

Genesis 14

1 –3 There in the lowest elevation on earth these kings sought to take the wealth of Sodom and Gomorrah. God moves the hearts of kings. This may have been a call from God to Sodom to repent and change their ways and a wake up call for Lot and his family.

4 A country would take over an area and then demand taxes. For 12 years they paid taxes to the kingdom of Elam but in the 13th they rebelled and would not.

5-10 Even today tar will rise on the Dead Sea. There in that valley are a great number of hills like the one Masada is on. It is now a very desolate desert like area but with plenty of places to hide. David hid here from Saul.

11,12 Lot was caught up in all this since he was in Sodom. You can't get near sin and escape the consequences. First he was near and then he was in.

13 This is quite some distance away - I would guess at least 20 miles on foot paths and that with quite an ascent.

14 Abram had his own standing mini army to protect his wealth. This was a time when might made right so he had to protect himself against marauders. Where was Dan when Moses wrote? Dan was assigned its city by Moses. Did later scribes change the name to the place the readers would recognize?

15 A night attack would conceal the fact that his forces were small and sent them into confusion. They were most likely drunk and tired after their long campaign and sleeping soundly. The ones that woke fled and were pursued.

16 He must have captured enormous plunder from an army that had just conquered the whole area.

17,18 Enter the mysterious Melchizedek. He is king of Jerusalem. He brings the elements of communion. He is a priest (go between) of El Elyown, the God over all. Hebrews 7

19 He pronounces a blessing in the name of God Most High the Creator. This area is in the possession of Canaanites. Did they have the knowledge of the true God and thus were more accountable for their idolatry in generations to come? The author of Hebrews says the greater person gives the blessing, then this One is greater than Abram.

20 He recognizes it was God Most High who delivered the enemy to him. Then Abram pays the first recording of a tithe. There is no Law, and there is no Levitical priesthood. My opinion is this can only be a Christophony.

21 The King of Sodom wanted to keep his kingdom - people, but was willing to give Abram all the goods captured from Sodom.

22,23 He must have made a vow before the battle for he knew the wickedness of that place and wanted only clear separation from what was wicked. Wickedness was judged by defeat. Righteousness was rewarded with victory and great bounty.

24 He could only speak for himself and would not force his convictions on others. These men were in league with Abram. see verse 13.