

First Southern Baptist Church - October 2, 2019
Abram Rescues Lot - Genesis 14:1-24

Introduction

1. Trilogy of Lot Stories
 - A. Lot's Choice - Gen. 13
 - B. Abram Rescues Lot - Gen. 14**
 - C. Lot Leaves Sodom - Gen. 18-19
2. Separated from Abram - loses the blessing
3. Is this about Lot? About Abram? About Melchizedek?
 - or something greater?
 - or is it the blessing?
 - or about the God of the blessing?

I. The War of Kings

1. Two coalitions/ confederacies
 - A. Eastern alliance of Kings
 - Led by Kedorlaomer, king of Elam (verse 1)
 - Amraphel - king of Shinaar
 - Arioch - king of Ellasar
 - Tidal - king of nations
 - Had received tribute from the western kings for 12 years (verse 4)
 - B. Western alliance of Kings
 - Led by Bera - king of Sodom
 - Birsha - king of Gomorrah
 - Shinab - king of Admah
 - Shemeber - king of Zeboiim
 - Zoar - king of Bela
3. Sodom refuses to continue to pay taxes
 - served Kedorlaomer for 12 years, then in the 13th year rebelled
4. Meet in the Valley of Siddim - the Salt Sea
5. The Western alliance lost

II. The Taking of Lot

1. Proves to be Kedorlaomer's undoing
2. Should have been happy with the "stuff" - not the people
3. The taking of Lot is opposing Abram - he has a "Covenant" with Lot

III. Lot is Abram's Nephew

1. So the report comes to Abram (verse 13)
2. Promised he would not enrich himself by the rescue of Lot (verse 22)
3. Valley of Siddim
4. Abram's strategy of war

- divide the men
- hit them from behind (verse 15)
- night attack
- 5. Has 318 men (fighting men)
- 6. Bravely risks his own life for that of Lot -he is a “brother”
- 7. “Slaughter” (verse 17)
- 8. Abram as a “Hebrew”

First place in the Old Testament where “Hebrew” (‘ibri) is used

- “Eber” is used at the Table of Nations (10:21,25) - “Eber”
- Joseph identifies himself with the Hebrews (40:15)
- Jonah identifies himself as a “Hebrew” (1:9)

IV. Abram Meets the Kings - following the “rescue”

1. Follows the war
2. In the Valley of the King (verse 17)
3. King of Sodom - Bera
 - A. “Came out”

!!). -came out from his “tar pit” (verse 17)
 - B. Selfish request
 - C. First words “give me” (verse 21)
4. King of Salem - Melchizedek
 - A. “Brought out” food (verse 18)
 - B. Unselfish response
 - C. First word spoken is “blessed”
5. Melchizedek
 - A. King of Salem = Jerusalem
 - B. Priest of God the most High (El Elyon)
 - C. Names:
 - Malki-isedek* - means “king of righteousness” (Heb. 7:2)
 - Melek salem* means “king of peace” (He b. 7:2)
 - “Salem” is commonly held as a name for Jerusalem
 - C. Priest - “kohen” (verse 18)
 - First use of the term in the Bible
 - Fathers were often the priest of the family - provided the blessings
 - Later the priests became the chief “blessers” - Num. 6:24-26
 - Melchizedek recognizes Abram’s God as the ultimate God
 - D. “Bread and wine”
 - that sounds familiar**
 - a common term for daily blessings of persons - Judges 19:9
 - to be refreshment for the returning soldiers makes common sense
 - E. Abram gave a tenth (verse 20)
 - as becomes the custom - Num. 18:21-28

-*not a free-will offering, but a requirement, acknowledging a superior

-Hebrews 7:2-6

-tithes are an “acknowledgment” of God’s grace in giving the victory

F. Melchizedek blessed Abraham

-a superior always blesses an inferior

G. New Testament use of Melchizedek

What individual could be greater than Father Abram?

The priesthood (here) came before the priesthood (Levites)

He appears and disappears

-no father nor mother

-no birth nor death

Jesus is the head of a ***new order***

-an order that has no predecessors (Heb. 5:5-6, 10)

-the writer of Hebrews points to Melchizedek as that new order
because he came before Levi

A metaphor of the Jesus who will come - Jesus is “like” him

H. So... Jesus is superior to Melchizedek

-received tithes of Abram

-gives a blessing to Abram

-names of Melchizedek

King of Salem

King of Peace

-no mother or father

-no beginning nor end

-Levi’s priesthood is for Israel, Melchizedek’s is for all nations (ministers
to both Gentiles and Jews)

-Melchizedek is a prototype of the real high priest - Jesus