Abraham and the Victory of Faith

4 Reasons to Study the Biographies of Scripture

1. Admiration – to create spiritual thirst

2. Reproof – to see poverty of our own lives

3. Without excuse – if they did it we can too

4. Hope – If God used them and they did it – it can be done

Genesis 14:1-12 We see first Lot the overcome

Genesis 14:13-24 Abraham – the overcomer

Genesis 14:1-12 How did Lot get here? 12:4 13:5,7,10 then,14:12 Finally 19:1

1. Lot appears in need of deliverance, not as a deliverer. As overcome, not overcomer. Without the New Testament, 2Peter 2:6-9 we wouldn’t know the man was a believer.

2. Events of Genesis 14 served also to warn Lot – but he goes back to Sodom. The true character of a man is often seen by the choices he makes.

3. Lot was a great man in Sodom – but with no power to deliver himself – how about us? Mark 8:36

Deliverance fell to the man of faith – the man of the tent, the altar and who called on the name of

the Lord.

Note the contrast: 14:13 “the Hebrew” compare 14:12 “dwelt in Sodom”

A. 14:14 Abraham appears unentangled by the affairs of the world. As a pilgrim and a stranger his tent not desired by “kings”.

1. Lot has lost the pilgrim and is ensnared by the things of this life. He is no condition to do battle.

**1st principle of spiritual warfare – No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of *this* life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. (2Timothy 2:4)**

 B. Abraham on the other hand is seen as a separated man.

v.14 he heard he armed – no delay

1. Separation not indifference to the plight of others. Ready to - *And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. (Jude 1:23)*

2. Abraham is a man of the tent, altar, and called on the name of the Lord. Therefore, he was ready to do battle!

**2nd Principle of spiritual warfare seen her – no tent, no altar, = no victory!**

Because Abraham was unentangled – he was a. Ready b. willing c. able to be used as a deliverer.

*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee. (1Timothy 4:16)*

Genesis 14:14-16 See the man of faith in action! Here is where our spiritual appetite is whet.

*Who through faith subdued kingdoms,…(Heb 11:33)*

See how he routs them! (Very suggestive = 4 kings –the world. Lot – the flesh. King of Sodom – the devil ???)

Now a real battle is about to take place. The world, the kings; the flesh, Lot (unselfish – it would have been easy to say “Lot deserves it!”); the king of Sodom would prove to be a formidable adversary!

14:17-20 Before he deals with the king of Sodom he is dealt with by the king of Salem, Melchizedek.

v.18 The one that is like the Son of God, after whose priesthood Christ is made a high priest. forever.

*The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek. (Psalm 110:4)*

1st Mention of a priest in the Bible

1st Mention of a Jerusalem in the Bible (see Psalm 76:2)

Both combined in a stated type of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 7)

Melchizedek is king of Salem (peace) his name is explained in Hebrews 7:2 as “king of righteousness.” The first mention of a priest – and no sacrifice! He anticipates the death of Christ with the memorials of a sacrifice (bread and wine).

Note the order in Hebrews – 1st, king of righteousness. Next, king of peace. (Salem = shalom). Certainly follows the order of the cross then the crown. But also follows the soteriological order – 1st, the cross and following, peace.

Observe the progressive doctrinal order of chapters 12-15:

Chapter 12 Path of faith, snare of the world (Egypt)

Chapter 13 Moral victory of unselfish faith

Chapter 14 Actual victory over world confederation of kings; possession of heaven and earth under the Melchizedek Priesthood

Chapter 15 The blessing of the chosen people

One day these things will play out on a bigger stage!

**3rd Principle of spiritual warfare – 14:21 there always comes a test after a victory**

**4th Principle of spiritual warfare – always meet the King of Salem before you meet the king of Sodom 14:18**

14:22,23 cp. V.19 What need of Sodom’s goods? Note the subtlety of the suggestion. How insidiousness the temptation! To draw Abraham in. A temptation with something that wasn’t in itself “wrong”. After all, the spoils go to the victor. But the implications were clear from Abraham’s response:

*That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine,* ***lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich****: (Genesis 14:23)*

**5th Principle of spiritual warfare – be convinced before the test.**

No time to contemplate or consider. Abraham’s immediate response shows:

 a. prior commitment

 b. settled heart

Again, the true character of a man is seen in his choices.

**6th principle of spiritual warfare – rest and trust in the Word 14:22**

Melchizedek had given to Abraham a revelation. El Elyon – the most high God. The possessor of heaven and earth. (**See Scofield note here**)

15:1&cf. Blessing comes after Abraham’s choice – as in chapter 13.

No need to fear:

1. The reprisal of the kings. 2. Refusal of Sodom’s goods