

GEN. 14 - DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

VICTORY & BLESSING FROM GOD ALONE - ([SERMON MP3](#))

Genesis 14 describes military battle between God's chosen people and those who sought to plunder the promised possession. In the church age, the conflicts of God's chosen people are primarily spiritual, not physical. So what kind of theological bridges connect the ancient circumstance of Abram and the present era of the church. See if you can identify the following three theological bridges in both Abram's story and the book of Ephesians:

THEOLOGICAL IDEA	ABRAM ACCOUNT	EPHESIANS
The election of the people of God		
The apportioning of the promised inheritance		
Conquest with the distribution of gifts		

● *What should the New Testament church be fighting?*

● *How should it be fighting?*

In Genesis 14, just prior to the king of Sodom's offer of worldly riches, Melchizedek, the king of righteousness, encourages Abram concerning the true and living God. With a fresh reminder of the nature and promise of the Lord, the appeal from the pagan was refused and Abram's faith was upheld.

● *Where in your life do you encounter "fresh reminders" of the nature and promises of the Lord?*

● *What impact does the neglect of these encounters have on your life? Look up **Joshua 1:8; Hebrews 10:25; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:9-11.***

The people of God must frame their life so that, for all their success, joy, comfort, and prosperity, they depend on God. They must be able to discern like Abram what is from God and what is from the world.

● *How do we practically differentiate between the sources of blessing? How can we know the difference between worldly benefits and divine blessings? What would the king of Sodom's offer to Abram look like in today's society and in our culture?*

● *Has there been an opportunity of prosperity or gain in your life that was rooted in the world? How did you know its corrupt source and what did you do in response?*

● *What was the nature of the people and king of Sodom? What was the potential motive that stood behind the king of Sodom's gesture of kindness? Contrast the king of Sodom and the Father of lights (**James 1:16-18**).*

Why did Abram go after Lot? Couldn't he have said, "He made his choice to live in Sodom, now he can live with the consequences." Did Abram really have an obligation to help a fallen kinsman?

● *More to the point, when we see someone who has fallen or has been taken captive spiritually, do we have any obligation toward them? Are we our brother's keeper (**Genesis 4:9**)?*

- Read **Galatians 6:1-3; Luke 15:4-6**. What do these passages instruct us to do?

After acquiring the spoils of war, Abram must have been tempted with materialistic greed and a worldly desire for the possessions. But in **Genesis 14:22-23** we read that prior to going to war, Abram made a prayerful vow to the lord. Before he was ever faced with the temptation, Abram set his heart toward the Lord.

- *In the big temptations of your life, do you usually wait until you're in the midst of them to try to make a godly decision, or do you commit to doing what's right prior to the test _____? What's the danger of waiting?*
- *What are some of the temptations and dilemmas you will likely face this coming week? What are some ways you can prepare for spiritual crisis ahead of time?*

One of the recurring tragedies of life is that when people become "fat" with bounty, they forget the one who gave it to them. People often forget God in the midst of success. Sometimes the greatest dangers are not during the battle, but afterward when the pressure is off and things have subsided. We easily remember God in our distress, but forget him in our ease.

- *Abram didn't forget God. He raised his hand to El Elyon, The Most High God, and worshiped him. What are some practical ways you can remember the Lord in the midst of your success? How can you "raise your hand to the Lord" in the presence of the lost and give glory to God?*
- *What did Joshua instruct Israel to do as a reminder of God in the midst of blessings (**Joshua 4:20-24**)?*

Just as God showed his faithfulness to Abram to defeat seemingly larger and more powerful enemies, today, God shows his faithfulness to us. As Christians trust God today, he is faithful to deliver us in our own sort of warfare – spiritual not physical.

- *Look up **1Corinthians 10:13; 2Corinthians 10:4-6; Ephesians 6:10-18; 1John 4:4** and jot down some of the instructions and promises of God connected with our spiritual warfare.*
- *In the midst of your spiritual war, which of those promises or instructions resonate as most meaningful to you? Share with your study group how they can pray for you in the midst of your war?*

The king of Sodom offered the spoils of his city as a source of fullness and satisfaction for Abram. God however, reminded Abram that He was his shield and great reward.

- *Following the events of Genesis 14, what do you think the phrase in **Genesis 15:1** meant to Abram, "I am your shield; your reward shall be very great."*
- *Read **Psalm 16:11; 73:25-26; 84:11**. What would it mean to live as though God was your sun, shield, and great reward? How would it change the way you live if you embraced that truth?*
- *Hebrews 7 teaches us that when we think of Melchizedek we should think of _____. Melchizedek offered Abram a simple, but sufficient provision composed of two elements (**Genesis 14:18**) _____ and _____. The spoils of this world are empty and ultimately futile, but the simple and sufficient provision of Christ, if embraced in faith, will satisfy eternally.*

Name	Prayer Need