

Genesis 14.1-16

"The Battle belongs to the Lord"

Genesis 14 - OLDEST WRITTEN ACCOUNT OF MILITARY ENGAGEMENT

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR A BELIEVER IN GOD TO BE SEPARATED FROM WORLD? – Is Separation Seclusion? – Are we Involved or Isolated?

1. The Big Picture

a. Alliances

FIVE KINGS & their ARMIES JOINED AGAINST FOUR kings and theirs.

v. 1 “At this time Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim {2} went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). {3} All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (the Salt Sea).

v. 4 For twelve years they had been subject to Kedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.

b. Attack

v. 5 “In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him went out and defeated...they conquered the whole territory”

v. 8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim {9} against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar--four kings against five.

Subjugated **KINGS OF the WEST - WENT TO WAR** against their conquerors from the East. **REASONS WHY Kings of the West should have DEFEATED CONTROLLING Eastern Alliance ARMIES:**

1) **LOGISTICS** - enemies supply lines were stretched out many miles

- 2) PLUNDER - w/ all their victories, enemy troops heavily laden
- 3) NUMBERS - they had five kings & armies against invaders four
- 4) POSITION - enemy would be in open, they'd be fortified
- 5) PROTECTION - they'd be directly defending family and homes
- 6) TERRAIN - enemy did not know land like they did
incl. the TAR PITS into which they could fall

YET, DESPITE ADVANTAGES - WEST ARMIES SOUNDLY DEFEATED

v. 10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills. {11} The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away.

c. Ambush

v. 12 “They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.”

2. The Bible's Purpose

a. Salvation

PURPOSE STATEMENT of the BIBLE: 2 Timothy 3.15 “the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

Bible is NOT SUM OF ALL TRUTH or Encyclopedia of Human History

Romans 15.4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

12.7 “The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.”

12.8 “he pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.”

13.3,4 “he came to... the place between Bethel and Ai... where he had first built an altar. There Abram called on the name of the LORD.”

13.18 “Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD.”

“I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace.”
Acts 20.24

b. Scholarship

THE BIBLE IS TRUE IN ALL THAT IT AFFIRMS

2 Timothy 3.16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness”

John 17:17 “Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”

c. Service

HANDBOOK OF SALVATION - HOW TO LIVE FOR GOD

“so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work”
2 Tim 3.17

Ps 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path”

1 Corinth 10:11 “These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.”

3. The Battle Plan

a. Involvement

v. 13 “One who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshcol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.”

ABRAHAM MAY HAVE OFFERED SEVERAL REASONS NOT TO HELP LOT – he could have CLAIMED TO BE A SAINT NOT A SOLDIER / FARMER NOT FIGHTER – such as:

- 1) FATALISM - nothing he could do about it
- 2) PRUDENCE - had safe refuge in the hills, lie low / hide out
- 3) JUDGMENT - Lot made the wrong choice, God is punishing him

"Am I my brother's keeper?" THE ANSWER IS YES! - Genesis 4:9

2 Tim 2:24-26 the Lord's servant must not quarrel; instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful...that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Cor 5:20

b. Intensity

v. 14 "When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan."

Ephes 6:10-12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. {11} Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. {12} For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

c. Intelligent

v. 15 During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus."

Luke 14:31-33 "suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand?"

“Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain” Psa 127

d. In God We Trust

v. 16 “He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.”

v. 20 “blessed be God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.”

“Gideon...returned to the camp of Israel and called out, "Get up! The LORD has given the Midianite camp into your hands."
Judges 7.15

“All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands."
1 Samuel 17:47