

Genesis 14: Rescue and Restoration

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This chapter opens with the historical context of the relationship between Chedorlaomer and the cities of the valley. Those cities had been vassals for twelve years before revolting.

This chapter illustrates one of the recurring themes in the Bible: ruin and restoration.

As Chedorlaomer is on his way to deal with the kings of the valley, he makes war against six different people groups and is victorious in each case. Nevertheless, the kings of the valley persist in their rebellion and are routed on the battlefield.

When the battle is won, Chedorlaomer takes Lot and his possessions.

When Abram receives word of the capture, he promptly musters a small army.

The presence of a trained army illustrates while Abram seeks to live peaceably, he is prepared to fight when the circumstances require it.

The occasion of the rescue mission shows that Abram was shrewd about making allies.

Abram demonstrates both courage and wisdom by the manner in which he attacks Chedorlaomer.

The defeat of Chedorlaomer and the rescue of the people and property serve as a partial fulfillment of God's promise to give Abram a great name.

Abram further illustrates his wisdom and charity by refusing his rights as conqueror. Why did Abram go to battle if not for the spoils? What did he receive? (Gen 14:19; 15:1)

How does the narrative demonstrate that God approved Abram's use of deadly force? (Gen 14:20)

How might this battle narrative prefigure Christ and His rescue of sinners?

What do we know about Melchizedek? (Gen 14:18; Ps 110:4; Heb 5-7)

"God Most High" is translated from El Elyon.

What is the significance of Melchizedek blessing Abram (rather than the other way around)? (Heb 7:7)

Why is it significant that Melchizedek was both priest and king?

Melchizedek was king of the city that was likely ancient Jerusalem.

This incident will not be the last time Lot has to be forcibly rescued.

The rescue of these wicked cities by Abram was an expression of mercy by negating the judgment brought by Chedorlaomer.

Timeline: Chapters 12-15 occur in a ten year period from the time Abram enters Canaan. (Gen 16:3)