

Genesis 14

Verse 1-2

And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, ² that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

Here we have 4 kings going to war against 5 other kings

The 4 kings were from Mesopotamia; the area between the Tigris and Euphrates River

See maps 1405 4 kings



The 5 kings were from the area that Lot had moved to

See Map 1410 The Dead Sea Area



The exact location of these 5 towns is not known with much certainty but they were in this general area

Verse 3-4

³ All these *kings* came as allies to the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). ⁴ For twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but *in* the thirteenth year they rebelled.

The valley of Siddim (Salt Sea)

The battle took place in the Dead Sea area

12 years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the 13 year they rebelled

Chedorlaomer had laid a tribute on the 5 cities where Lot came to live, but in the 13 year they decided not to pay the tribute

Verses 5-7

⁵ And in the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, and the Zuzim in Ham, and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, ⁶ and the Horites on their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness. ⁷ Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and conquered all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, who lived in Hazazon-tamar.

The 4 kings of Mesopotamia came to punish the 5 kings that refused to pay the tribute

On their way, they attacked other nations that lay in their path

See Map 1415 below



The Amalekites lived near Kadesh

The Amorites lived in Hazazon-tamar.

Verse 8-9

⁸ And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) came out; and they lined up for battle against them in the Valley of Siddim, ⁹ against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar— four kings against five.

The valley of Siddim

Siddim is the ancient name for The Dead Sea

The 5 kings of the Dead Sea area lined up for Battle against the 4 kings from the north

Verses 10-12

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country. ¹¹ Then they took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed. ¹² They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.

¹⁰ Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them.

As the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled from the 4 kings

They fell into the tar pits

We know the King of Sodom survived the tar pits

But we are not told exactly what had happened

See Pic 1420 Tar pits around the Dead Sea area



This is a very limited description of the battle

We are not sure about the size of the forces on either side

Nor are there any details about the number of casualties

Verse 13-14

¹³ Then a survivor came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was residing by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and they were allies with Abram. ¹⁴ When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, *numbering* 318, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Mamre the Amorite, the brother of Eschol, and the brother of Aner

These three men were allied with Abram

Nothing is said about the number of soldiers they were able to contribute to the mission

These men may have had many family members and servants like Abraham

If so, then the number of men might have been around 12 to 13 hundred

He led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318

Abram had 6 sons and 10 grandsons by his wife Keturah

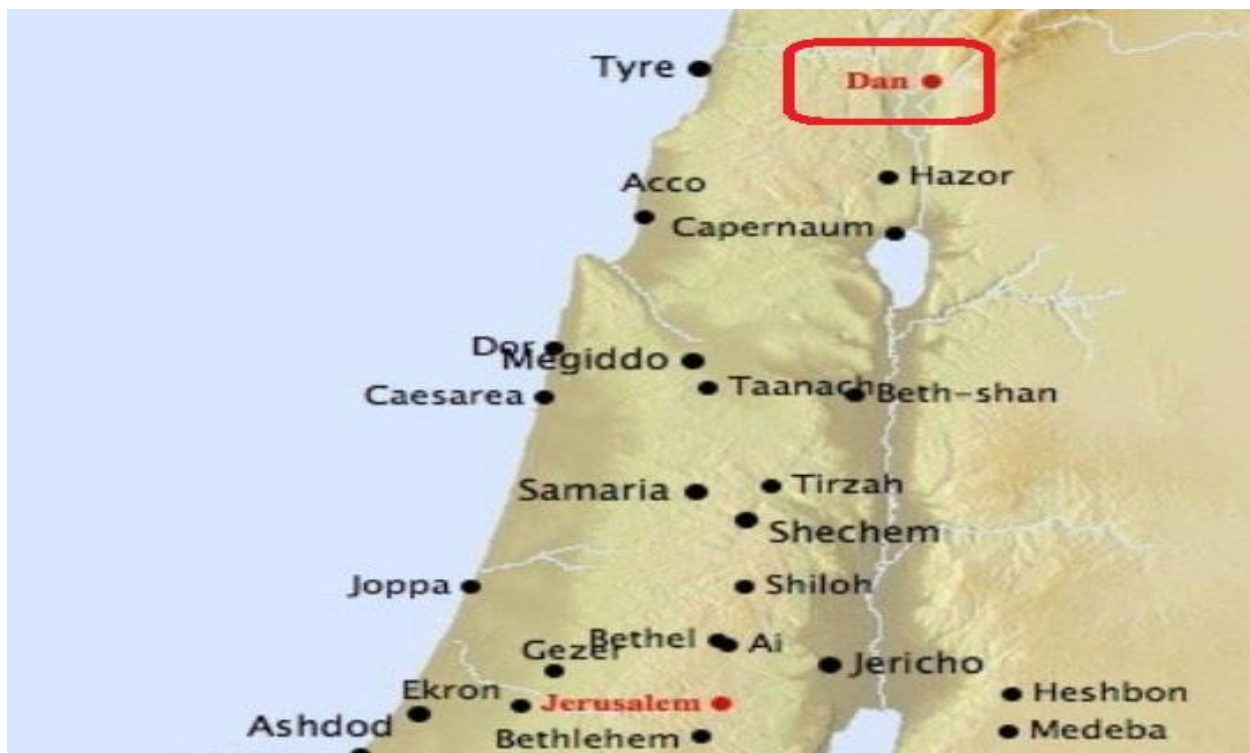
See Genesis 25:1-6

Therefore, Abram must have had servants and slaves that were born in his house

And went in pursuit as far as Dan

There was a city in northern Israel by the name of Dan

See map 1425



However, it was not established until about 1350 BC, when some members from the tribe of Dan went north and conquered Laish

See Judges 18

However this event with Abram occurred 550 years before Laish was renamed Dan

So the town of Dan mentioned here is not the one in the map above

Verse 15-16

¹⁵ Then he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

¹⁶ He brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the *other* people.

Pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus.

See map 1430



In the next chapter we will hear about Damascus again

See Genesis 15:2

² But Abram said, "Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"

He brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the *other* people.

This was a complete victory for Abram

It was also the only physical battle that he fought, as far as we know

Verse 17 - 20

¹⁷ Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). ¹⁸ And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. ¹⁹ And he blessed him and said,

**"Blessed be Abram of God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
²⁰ And blessed be God Most High,
Who has handed over your enemies to you."
And he gave him a tenth of everything.**

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine

The meaning of Melchizedek is King of Righteousness

King of Salem means King of Peace

Melchizedek was both king and priest

And was therefore a symbolic type of the Christ

See Video 1435 8.2 Melchizedek

<http://www.levickfamily.com/8.2.html>

Now he was priest of God Most High

Melchizedek stands alone in his priesthood

He was both superior and prior to the priestly system

He lived 475 years before the law and the priesthood

We know Melchizedek was the king of Salem

But we are not told who he was descended from, or who his successor was

The writer of Hebrews compares the eternal existence of Christ, with Melchizedek who was without beginning of days or end of life

See Hebrews 7:1-4

David also compares Jesus to Melchizedek

Psalms 110:4

And he gave him a tenth of all

Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek

So tithing started long before the law was given?

Verses 21-24

²¹ Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give the people to me and take the possessions for yourself.” ²² But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³ that I will not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, so that you do not say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ ²⁴ I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share.”

Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give the people to me and take the possessions for yourself.

The king of Sodom offered Abraham a deal that would have added to his riches

But he had made a prior commitment to God

Getting riches from the leader of a corrupt city like Sodom would reflect poorly on Abram and his God

Being rich is not a sin, but how you get rich can be

I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share.”

The three friends of Abram were allowed a share

This was only fair since they had helped Abram win the battle

The King of Sodom got his citizens and almost all of their possessions back

They only “lost” what was given to the 3 friends of Abram