

Genesis series 2022 #12 (9.18.22) #22075

Gen. 14

Abraham and Melchizedek

- I. **On resurrection day Jesus taught the OT as Christian Scripture, one salvation story.**
 - A. **Lk 24:25-27.** Foolish ones, slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken.
 1. Moses and all the prophets (torah, former and latter prophets)
 - B. **Lk 24:44-48.** Everything written about me in the Law of Moses, Prophets, Psalms (writings) must be fulfilled (Matt.5:17) (Tanach)
- II. **Genesis is the seedbed for everything else in the biblical rescue story.**
 - A. Origins of universe, us, evil/sin. Where it all started.
 - B. But also the beginning of God's plan to rescue his creation. Abrahamic Covenant.
 - C. Everything redemptive from here on is rooted in the Abrahamic Covenant.
 1. He was called and he followed.
 2. He was promised and he trusted.
- III. **Abraham's first three outstanding experiences in faith: He has ...**
 - A. **Famine in the Land. 12:10-13:4**
 1. Famine in the Promised Land?
 - a) Can it be? People are surprised to be where God wants them and face real trial in the process.
 2. *Here Abraham doesn't trust the Lord, but lies to Pharaoh.*
 - B. **Friction in the Family. 13:5-18.**
 1. Abraham and Lot part company.
 - a) Lot goes down toward Sodom (at that time a lush and productive land)
 2. *Here Abraham trusts the Lord and gives space to Lot.*
- IV. **And now... A Fight on his hands. 14:1-24.**
 - A. **The War. 1-16**
 1. An International Crisis...1-12
 - a) 4 angry kings from the north and 5 in the south
 - b) Involving most of surrounding city-states.
 2. Precipitates a personal emergency...Lot is a kinsman (ach = brother). 13-14
 - a) Lot and his family would have been killed or sold as slaves.
 - b) Abraham could have stayed up in the hills and let the city-states fight it out.
 - c) *But There are relationships that cannot be delegated.*
 - (1) *The family responsibility drew him in.*
 3. Which prompts a decisive action. 13-16
 - a) 318 trained men? Military training. A US company = 250--300 soldiers.
 - b) *There are moments when decisive action is required.*
 - (1) *Moves and plans with genuine faith.*
 - (2) A blend of planning and faith.
 - c) *Note. Abraham works to save even the people he totally disagrees with (Sodom and Gomorrah).*
 4. Which results in a distinct witness (God gets the glory). 17-24
 - a) He worships God. Melchizedek, priest of God Most High (El Elyon).
 - b) He rejects Sodom. He wants no partnership.
 - (1) In the world but not of it (Jn.17:14-17)? Unequally yoked? (2Cor.6:14)
 5. **Note the venue for spiritual growth is daily life and its struggles.**
 - a) This incident is an exercise in faith for Abraham and he comes through.

B. The Worship. 17-24

1. Abraham worships by giving a tithe to the Lord...
 - a) The first mention of “tithe” as worship. Not “Law” but principle.
 - (1) Worship must include our material life in some way.
 - (2) It’s an offering, not financing. God doesn’t need your support, but you should worship him in giving.
 - (3) We see our income as belonging to the Lord, coming from the Lord. So honoring God with our finances is a principle of discipleship.
2. But Wait! Through Melchizedek -- a non-Jewish King/Priest.?!?!?
 - a) He was King of Salem: Jerusalem 1000 years before David ...?
 - (1) Canaanite city of Jebus, later called Jerusalem.
 - (2) Valley of the Kings (Shaveh) (Kidron, Hinnom, Tyropean)
 - b) He was Priest of God Most High (El Elyon)
 - (1) What was a priest doing outside the Jewish covenant?
 - (2) *God does not tell us everything He’s doing.*
 - (3) *God’s salvation plan is for the whole world—mission!!*
 - c) Later Jewish Law forbade kings from the priesthood, but there would come a time...

C. The Wonderful Promise—The Greater Melchizedek. Types tie the Bible together.

1. **Ps.110:1-4.** David’s Greater Son—the Ultimate High Priest.
 - a) David’s Son as David’s Lord???
 - b) Not a Levitical priest, but a universal one?
2. **Heb. 7:1-6,19-20; 5:9-10; 7:15-17.** After the order of Melchizedek.
 - a) Jesus was from tribe of Judah, not Levi.
 - b) Jesus was not “Melchizedek” but his priesthood is universal, not just Jewish.

D. Heb.4:14-16. We are safe with this High Priest. This is Gospel.

1. **Abraham lived in God’s Covenant Grace—So do we. Gal.3:29**