them is an attack on one's own country as well as an unprovoked and unjustified attack on a neighboring or friendly nation which is helpless and certain to be destroyed. God is pleased with such selfless love. That is the lesson of Abraham's fight in behalf of Lot. He honored Abraham for his compassionate conflict. And he honors the United States for our moral concern for and military commitment to other, weaker nations. Unlike other nations, America has never waged war to expand its territory or to enrich its citizens. General Colin Powell's observation in 2003 tragically true, that America has "put wonderful young men and women at risk, many of whom have lost their lives, and we have asked for nothing except enough ground to bury them in."



Land of Abraham



THE CAMPAIGNS OF THE KINGS OF THE NORTH 20TH CENTURY B.C.



THE earliest historical event in the Bible is the war of the four kings of the north against the kings of the valley of the Dead Sea.