

ABRAM THE HEBREW!
GENESIS CH14:1-24

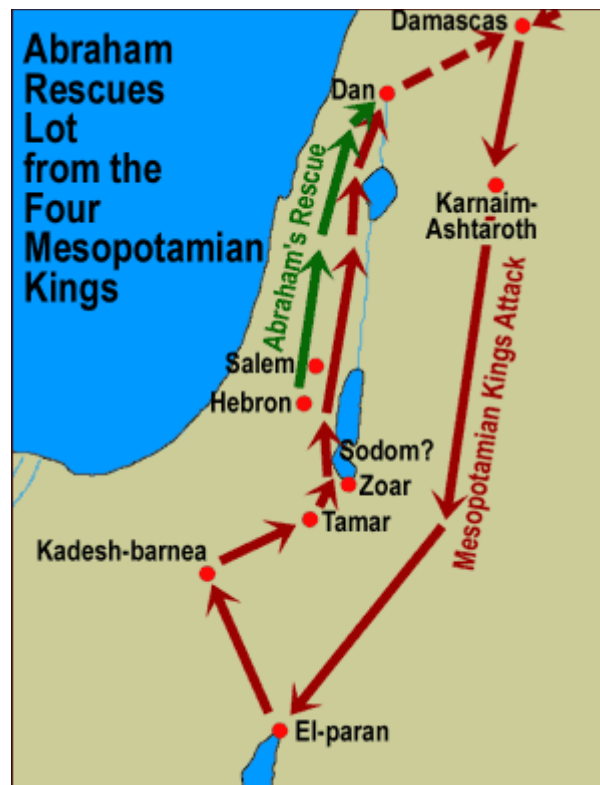
ILLUSTRATION

“Joined by or relating to members of an alliance” - **ALLIED** - World War II operatives Max and Marianne fall in love and get married. They work for the Allied Forces against the Germans, really successfully, until one morning, Max receives a call informing him that his wife is working for the enemy, which changes everything.

THE ALLIES OF KINGS! V1-12

- V1 – The 4 King Allies, namely **AMRAPHEL** king of Shinar, **ARIOCH** king of Ellasar, **CHEDORLAOMER** king of Elam and **TIDAL** king of Goiim.
- V2 – There are also 5 other kings, **BERA** king of Sodom, **BIRSHA** king of Gomorrah, **SHINAB** king of Admah, **SHEMEBA** king of Zeboiim, and the **UNNAMED** king of Bela.
- V4 – The 4 kings are led by **CHEDORLAOMER!**
- V4 – And for 12 years these 4 kings had ruled over a particular area, where there were 5 other kings!
- V4 – After 12 years the 5 kings rebelled!
- V5-7 – The 4 kings decide that they are not having any more of this, and defeat 4 tribal groups and the Amalekites, plus the Amorites on their way to the area of the 5 kings!
- V8 – The 5 kings see the battle between the 4 kings verses the 4 tribal groups, plus the Amalekites and Amorites, and join in, no doubt hoping to defeat the 4 kings, as they are fighting the other groups!
- V10 – However, the plan of the 5 kings fail, and they get beat, and flee! Some fall into “**BITUMEN PITS**”, essentially “Tar pits”, sometimes referred to as asphalt pits, are large asphalt deposits. They form in the presence of petroleum, which is created when decayed organic matter is subjected to pressure underground. What happens if I fall into a tar pit? Falling into a real tar pit can be dangerous due to the sticky nature of the tar. It can be difficult to escape without assistance.
- For us to understand how bad the violence against its rebels was, according to archaeologist, **Nelson Glueck**, who surveyed this destruction, he wrote and I quote “***I found that every village in their path had been plundered and left in ruins, and the countryside was laid waste. The population had been wiped out or led away into captivity. For hundreds of years thereafter, the entire area was like an abandoned cemetery hideously unkempt with all monuments shattered and strewn in pieces on the ground***” (Cited in Morris).
- V12 – What has this got to do with Abram? “They also took Lot” Because Abram was an honourable man, and guardian of his nephew

Lot (who had lost his own father Ch11:28 – Haran), he now had to get involved!



THE ALLIES OF ABRAM THE HEBREW! V13-16

- V13 – **Abram THE HEBREW** – first time the term “Hebrew” is mentioned, meaning – “to pass over”, probably relating to Abram “*Passing over the Euphrates River*”
- V13 – Abram's Allies are revealed – **MAMRE** the Amorite (remember v7 – The Amorites are his kin), and his brothers **ESHCOL** and **ANER!**
- V14 – Abram rallies his trained fighting men, 318, in total!
- V14 – Abram must have not only trained his men, but also shows real prudence (caution + wisdom) in understanding and preparing for the need for “his own” to be protected.”
- V14 – Abram now knows the country and pursues the enemy for 120 miles!
- V15 – Abram understands warfare and divides his forces, being strategic and attacks at night!
- V16 – He not only rescues Lot and all of his possessions, but also brings back all that was taken!
- V20 – Who gave Abram the victory? V20 God! Remember Ch12:3?

THE ALLIES BOTH ABRAM AND MELCHIZEDEK! V17-24

- V18 – MELCHIZEDEK King of Salem (probably Jerusalem)!
- V18 – MELCHIZEDEK is Priest of GOD MOST HIGH!
- V18 – **MELCHIZEDEK brings Abram “bread and wine”(no sacrifice is made, but in some ways, Abram, leaves the comfort of his own**

home, like Jesus, to go and rescue his people, like Jesus, and will not take any reward for this, like Jesus, instead takes the “bread and wine”, like Jesus!

- V19 – MELCHIZEDEK blesses Abram
- V20 – MELCHIZEDEK blesses GOD MOST HIGH!

There are 5 similarities between Melchizedek and Jesus!

1. Melchizedek status as Priest, like Jesus, is mentioned in Hebrews Ch5:6, 10; Ch6:20 and Ch7:1-4 (Jesus is mentioned in Priestly terms in Romans Ch8:34; 1st John Ch2:1-2)!
2. Melchizedek's authority as king, like Jesus!
3. Melchizedek's name – meaning “righteousness + peace” is like Jesus!
4. Melchizedek's uniqueness is like Jesus, not in the line of Levi the Priests, like Jesus in the line of Judah!
5. Melchizedek's superiority, like Jesus. Abram, the father of Judaism, a Hebrew, greatest of all the patriarch's, gives “tithes” to Melchizedek! A 10th of all that he had!

God, makes Himself known to someone outside of the covenant people recorded in Scripture, and we are not told how! Just like Jethro, (Jethro is called a priest of Midian and became father-in-law of Moses after he gave his daughter, Zipporah, in marriage to Moses. He is introduced in Exodus Ch2:18. Jethro is recorded as living in Midian, a territory stretching along the eastern edge of the Gulf of Aqaba, northwestern Arabia), or Balaam (Numbers Ch22-24 + 2nd Peter Ch2:15; Jude Ch1:11; Rev Ch2:14).

GOD MOST HIGH can make Himself known to anyone, at any time, and in any way, according to His Will!

APPLICATION

What a Saviour we have! Willing to leave His home, Heaven, to rescue us!