

# Honoring God for His Work in Your Life

Genesis 15:1 And it came to pass in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of nations; 2 That these 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, which is Zoar. 3 All these were joined together in the vale of Siddim, which is the salt sea. 4 **Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.** 5 And in the fourteenth year came Chedorlaomer, and the kings that were with him, and smote the Rephaims in Ashteroth Karnaim, and the Zuzims in Ham, and the Emims in Shaveh Kiriathaim, 6 And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto Eliparan, which is by the wilderness. 7 And they returned, and came to En-mishpat, which is Kadesh, and smote all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, that dwelt in Hazezon-tamar. 8 And there went out the king of Sodom, and the king of Gomorrah, and the king of Admah, and the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (the same is Zoar;) and they joined battle with them in the vale of Siddim; 9 With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations,

and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; **four kings with five.** 10 And the vale of Siddim *was full of slimepits*; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. 11 And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. 12 And **they took Lot, Abram's brother's son**, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed. 13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these *were confederate with Abram.* 14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his **trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen**, and pursued *them* unto Dan. 15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which *is* on the left hand of Damascus. 16 And **he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.**

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that *were* with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which *is* the king's

dale. 18 And **Melchizedek king of Salem** brought forth bread and wine: and **he was the priest of the most high God.** 19 And he blessed him, and said, **Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth:** 20 And **blessed be the most high God,** which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And **he gave him tithes of all.** 21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself. 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, **I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord,** the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23 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:** 24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

- Lot is now living in Sodom and Gomorrah
- Abram is still living in the plains outside the cities
- The feudal or city kings have been fighting
- Some have been made to serve others
- Finally they rebel and there is war
- Sodom and Gomorrah lose the battle

- They seem unprepared for the war, they don't even know where the slime pits are
- The main emphasis of this story is that God uses Abram to rescue Lot
- Abram publicly acknowledges that it is God that has given him the victory

1. Lot gets caught in the middle of a war **4 Twelve years they served Chedorlaomer, and in the thirteenth year they rebelled.** **9** With Chedorlaomer the king of Elam, and with Tidal king of nations, and Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar; **four kings with five.**
  - a. There have always been wars and they will continue to come until the end
  - b. One group taking advantage of another
  - c. Sometimes God's people get caught in the middle of circumstances beyond their control **12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.**
  - d. Lot had gone where he thought he would be safe and successful but it didn't turn out that way

- e. Our security can never be found outside of the Lord Himself
  - i. You think that riches will protect you
  - ii. You think the city will protect you
  - iii. You think you are smart enough to protect yourself
- f. Lot's city fell and lost everything **10** *And the vale of Siddim was **full of slimepits**; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and fell there; and they that remained fled to the mountain. **11** And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way.*

- 2. Abraham rescues his nephew **13** *And there came one that had escaped, and told **Abram** the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of **Mamre** the Amorite, brother of **Eshcol**, and brother of **Aner**: and these *were* confederate with Abram.*
  - a. Though Lot had walked away and taken advantage of Abram he is still willing to love and rescue him
  - b. Abram was prepared to fight and risk it all **14** *And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his **trained servants, born in his own house,***

**three hundred and eighteen, and pursued *them* unto Dan.**

- c. Abram, his friends and those trained in Abram's house win the war against four kings that had been able to defeat five
- d. Some great lessons here about doing the work of God
  - i. It wasn't the number in the army because several kings would obviously have more people
  - ii. For this battle to have been won Abram had to have trained servants
  - iii. They had been born in his house, 318 of them
  - iv. They had been trained
  - v. They were loyal
  - vi. They were able to travel and fight over great distances
  - vii. What happens if we as a church commit to disciple and train men to do the work of God
  - viii. What if God allows us to see many saved, born, here in our house
  - ix. What if we are willing to risk all that we have for others that don't really deserve our help
  - x. What if we go without seeking to get anything in return

e. God gave Abram the victory and he knows it **16** **And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.**

3. Abram recognized where his victory had come from **20** **And blessed be the most high God,** which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. **And he gave him tithes of all.**

- a. Abram sees Melchizedek and gives him tithes of all
- b. The gift was recognizing that God had really been the one who gave great success and victory not himself or what he had done
- c. It is easy when we win victories and have success to forget who is giving us the victory
- d. Look back over your life and be sure that you do not presumptuously take credit for things that God is doing in your life
- e. One of the reasons you worship is that you are recognizing that it is God that has made you and not you yourself

- f. One of the reasons you honor God with the first parts of your income is that you recognize that He is the One that is doing the work in you
  - g. How do you honor God with your money
    - i. Do you separate the first part for Him
    - ii. Is He first in your spending
    - iii. Do you think that if you give Him 10% that you are free to do with the rest what you want or do you seek to honor Him with it all
    - iv. Do you participate in mission's giving
    - v. Do you try to use all that you have to further His kingdom, His causes
    - vi. Have you made sure that money is not your goal, your purpose, your aim, your fulfillment
    - vii. Do you have money or does it have you
4. Abram was determined that lost men and the world never say that they had made him a success **22** And Abram said to the king of Sodom, **I have lift up mine hand unto the Lord, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth, 23** 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:**

- a. The world will arrogantly take credit for anything that happens in your life
- b. They will find a way to say that it was them or even you, your education, your contacts, your abilities. Anything to make sure God doesn't get any glory
- c. This was a tremendous declaration of faith by Abram. It cried in the face of all that Abram believed God
- d. How do you handle your life, your successes?
- e. Do you seek to give God glory for all that He is doing in you and your family

5. Big take away lessons from this story

- a. You will get caught in the middle of conflicts that aren't of your making
- b. Sometimes your seeking your comfort and security without considering God might just put you in the middle of the conflict
- c. There are great discipleship lessons to be learned here
  - i. We want to see people born in our house

- ii. We want to train them to be as strong as they possibly can be
  - iii. We want to teach them to be loyal to their leader, their king, Jesus
  - iv. We want to train them to be ready to step out of their comfort zone and go fight for the Lord Jesus
  - v. We want to teach them to not be judgmental and vindictive but to love even their brothers that make big mistakes
- d. Learn to recognize how the world wants to take all the credit for what God is doing
  - e. Learn to stand and say that you love Jesus and that you will not give credit to anyone but Jesus
  - f. Worship God. Honor Him for what He is doing in your life
  - g. Realize that this tithe was meant as a way to recognize God and to honor Him for working in his life
    - i. We give God the first of all so that we say to ourselves, our family, and to God that He is first
    - ii. We give back to Him knowing that all that we have and all that we are comes from Him
    - iii. We give to God as a testimony to the world that we know it was God that made us and not we ourselves

- iv. Your friends and family know what is important to you
- v. Your checkbook reveals more about you than you realize
- vi. You put your money where your heart is
- vii. You decide to give your support to something because you believe in it
- viii. Do you believe in the things of God and His purposes