

Genesis 14.17-15.1

“A Meeting with Royalty”

HOW DOES THE BELIEVER IN GOD REACT AFTER GREAT SUCCESS?

Abe > Exhilarated - Tremendous Military VICTORY - RESCUED LOT w/ 318 Men  
EXHAUSTED AND ANXIOUS will the 5 kings return? all 9 in revenge?

LIKE PROPHET ELIJAH AFTER MT. CARMEL? - depression? pity party?  
GOD SENDS A MESSENGER OF GRACE AND BLESSING TO REFRESH HIM

If MOVIE - SOUND TRACK: "See the Conquering Hero Comes!!"  
But it's REAL LIFE - SIMPLE MAN with a GREAT GOD > Meets Three Kings

1. The King of Salem                      2. The King of Sodom      3. The King and Savior

1. The King of Salem

a. Greatness v. 18 “Melchizedek king of Salem...He was priest of God Most High”

VERSE CONTAINS MANY QUESTIONS > Most are UNANSWERED

Who is M? Name - NOT REALLY KNOWN, MELCHIZEDEK = TITLE

Did Abe know him? Why did Abe receive him? Not a trick by defeated enemy?

Where did he come from?                      Where did he go?                      Never appears again -  
STRANGE SILENCE IN A BOOK FILLED WITH GENEALOGIES

How did Melchizedek learn about the true God?

Was his a recognized priesthood?                      by whom?                      for what?

If Mel was a greater man than Abe - why not chosen instead of Abe?

Hebrews 7.1-4 “This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, his name means "king of righteousness"; then also, "king of Salem" means "king of peace." Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, like the Son of God he remains a priest forever. Just think how great he was!”

PRIEST OF EL ELYON = GOD MOST HIGH / CREATOR GOD  
 TITLES "King of Righteousness" "King of Salem / Peace"  
 JERUSALEM?? - City of Peace / NOW place of bombs and carnage  
 PRINCE OF PEACE DRIVEN OUT OF CITY ON A CROSS

ONE OF GREAT TYPES OF THE LORD JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

b. Gratefulness GREAT MEN - POINTING One ANOTHER TO GREAT GOD

vs. 19,20 "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. And blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Psalms 136.4 "to him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever"

GREAT MAN > GREAT MISSION > Encourage and Refresh God's Servant Abram

PAUL DESCRIBED HIS MINISTRY TO THE CORINTHIANS SAYING  
 2 Corinthians 12.19 "everything we do, dear friends, is for your strengthening"

E.M. BOUNDS "The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men. The Holy Spirit does not flow through methods, but through men. He does not come on machinery, but on men. He does not anoint plans, but men - men of prayer."

GOD knew ABE was to FACE a STRONG TEMPTATION - MEL PREPARES

c. Giving v. 18 "Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine"

LATER TO BECOME SYMBOLS OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF JESUS  
 FOR ABRAHAM > EVIDENCE OF GOD'S GRACIOUS REFRESHMENT

v. 20 "Abram gave him a tenth of everything." > Tithing Predates LAW OF MOSES

Hebrews 7.4,6 "Even the patriarch Abraham gave him a tenth of the plunder!...This man...did not trace his descent from Levi, yet he collected a tenth from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises...."

AS THESE TWO GREAT MEN WERE MEETING - discussing things of God  
 ANOTHER KING WAS STANDING WITHIN EARSHOT...

## 2. The King of Sodom

THE KING OF SODOM WAS JOINED WITH THE KING OF SALEM  
 maybe he also ate the sacred victory meal??

SALEM & SODOM - SIMILAR NAMES / Different AS LIGHT & DARKNESS

IN OUR LIFE OF FAITH - SOMETIMES THE TIME OF GREAT VICTORY  
 CAN QUICKLY TURN TO AN ATTACK OF GREAT TEMPTATION  
 Like Jesus driven into Satan's wilderness after His baptism

ANDREW BONAR "Let us be as watchful after the victory as before the battle"

KING OF SALEM - type of Christ // KING OF SODOM - = type of Satan  
 SALEM = peace/righteousness // SODOM = extremely wicked & corrupt

Having Been BLESSED BY K.OF SALEM, ABE was Ready FOR K. OF SODOM  
 John Knox, Reformer of Scotland ordered to see Catholic Queen > wanted him dead  
 SOMEONE ASKED KNOX IF HE WAS AFRAID "How can I fear a mere earthly  
 monarch when I have just spent four hours with God?"

### a. Chance for Wealth

v. 21 "The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods  
 for yourself."

GOD HAD ALREADY PROMISED EVERYTHING IN THE LAND TO ABE  
 Genesis 13:14-17 The LORD said to Abram..."Lift up your eyes from where you are  
 and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you"

ABE HAD DEFEATED THIS KING / SPOILS NOT REALLY HIS TO OFFER

14.11 The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah  
 14.16 He (Abram) recovered all the goods

WHEN THE DEVIL BRINGS SOMETHING TO TEMPT US - It is not his to offer!  
 Psa 24.1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it

TENSION OF CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP - in the world / not of world

John 17:11,14 JESUS PRAYS TO THE FATHER FOR HIS FOLLOWERS

“they are still *in the world*...I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for *they are not of the world* any more than I am of the world”

WARREN WIERSBE "Legally, Abraham had every claim to the spoils, but morally, they were out of bounds. Many things in this world are legal as far as the courts are concerned but morally wrong as far as God's people are concerned"

KING OF SODOM WOULD HAVE CONTROLLING INFLUENCE ON ABE  
HE COULD LAY CLAIM TO HIS SUCCESS / EVEN CREATE DEPENDENCE

IT WAS A GOOD THING TO GET INVOLVED TO RESCUE LOT  
WOULD BE BAD THING TO BE IDENTIFIED WITH SODOM  
INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD MUST STOP SHORT OF IDENTIFICATION

SAD: What ABE Refused from SODOM / LOT went in to RECEIVE

UGANDA - theft & poverty MOST THINGS LABELED books, chairs, table  
PROPERTY OF SCHOOL - CHURCH - GOVERNMENT

GO into HOME of CHRISTIAN AND SIT AT TABLE BEARING THE IMPRINT  
PROPERTY OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA  
DOES NOT BELONG IN HIS HOME / COMPROMISED HIS INTEGRITY

WE HAVE THINGS IN OUR HOMES / LIVES / HEARTS - DO NOT BELONG  
LOVES - LOYALTIES - LUSTS --- COME FROM SODOM NOT THE SAVIOR  
IMPACT FOR HIM NOT WHAT IT COULD BE OR SHOULD BE

JAMES BOICE "If the world can claim part of the success of a Christian's life, then the edge of the believer's witness is blunted and his testimony will be ignored. By contrast, if the glory is all given to God, as Abram was determined it should be in this case, then God is truly honored and the witness stands. This choice should be made and lived by every serious Christian."

Request v. 21 "GIVE ME THE PEOPLE" - JUST WHAT SATAN WANTS??

GOD WANTS OUR BODIES FOR HIS GLORY Romans 12.1 offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

DEVIL WANTS THEM FOR HIS GLORY

Romans 6.13 Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness

DEVIL - thru Potiphar's wife > A's Great Grandson / JOSEPH: "Give me your body"

thru Nebuchadnezzar - said same to DANIEL and YOUNG MEN OF ISRAEL  
THEY REFUSED TO TASTE THE IDOLATRIES OF BABYLON'S KITCHEN

WHEN HE ASKED FOR BODIES OF SAMSON, DAVID & JUDAS  
THEY SAID YES!! AND WHAT A PRICE THEY PAID!!

## b. Challenge Withstood

PRAISE > VICTORY IN THE BATTLE THROUGH PRAISING THE LORD  
v. 22 "But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to the LORD,  
God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth"

MY GOD owns HEAVEN and EARTH - I Don't NEED YOUR CHUMP CHANGE!

PRAISE led to a PLEDGE > STRONG WORD OF ABSOLUTE COMMITMENT  
ABRAM Absolutely REFUSES ANY GIFTS from SUCH A POLLUTED SOURCE

v. 22-24 (I) have taken an oath that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even  
a thread or the thong of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram  
rich.' I will accept nothing (2 X's NOTHING)

WORLD WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND - FOOLISH OLD MAN – Stupid Looser

Jeremiah 9:23-24 This is what the LORD says: "Let not the wise man boast of his  
wisdom or the strong man boast of his strength or the rich man boast of his riches,  
but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am  
the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I  
delight," declares the LORD.

DANGEROUS SYSTEM OF SELECTING POLITICAL LEADERS -  
USA PRESIDENT NEED TO RAISE 100's MILLION DOLLARS TO WIN  
HOW MANY LOYALTIES FORGED? HOW MANY PAY BACKS?  
DO WE ELECT THE BEST MAN OR BUY THE WORST MAN?

PATIENCE > NOT EVERYONE IS AS FAR AS YOU MAY BE SPIRITUALLY

v. 24 but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went  
with me--to Aner, Eshcol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

ABE Made EXCEPTION for THOSE WHO HELPED HIM IN HIS EXPEDITION

Romans 15.1 “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves.”

c. Comforting Words ABE WONDERS about HIS SAFETY AND SUBSTANCE

15.1 "after this" = GOD KNOWS WHAT WE KNOW WHEN WE NEED IT

MELCHIZEDEK - leaves and ends their sweet fellowship  
 KING OF SODOM - goes away with all the loot, really was Abe's  
 NEPHEW LOT - after Abe risked all for him, goes to live in Sodom

HEARD EXCITED CHATTER OF LOT'S CHILDREN  
 REMINDED HIM HE STILL HAD NO CHILDREN OF HIS OWN

TEMPTED TO THINK it is ALL POINTLESS / Went to BATTLE FOR NOTHING

J. HUDSON TAYLOR - leader of China Inland Mission

During China’s “Boxer Rebellion” in early 1900’s > Churches suffered greatly  
 “I cannot read, I cannot think, I cannot even pray, but I can trust”

15.1 “After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram”

GOD Speaks to Abram by Name > Trust in Solid Word of an UNCHANGING GOD

FAITH THAT CONQUERS FEAR IS FAITH IN THE WORD OF GOD

"word of the Lord came" 1st TIME PHRASE OCCURS IN THE BIBLE  
 ONLY TIME IN ENTIRE PENTATEUCH PHRASE OCCURS (2 X's 15.4)  
 OCCURS OVER 100 TIMES IN WRITINGS OF THE PROPHETS

WE ENTER INTO A SIMILAR INTIMACY WITH GOD THROUGH JESUS

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN TO ABRAM NOW?

WOULD HE be ATTACKED by the CONQUERED KINGS & THEIR ARMIES?

SURELY THEY were ANGERED AND EMBARRASSED BY THIS NOBODY  
WHO SHAMED THEM IN MILITARY DEFEAT

NO! HE HAD A DIVINE PROTECTION AGENCY - GOD: "I am your shield"

IS GOD YOUR SHIELD - YOUR PROTECTOR

do you trust in your own strength? popularity? family? friends?

ALL THESE WILL ULTIMATELY DISAPPOINT YOU - WANT REAL SHIELD?

EVEN IF DEVIL COMES LIKE A ROARING LION / SECURE IN THE LORD

TRUST IN THE LORD - EXEMPT FROM ALL PROBLEMS??

Family RETURNED to USA from Missionary Service in Pakistan

SETTLED IN PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA - young son attacked by a gang

teen-agers struck son on face & neck with nail studded rope

RESULT = Left Eye - 90% Blind / Right Eye - No Central Vision

"In time, the boys involved were tried and sentenced by the courts. Throughout the course of the trial, the parents of the injured boy refused to give way to bitterness or to indulge their feelings of disappointment. They gave a Christian witness to the offenders. The mother told the newspapers, "If necessary, we can live with a physical handicap. But we cannot live with bitterness."

In the SAME WAY - GOD CAN BE YOUR SHIELD AGAINST BITTERNESS

Did Abe wonder: Was it FINANCIAL FOOLISHNESS to Refuse Gifts from Sodom

No! HE HAD HEAVENLY RESOURCES - "(I am) your very great reward."

ARE YOU BANKING ON THE LORD? Is he your very great reward?

IF GOD IS YOUR REWARD - YOU SHARE IN ALL HE HAS

KNOW HIM AS ABRAHAM AS JEHOVAH-JIREH "the God who provides"

ANOTHER 1<sup>st</sup> time PHRASE in BIBLE "Fear not": "Do not be afraid, Abram.

Isaiah 41:10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

YOUR LIFE IS ONLY AS BIG AS YOUR FAITH  
YOUR FAITH IS ONLY AS BIG AS YOUR GOD

John 14:1 "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."

MAY WE LEARN THE LESSON OF FAITH -  
ALL THAT GOD HAS PROMISED - HE WILL PERFORM

### 3. The King and Savior

ABE & MEL - Great SPIRITUAL LEADERS - ARGUABLY GREATEST OF O.T.  
WHAT DID THEY TALK ABOUT? THINGS TAUGHT TO THEM BY GOD -

a. Promises ABE - GREAT PROMISES 1) Land 2) Son 3) Bless all People

MEL - Priesthood - MEANING & FULFILLMENT OF SACRIFICES

DO YOU THINK THEY WERE ABLE TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER??

COULD JESUS SAY: John 8:56 Your father Abraham (*and his friend Melchizedek?*) rejoiced at the thought of seeing my day; he saw it and was glad."

THREE OBSCURE VERSES ABOUT MELCHIZEDEK IN GENESIS 14

MANY FORGET ALMOST AS QUICKLY AS HE COMES ON THE SCENE  
ANOTHER OF THE HUNDREDS OF UNUSUAL BIBLE NAMES

1000 YEARS LATER - OUT OF NOWHERE HE APPEARS AGAIN  
IN PROPHETIC WRITINGS OF KING DAVID

Psalms 110:1,4 The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."... The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

1000 YEARS LATER - WRITER TO THE HEBREWS  
DESCRIBING DAVID'S SON & DAVID'S LORD - almost 3 chs. on Melchiz



## b. Priest and King Jews Misunderstood & Abused Levitical Priesthood

JESUS > PRIEST from a New LINE - GOD DOES AN END RUN AROUND LEVI

Hebrews 7:11-16 If perfection could have been attained through the Levitical priesthood (for on the basis of it the law was given to the people), why was there still need for another priest to come--one in the order of Melchizedek, not in the order of Aaron?

Mel. & Jesus > SOMETHING THE LAW OF MOSES WOULD NOT ALLOW  
Joining Office of PRIEST AND KING  
KINGS OF ANCIENT WORLD - MANY THOUGHT DIVINE - PRIEST TOO!

TRYING to Become a PRIEST - SAUL – 1<sup>st</sup> King of Israel LOST HIS KINGSHIP  
Same Thing King UZZIAH of Judah – Dared to ENTER MOST HOLY PLACE

NO O.T. KING COULD BE A PRIEST - NO PRIEST COULD BE A KING  
EARLIEST VERSION OF SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE

UNIQUE ROLE of JESUS - PROPHET, PRIEST, & KING > Lord of All, Over All

## c. Permanent

GOD MADE GREAT PROMISES TO ABRAHAM - FULFILLED IN CHRIST

Hebrews 7.21,22 Jesus “became a priest with an oath when God said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: 'You are a priest forever.'" Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant.”

2 Corinthians 1.20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.”

Hebrews 7.26-27 “Such a high priest meets our need--one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.”

OF ALL THE PIECES OF FURNITURE IN THE O.T. TEMPLE - ONE MISSING

**A CHAIR!! NO PLACE FOR THE PRIEST TO SIT - NO TIME TO SIT!!  
WORK of SACRIFICING NEVER ENDED - DAY AFTER DAY - NO STOPPING**

Hebrews 10.11-12 “Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.”

**Abram - fresh from great victory - HAD AN AFTERNOON WITH THE ROYALS  
2 Present in Body / 1 in Spirit > ONE ENDURES FOREVER**

**God’s Word brought Comfort and Courage to Abe > 4000 years ago  
May Abe’s Great, great, great Grandson > Melchizedek’s Mentor > Speak to You**

**Melchizedek > Disappeared from the Scene > Died and turned to Dust**

Hebrews 7.23-25 “Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office; but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.”