

Main Idea: Jesus Christ is the Prince of Peace, who rules over all the nations and sets the captives free!

Introduction: The earth is full of violence. The news is full of it. Nation against nation, kingdom against kingdom, and within each nation there are the many wicked who prey upon the weak around them. We know what this deserves. We saw it in the flood: the wrath of God.

Yet, this is not the ultimate plan and response of God to this wickedness. He is just, and will punish. But He is also merciful. He has promised a Seed of the woman, who will crush the serpent's head. He has promised that in Abram, all of the families of the earth will be blessed—that Abram will have a Seed who inherits all that is currently in the possession of the wicked.

1. The Redeemer acts for His people

With that in mind, we watch with interest as the world war in Genesis 14 unfolds. What will Abram do about all this? How will he be a blessing to those who are being defeated and taken captive?

Abram is a picture of Christ to us, as he leaps into action on behalf of Lot. His intervention is especially focused upon the one who uniquely belongs to him. In the same way, the Lord Jesus always acts in history with a view toward His church. Nations rise and fall, and many benefit from Christ's action, but the aim is especially at the ultimate salvation and glorification of the people who are His by loving choice since before time began.

2. The Redeemer supplies all that His people need

This is Abram's ultimate role: to be an ancestor of Christ. But his proximate role—that part that God has given him to play in the day-to-day of his life—is to do whatever good he is enabled to do within the national and family connections in which God has placed him.

To that end, the 318 fighting-aged men who were born in his house, he has trained. And he has amassed enough arms to equip them all on a moment's notice. Here is a man whose hope is in what Christ would ultimately do, and for whom worship was so central to his household's life that their time in a particular location can be summarized as worshipping there. But he is not ignoring ordinary, physical necessities and duties. God is his strength, but he is zealous to be prepared and to employ means, effort, and strategy.

3. The Redeemer will end all war and wickedness

Ultimately, this too is a picture of Christ unto us, isn't it? He has gone to the cross. He has borne the wrath for our sin. He has risen from the dead. He intercedes for us. One day, He will return and raise us up by His own resurrection power. But, it is also He who rules and overrules all things for our good. Even the most mundane things. And so, as we trust in Him and follow Him, we seek both to prepare for eternal glory and also to serve and enjoy Him in all of the day-to-day details of our lives. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they are the people of the Prince of Peace!

Jesus is the Prince of Peace, and He cares about the captive and the poor; when we pray "Thy kingdom come," we are enjoying how He cares about us, and looking forward to the day when great Abram's greater Son has brought His victory to completion and set right everything that was wrong in the world. Right now, that kingdom is waiting upon the bringing in of all for whom Christ died. So evangelism is the greatest "social justice" contribution you can make in three ways: (1) What people need most is faith in Christ that leads to the faithful kind of living that is healthiest for them, (2) Even for those who are not converted, the more of their neighbors that are converted, the better off they will be; (3) When at last the last elect person is converted, Christ will return, and the kingdom will come in its final fullness