

Genesis 14:1-24

The First War Recorded

Introduction:

Throughout the history of the Bible there have been many recorded wars; Pagan nation against pagan nation and pagan nations against Israel, the people of God. Often God assured His people victory would come to them if they would obey His commandments. The greater generals of the Bible such as Joshua, Gideon, Samson, David to name a few believed the battles they faced were not merely battles of physical might but they were spiritual battles. David fought the Philistine giant by courage and the power of the Lord. I Samuel 17:47

I. Rescuing Captive Lot

A. The significances of the word “land” Gen. 12:1; 7; 13:17; Num. 14:24

1. Fatness of soul – “mamre”
2. Fellowship with God – “Hebron”

B. Real War – Four Kings against Five Kings

1. Abram’s special forces – 318 of them within his household
2. Gideon special forces – 300 brave men – Judges 6:14,16

C. Should Christians be involved in fighting wars?

1. Christians are not pacifists – Gen. 14:13-15
2. The art of self-defense –v.16

D. Lot’s foolishness and Restoration – Gen. 4:9 cf. 13:8

Turn to: Galatians 6:1-6 (Prov. 28:1)

II. Melchizedek King of Salem – v.18-24

A. Mysterious man, where did he come from? How did Abram know him?

1. His name: “King of Righteousness”
2. Theories: Shem, an Angel, Jesus in His pre-incarnate form
3. Type of Christ – Turn To: Hebrews 7:1-7 (Psalm 85:10; Rom. 5:1; 14:17)

B. The Greatness of Melchizedek – v.20; Heb. 7:4

C. Tithing and Christian Stewardship:

1. Tithing not explicitly mentioned in the New Testament
2. Explicit mention of tithing by Jacob – Gen. 28:22; Mal. 3:10
3. Paul uses the word “storehouse,” which reference treasury – I Cor. 16:2; Luke 12:24
4. Putting aside your giving in the storehouse – Acts 6:1-6

D. Believers give as the Lord has prospered them – I Cor. 16:2

1. Jesus told the Pharisees the tithe ought to have been given but not to leave the other spiritual matters undone – Luke 11:42
2. Whenever we compare the two covenants we learn from Hebrews that the New Covenant is much richer. – Luke 12:48
3. The consequences of not tithing is severe, it is a curse because the individual is robbing God and has not acted in faith – Mal. 3:19; Heb. 11:6