

GENESIS –Lesson 31

Learn: But this man because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. Hebrews 7:24-27

Read: Genesis 14:1-24

Abram apparently lived in comparative quiet and security in Mamre for several years after Lot departed from him. Then a northeastern confederacy of kings swept through the land.

1. Who did this confederacy consist of? v 1

NOTE: Shinar =Babylonia, Ellasar = the leading tribe of Babylonia, Elam = the original kingdom of Persia, Golim, which is translated nations, was probably a tribe of northeastern Babylonia.

At this time kingdoms were still small, probably not much more than city states; so these invading armies were not comparable to what invaded the land of Canaan and Israel in later times. Nevertheless, they were fierce and cruel and could well have destroyed all the inhabitants. None of these kings have been definitely identified archaeologically.

2. According to verse four, who was the leader of this group of invaders?

3. Why was this confederacy making war with the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah and their allies? v 4

4. What did Chedorlaomer and the kings with him do to the inhabitants of the land?
vv 5-7

Dr. Nelson Glueck, the leading archeologist of modern times whose specialty is Palestine, in his book RIVERS IN THE DESERT p11, has said:

Centuries earlier, another civilization of high achievement had flourished between the 21st and 19th centuries B.C., till it was savagely liquidated by the kings of the East. According to Biblical statements, which have been borne out by archaeological evidence, they gutted every city and village at

the end of that period from Ashtaroth-Karnaim in southern Syria through all of Trans-Jordan and the Negev to Kadesh-Barnea in Sinai.

(Genesis 14:1-7).

The rebellion of the small kings of the cities on the east side of the Dead Sea against what must have been the extortionate rule of the absentee suzerains was brutally crushed. This comparatively minor insurrection was thereupon utilized as a pretext to settle old scores and to raid and ravage with unleashed ferocity for as much booty as could possibly be won. An old order was crumbling. From southern Syria to central Sinai, their fury raged. A punitive expedition developed into an orgy of annihilation. I found that every village in their path had been plundered and left in ruins, and the countryside laid waste. The population had been wiped out and led away into captivity. For hundreds of years thereafter, the entire area was like an abandoned cemetery, hideously unkempt, with all its monuments shattered and strewn in pieces on the ground.

RIVERS IN THE DESERT pp72-72 Dr. Nelson Glueck

NOTE: “vale of Siddim” meaning fields, probably because of the high fertility and extensive agriculture at the time. “slimepits” - a rich source of the mineral bitumen.

5. What happened when the king of Sodom and his confederates fought with Chedorlaomer and his confederates? vv 8-12

6. Where was Abram living when he received the news of Lot’s capture? v 13

7. What is Abram called in verse 13?

NOTE: The term “Hebrew” was later applied to the Israelites when they were in Egypt. this is the first time it is mentioned in the Bible and is clearly used to distinguish him from the rest of the inhabitants of Canaan.

8. What were three things that Abram did in response to the news of Lot’s capture? vv 14-16

What important character traits of Abram do they show?

9. Aside from his great strategy in fighting the kings of the East, how was Abram able to defeat such a fierce army that had wiped out every other king in its path?
Deuteronomy 3:22

NOTE: There is no mention of this battle on any of the Babylonian or Elamite inscriptions that have been found so far. That is not surprising as ancient kings were accustomed to recounting only their victories. Defeats usually left them either dead or in slavery. Abram's amazing victory over them would not be an account that they would want any to know.

10. Upon his victory over the armies of Chedorlaomer, what two kings came to meet Abram? vv 17, 18

11. These two kings were exactly opposite of each other. They represent the two kinds of people in the world. What are the two types? See Psalm 1 for help.

What was the character of each king and what type of people do they represent?
Genesis 14:10; 18:20; v.s. Genesis 14:18-20

12. What else does the Bible tell us about this amazing king of Salem named Melchizedek?
Psalm 110:1-4

Hebrews 5:5, 6

Hebrews 6:20

13. What three titles is Melchisedec given in Hebrews 7:1, 2?

14. How did Melchizedek speak of God? Genesis 14:19, 20

15. What did the name that Melchizedek used for God show?

16. How is Melchisedec described in Hebrews 7:3?

17. Jesus in his priestly duty for us, is compared to the priesthood of Melchizedek rather than to the priesthood of Aaron, the sons of Levi. What was the problem with the priests who ministered under the law established by God through Moses and Aaron? Hebrews 7:5,8,11,19,23,27,28

18. How was the priesthood of Jesus of the order of Melchisedec superior to the priesthood of Levi? Hebrews 7: 14-17, 21-22, 24-28

19. All these verses that explain the importance of Melchizedek and the order of his priesthood, the description of his life, the fact that he was a king and a priest of the

Most High God, in a land of wicked depraved people, makes one think seriously as to who this man really was. Do you have any ideas?

20. What did the king of Sodom offer to Abram? v 21

21. What was Abram's answer to the king of Sodom? vv 22-24