

WHO WILL GET THE CREDIT ?

Wise man-Foolish man Part IV

Genesis 14:1- 15:6

February 18, 1996

After Lot had separated from Abram, he eventually moved from the plain into the city of Sodom. At that time of the kings of the five cities in the plains decided that they would no longer pay taxes to Tidal king of nations and his confederates. Twelve years before this the five kings of the plains had lost in battle to Tidal and his allies and had become their servants. In the fourteenth year, Chedorlaomer and his allies came against many cities in the area and defeated them. Then the king of Sodom and the other four kings of the plains went out to fight. They rebelled and refused to pay the taxes any longer.

The valley where they fought was full of tar pits, and many soldiers fell into them, so that the kings of the plains were badly defeated. Those that were not killed in battle fled to the mountains. Then the armies of Chedorlaomer took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and left. They also took the people in the cities captive, including Lot, Abram's nephew. After all this, someone who had escaped came and brought the bad news to Abram.

Then Abram called together those that were his allies: Mamre, Eshcol, and Aner. He armed his three hundred and eighteen trained servants. Together they pursued the armies of Chedorlaomer to Dan. There Abram divided the men into companies and attacked the enemy during the night while they were sleeping. Abram and his men soundly defeated the huge armies of Chedorlaomer, even though they were greatly outnumbered. They were able to win this great victory because God fought for them.

After the battle, Abram brought back all the goods and peoples that had been stolen. He also brought back his nephew Lot.

On his return, the king of Sodom came out to meet Abram. Melchizadek king of Salem and priest of the most high God also came out to meet Abram and blessed him. Then Abram praised the most high God, who possesses heaven and earth. He gave tithes of all that he had captured to the Lord.

The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me back my people, but you keep all the goods." Abram replied, "I speak before the God who owns heaven and earth and tell you that I will not take even one shoelace from you or anything that is yours, for then you might say that you have made Abram rich." The only wages I would like is what my young men have eaten, and that you would give something to my allies: Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre. Let them take what is fair wages for fighting for you.

After this the Lord again appeared to Abram in a vision and told him, "I am your shield and your exceeding great reward. God promised Abram that he would give him a son. He said to Abram, "Look up at the heavens, and count the stars if you can. That is how many your descendents shall be." Abram believed God and it was counted to him for righteousness.

When Abram had a chance to gain much riches, he made a wise choice. He looked at the man who offered the wealth and considered what the man was like. Abram knew all about Sodom and Gomorrah and the great wickedness of those cities. He did not want people who were God's enemies to get the credit for what God had done for him, so he refused their reward. Even though Abram had earned payment from them by saving the king's goods and people, Abram did not accept any reward.

It is important for us to consider and understand the world and the people around us, as Abram did. We must realize that if we accept something that the world offers as a reward, it may compromise God's glory. We need to be wise as Abram was and consider carefully each choice that we make; will God receive the glory for this accomplishment, or will the world and its methods get the credit?

LEARN: The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked; but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness. Proverbs 21:12

1. Color Abraham and King.
2. Cut them out - leave Tabs on.
3. Paste onto stiff paper.
4. Cut out again & fold tabs back to stand men up.
5. Tell story.



Who Gets the Credit?

