

Genesis 14 New American Standard Bible

War of the Kings

And it came about in the days of

Amraphel king of *Shinar*, *Arioch* king of *Ellasar*, *Chedorlaomer* king of *Elam*, and *Tidal* king of *Goim*,² that they made war with *Bera* king of *Sodom*, and with *Birsha* king of *Gomorra*, *Shinab* king of *Admah*, and *Shemeber* king of *Zeboim*, and the king of *Bela* (that is, *Zoar*).

³ All these kings came as allies to the Valley of *Siddim* (that is, the Salt Sea).⁴ For twelve years they had served *Chedorlaomer*, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.⁵ And in the fourteenth year *Chedorlaomer* and the kings who were with him came and defeated the *Rephaim* in *Ashteroth-karnaim*, and the *Zuzim* in *Ham*, and the *Emim* in *Shaveh-kiriathaim*,⁶ and the *Horites*

On their Mount *Seir*, as far as *El-paran*, which is by the wilderness.⁷ Then they turned back and came to *En-Kadesh*, and conquered all the country of the *Amalekites*, and also the *Amorites*, who lived in *Hazon-tamar*.

⁸ And the king of *Sodom* and the king of *Gomorra*, the king of *Admah* and the king of *Zeboim*, and the king of *Bela* came out; and they lined up for battle against them in the Valley of *Siddim*,

⁹ against *Chedorlaomer* king of *Elam*, *Tidal* king of *Goim*, *Amraphel* king of *Shinar*, and *Arioch* king of *Ellasar*—four kings against five.

¹⁰ Now the Valley of *Siddim* was full of tar pits; and the kings of *Sodom* and *Gomorra* fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country.¹¹ Then they took all the possessions of *Sodom* and *Gomorra* and all their food supply, and departed.¹² They also took *Lot*, *Abram*'s nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in *Sodom*.

¹³ Then a survivor came and told *Abram* the Hebrew. Now he was residing by the oaks of *Mamre* the Amorite, brother of *Eshcol* and brother of *Aner*, and they were allies with *Abram*.¹⁴ When *Abram* heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, numbering 318, and went in pursuit as far as *Dan*.

¹⁵ Then he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as *Hobah*, which is north of *Damascus*.¹⁶ He brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his relative *Lot* with his possessions, and also the women, and the other people.

God's Promise to Abram

¹⁷ Then 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).¹⁸ And *Melchizedek* the king of *Salem* brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.¹⁹ And he blessed him and said,

"Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;
²⁰ And blessed be ^[S]God Most High ,Who has handed over your enemies to you." And he gave him a tenth of everything. ²¹ Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give the people to me and take the possessions for yourself." ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have sworn to the Lord ^[M]God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, so that you do not say, 'I have made Abram rich.' ²⁴ I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, [Aner](#), [Eshcol](#), and [Mamre](#); let them take their share."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

- What questions were provoked within you?
Did anything confuse you?
Did anything move you emotionally?
Did God instruct you to do something?
Did you gain any insight into God's character

Pauls observations and insights

1. And it came about' – what does this statement mean to you?
2. The Kings go to war and Sodom and Gomorrah get caught up.
3. Kings always go to war – but why do they go?
4. In the Valley of [Sidon](#) are tar pits. What are tar pits and where do they come from?
5. What does a tar pit represent to you?
6. Have you ever picked a fight with someone?
7. They were fed up of being slaves, which is why they went to war.
8. Only if you are fed up of being a slave will you look to God for freedom.
9. The Kings fled. Were they afraid? And is there ever a time to flee?
10. Why do they go to the hill country?
11. Why did they take possession of the spoils of war - the food and the articles?
12. They made the big mistake of taking Lot and his family and possessions with them to the hill country.
13. Would Abraham of got involved otherwise?
14. Lot is Abraham's ^[S]nephew, not his uncle.
15. Abraham is told by a fleeing refugee, so what will he do?

16. Where Abraham set up camp having left Lot after his decision to go and live in the Valley, he made himself allies with the King of this territory, the land he now lived in.
17. Abraham had his own private army of 318 military men.
18. He led them out to go and rescue Lot and his family.
19. Abraham invades the enemy's camp, he has a plan and he has a strategy.
20. Taking back what our enemy has stolen from us will always require us to have a strategy, in order to win the battle over our enemy.
21. Our strategy as Christians is let go and give back God's property, it no longer belongs to you.
22. Not only does Abraham defeat the enemy and save Lot but he hounds his enemy down. Why?
23. How often are children left to survive the great battles, only to grow up, with the hatred of their fathers in their veins.
24. Abraham takes back what is stolen from him and brings Lot and his family home.
25. Down in valley at the victory table they break bread together and renew allegiances.
26. Abraham receives a blessing from the Priest of God. How would you receive such a blessing on you?
27. Abraham gave a tenth of all that God had given to him. How important is tithing to you?
28. Abraham refuses to take the spoils of war from his enemy. Why?
29. When referring to God why does Abraham constantly announce that God is the possessor of heaven and earth?
30. Abraham safeguards his relationship with the Kings in order to safeguard relationship.
31. So, he allows the enemy to receive the spoil of war.
32. When we promise the Lord something how important is it to keep our promises