

Read Genesis 14:1-4

- Note: this is the first war recorded in Scripture. Note the list of war participants below. In what general area was each located? (see map above)

Amraphel (King of Shinar)

Bera (King of Sodom)

Arioch (King of Ellasar)

Bersha (King of Gomorrah)

Chedorlaomer (King of Elam)

Shinab (King of Admah)

Tidal (King of Goiim)

Shemeber (King of Zeboiim)

(King of Bela [a.k.a. Zoar])

- Why do you think the four kings (left column) began this war?

- What does it mean that “they were subject to Chedorlaomer for 12 years”?

- What do the following passages add to our understanding of the timeline here (i.e. what is Lot’s timeline in entering into this story)?
 - Genesis 12:4-5 – ⁴ So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was **75 years old when he left Haran**. ⁵ He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated, and the people he had acquired in Haran, and they set out for the land of Canaan.

 - Genesis 12:10 – ¹⁰ There was a famine in the land, so **Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while** because the famine in the land was severe.

 - Genesis 13:8-9 – ⁸ Then Abram said to Lot, “Please, let’s not have quarreling between you and me, or between your herdsmen and my herdsmen, since we are relatives. ⁹ Isn’t the whole land before you? Separate from me: if you go to the left, I will go to the right; if you go to the right, I will go to the left.”

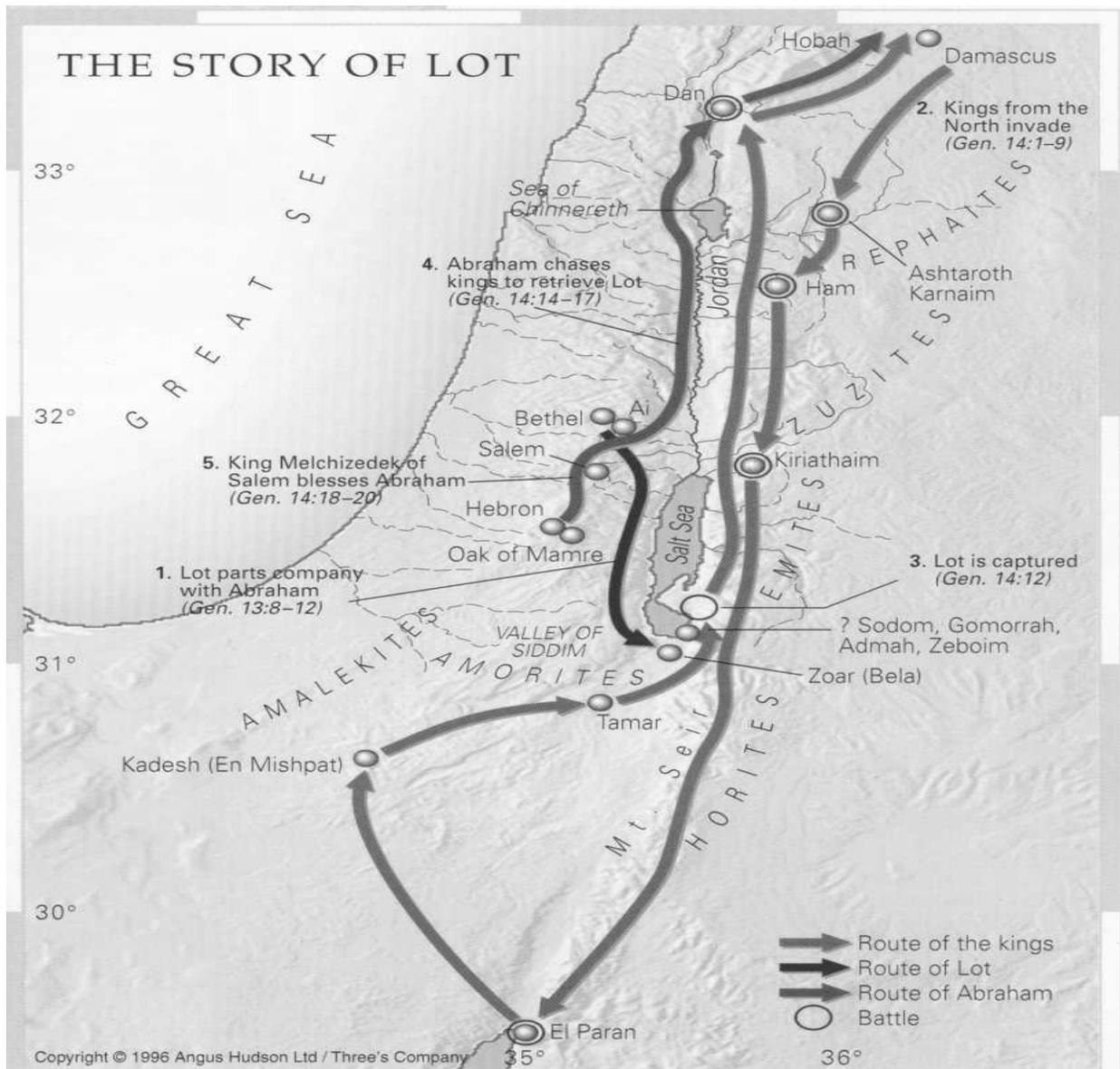
 - Genesis 15:1-2 – After these events, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield; your reward will be very great. ² But Abram said, “Lord GOD, what can You give me, since I am childless and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

 - Genesis 17:24-25 – ²⁴ **Abraham was 99 years old** when the flesh of his foreskin was circumcised, ²⁵ and his son **Ishmael was 13 years old** when the flesh of his foreskin was circumcised.

Read Genesis 14:4-7

- After a dozen years, the five Canaanite kings had had enough. They decided to stop paying tribute. What was the result?

- Note the map below. There was a well-known and important trade route called the King's Highway that lay to the East of the Jordan River. Note the arrow which traces the route of the kings. What were the kings doing?



Read Genesis 14:8-12

- The four kings were easily able to defeat the five kings. The five kings and their armies fled to the mountains. Verses 11-12 tells us what happened next, *“The four kings took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food and went on. They also took Abram’s nephew Lot and his possessions, for he was living in Sodom, and they went on.”* What was the purpose of doing this?

- What new detail do you learn about Lot in verse 12?

Read Genesis 14:13-16

- Note some of the amazing details found in these verses?
- Explain this statement: *“The previous chapter recorded how Abram's faith in God's promise had made him unselfish; this chapter records how that same faith made him bold.”* (see verse 15)
- Verse 16 tells us that Abram *“brought back all the goods and also his relative Lot and his goods, as well as the women and the other people.”* Why does it specifically mention the women here?

Read Genesis 14:17-20

- *“Two kings came out to meet Abram when he returned to Canaan, and the two could not have been more different. The first was Melchizedek, an important person on the pages of the Scripture. He was a worshiper of the true religion of Jehovah handed down from the time of the flood. This passage brings us the only information the Old Testament gives us about him. He is described as ‘king of Salem’ (Jerusalem) and ‘priest of God Most High.’ This priest-king brought out food supplies for Abram’s hungry and battle-weary servants and publicly credited God with having granted victory to Abram. Abram identified himself with Melchizedek’s testimony by offering this representative of God a tenth part of the spoils of battle. By so doing, Abram also showed that he recognized Melchizedek as his spiritual superior.”* (People’s Bible: Genesis, p. 135-136)
- Note the other places in Scripture where Melchizedek is mentioned. What do these verses show us about Jesus?
 - Psalm 110:4 – ⁴ *The Lord has sworn an oath and will not take it back: “Forever, You are a priest like Melchizedek.”*

- Hebrews 5:5-10 – ⁵ In the same way, the Messiah did not exalt Himself to become a high priest, but the One who said to Him, **You are My Son; today I have become Your Father,** ⁶ also said in another passage, **You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.** ⁷ During His earthly life, He offered prayers and appeals with loud cries and tears to the One who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. ⁸ Though He was God’s Son, He learned obedience through what He suffered. ⁹ After He was perfected, He became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey Him, ¹⁰ and He was declared by God a high priest in the order of Melchizedek.

- Hebrews 7:1-17 – For this Melchizedek— King of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham and blessed him as he returned from defeating the kings, ² and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything; first, his name means king of righteousness, then also, king of Salem, meaning king of peace; ³ without father, mother, or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God — remains a priest forever.

⁴ Now consider how great this man was—even Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the plunder to him! ⁵ The sons of Levi who receive the priestly office have a command according to the law to collect a tenth from the people —that is, from their brothers—though they have also descended from Abraham. ⁶ But one without this lineage collected tenths from Abraham and blessed the one who had the promises. ⁷ Without a doubt, the inferior is blessed by the superior. ⁸ In the one case, men who will die receive tenths, but in the other case, Scripture testifies that he lives. ⁹ And in a sense Levi himself, who receives tenths, has paid tenths through Abraham, ¹⁰ for he was still within his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

¹¹ If then, perfection came through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there for another priest to appear, said to be in the order of Melchizedek and not in the order of Aaron? ¹² For when there is a change of the priesthood, there must be a change of law as well. ¹³ For the One these things are spoken about belonged to a different tribe. No one from it has served at the altar. ¹⁴ Now it is evident that our Lord came from Judah, and Moses said nothing about that tribe concerning priests.

¹⁵ And this becomes clearer if another priest like Melchizedek appears, ¹⁶ who did not become a priest based on a legal command concerning physical descent but based on the power of an indestructible life. ¹⁷ For it has been testified: **You are a priest forever in the order of Melchizedek.**

Read Genesis 14:21-24

- The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people, but take the possessions for yourself” (Genesis 14:21). Why would the king be willing to part with the possessions but not the people?

- Why didn't Abram want to receive anything from the king of Sodom?