

## Genesis 14

Verses 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**,<sup>2</sup> 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).<sup>3</sup> All these *kings* came as allies to the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea).<sup>4</sup> For twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but *in* the thirteenth year they rebelled.

Four kings from the north (highlighted in yellow) came to the Dead Sea area to war with the five kings of that area because King Chedorlaomer had laid a tribute on the 5 cities of the Dead Sea area but in the 13th year they rebelled and did not pay the tribute.

See map 1405

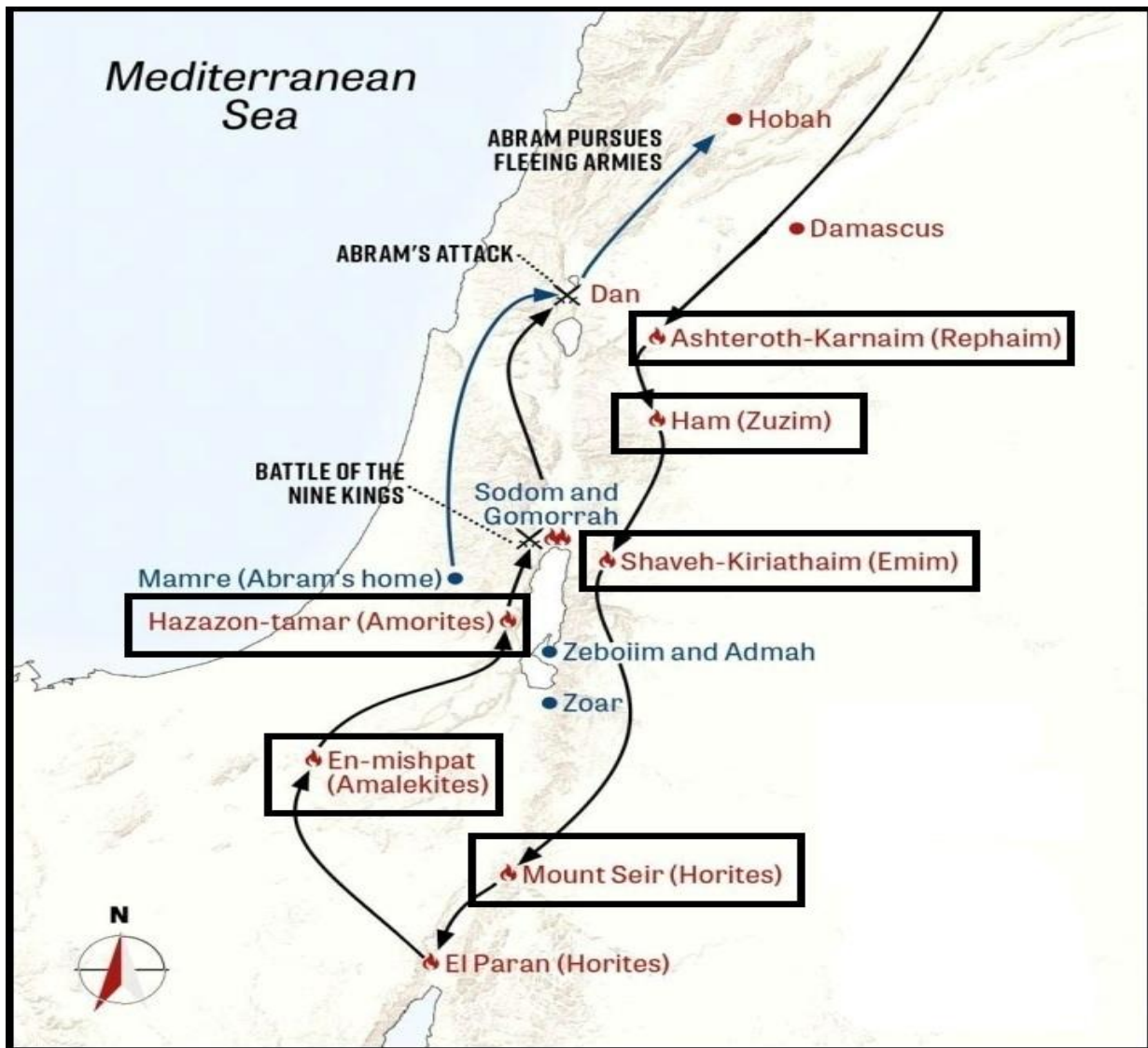


Verses 5-7

<sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> and the Horites on their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness. <sup>7</sup> 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 of the Dead Sea area that refused to pay their tribute but the 4 kings from the North did not limit their mission to the Dead Sea area.

See Map 1410



Verse 8-12

<sup>8</sup> 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,<sup>9</sup> against Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Then they took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed. <sup>12</sup> They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

See Pic 1415

Tar pits around the Dead Sea area



The Valley of Siddim is the ancient name for The Dead Sea. As the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled from the 4 kings from the north they fell into the tar pits.

**<sup>11</sup> Then they took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed. <sup>12</sup> They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom.**

From the limited description of the battle we can tell that it is not an important element of this event. The important part is that Lot was taken by these northern kings and his uncle (Abraham) will have war against these kings in order to rescue Lot and his family.

Verse 13-14

**<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> 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.**

**<sup>13</sup> 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.**

One of the persons mentioned here, Mamre, had a place that was named after him, "The Oaks of Mamre. This place was mentioned in the previous chapter.

See Genesis 13:18

**<sup>18</sup> Then Abram moved his tent and came and lived by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron; and there he built an altar to the Lord.**

**<sup>14</sup> 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.**

The fact that Abram had so many servants indicates that his household was very large, possibly numbering thousands of people. He had acquired servants in Haran and in the land of Egypt.

The town of Dan mentioned here cannot be the town of Dan that is shown in map 1410 above. That town was formed after the 12 tribes had entered Canaan and some of the members moved north and captured the town of Laish. That took place around 1350 BC; about 560 years after this event took place.

Verse 15-16

**<sup>15</sup> 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.**

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

**<sup>15</sup> 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.**

See map 1420



**<sup>16</sup> 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

**<sup>17</sup> 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). <sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said,**

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

**<sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High.**

See Video 1425      8.2 Melchizedek

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

Melchizedek stands alone in his priesthood.

See Hebrews 7:1- 3

**For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham as he was returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, <sup>2</sup> to whom also Abraham apportioned a tenth of all *the spoils*, was first of all, by the translation of *his name*, king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, which is king of peace. <sup>3</sup> Without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God, he remains a priest perpetually.**

The book of Hebrews gives us some interesting details about this meeting between Abram and Melchizedek.

1. Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek.

This was done long before the law was given. Abram is about 80 years old and the year is 1915 BC. The law will be instituted in 1446 BC so this event occurred about 470 years before tithing was commanded.

2. The meaning of Melchizedek is “King of Righteousness” and King of Salem means King of Peace.

Melchizedek was both king and priest and a symbolic type of the Christ.

3. He was without beginning of days or end of life.

Melchizedek is compared to the Christ who has an eternal priesthood.

David compared Jesus to Melchizedek.

See Psalms 110:4

**The Lord has sworn and will not change His mind,  
“You are a priest forever  
According to the order of Melchizedek.”**

Some misguided individuals have tried to imply that Shem was Melchizedek. However, we know when Shem was born and died so this cannot be true.

See Genesis 5:32

**<sup>32</sup> Now after Noah was five hundred years old, Noah fathered Shem, Ham, and Japheth.**

See Genesis 5:10-11

**<sup>10</sup> These are *the records of the generations of Shem.* Shem was a hundred years old when he fathered Arpachshad, two years after the flood; <sup>11</sup> and Shem lived five hundred years after he fathered Arpachshad, and he fathered other sons and daughters.**

Also, if one uses the dates given in the Septuagint, Shem died 680 years before Abraham met with Melchizedek.

See chart 1430 Shem to Melchizedek

### Genesis Timeline

Ch	Person	Event	Age	Year
5	Noah	Birth		3698
6	Noah	first son is born	500	3198
6	Noah	Shem is born	502	3196
7	Noah	Global flood	600	3098
11	ARPHAXAD	Birth		3096
11	SHELAH	Birth		2961
11	EBER	Birth		2831
11	Peleg	Birth (see 10:25)		2697
11	SHEM	Shem dies	600	2596
11	Reu	Birth		2567
11	Serug	Birth		2435
11	Nahor	Birth		2305
11	Terah	Birth		2126
11	Terah	first child	70	2056
11	Terah	Abraham is born	130	1996
11	Terah	Terah dies	205	1921
12	Abram	Leaves Harran	75	1921
12	Abram	She is my sister (1st time)	75	1921
13-14	Abram	Abraham rescues Lot	80	1915
16	Abram	Ismael born	86	1910
17	Abraham	Circumcision	99	1897
18-19	Lot	Sodom and Gomorrah	99	1897

Verses 21-24

<sup>21</sup> Then the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give the people to me and take the possessions for yourself.” <sup>22</sup> But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have sworn to the Lord God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, <sup>23</sup> 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.’ <sup>24</sup> 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.”



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

Isn't it odd that a corrupt city like Sodom would have a King & Priest that is spoken of in such glowing terms. Also, when Sodom was destroyed for its sin did the king escape or was he warned ahead of time? We never hear about this great king and priest after this meeting.

**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.’**

Melchizedek made Abram an offer to slit the riches that were gained in this war. However, Abram had made a promise to God that he would not take anything. But why was Abram or God concerned about someone saying the king of Sodom made him rich? Abram had attained great wealth from the King of Egypt in a manner that could be seen as less than honorable.

See Genesis 12:14 - 20

**14 Now it came about, when Abram entered Egypt, that the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. 15 Pharaoh's officials saw her and praised her to Pharaoh; and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. 16 Therefore he treated Abram well for her sake; and he gave him sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants and female servants, female donkeys, and camels.**

**17 But the Lord struck Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. 18 Then Pharaoh called Abram and said, “What is this *that* you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? 19 Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her for myself as a wife? Now then, here is your wife, take her and go!” 20 And Pharaoh commanded *his* men concerning him; and they escorted him away, with his wife and all that belonged to him.**

In any case, being rich is not a sin, but how you get rich can be.

The three friends of Abram were allowed a share of the profits and this was fair since they had helped Abram win the battle. The King of Sodom got his citizens and their possessions back plus the tithe from Abraham.