

**Series: God & Abraham #1220**

**Title: Genesis 14**  
**The End**

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. Here we are on a Friday, the very first day of the new month of July! The first day of the month and the last day in this fourteenth chapter of the Book of Genesis. Yesterday we finished our commentary on the last four verses. We have said that these four verses show that the King of Sodom makes a proposal and he is right to do so. *But* Abram rejects the proposal *with reason* and with *an exception*.

Abram taught us a lot this week, didn't he? Genesis 14 is one of these chapters very early on in the Bible that a lot of Bible readers come to and scan over. It begins with the dreaded hard-to-pronounce names of the kings of the north and the south and then continues with hard-to-pronounce place names. Locations. This appears like a lot of work to the reader and *seems* boring and not very applicable to their lives, problems, and struggles. The chapter gets easier to read and a bit more interesting in the middle. Abram goes to rescue his nephew Lot. But then, for a lot of people, it turns confusing with this man named Melchizedek. Who was he? And then the chapter ends with some local customs that we find it hard to connect with.

Now, chapter 15 of Genesis – oh! That is a juicy chapter. It involves God and Abram and the Lord does something remarkable while Abram sleeps. And that chapter is packed with theology also. This will be when God says that Abram believed in Him *by faith* and that *faith* is credited to Abram as righteousness. This is the doctrine of justification by faith. But that is Genesis 15. You might even want to know, “Why didn't we skip chapter 14 and dive right into 15, Swallow?” Well, let me give you just a few answers to that question as we wrap this up. Then, I will tell you where we are headed next week.

First, there is the obvious answer: how can we skip *any* chapter in the Bible? This is God's most precious Word. Every word of every sentence of every verse of every chapter of every Book in the sixty-six Books of the Bible is to be read, understood, applied, and obeyed. Nevertheless, our clocks keep ticking and with limited time, of course we cannot cover every chapter on *God Is*. So, second we must (really *I* must) make choices. But in praying about it, I felt that Genesis 14 is a profound chapter and essential to understanding not only God, but also Abraham. Third, and related to what I just said, the hand of God is all over the page.

Let me give you a specific example: it is in the name Lot. Lot had to be rescued. The Lord has a purpose for Lot that extends well beyond his capture at the hands of the armies of the kings of the northeast. We see that later on in this first Book of the Bible. If you were to sit down with Genesis this weekend and read it straight through you can trace Lot, Abram's nephew, from Genesis 11, verse 31. Which, by the way, is a great way to spend some time in the next couple of days. The point is: God's sovereign purposes are at play even in a very subtle way – Lot survives the war. Then he is rescued by Abram. If we skip it, we miss this.

And, fourth, Genesis 14 speaks of human kings and the land they possess and rule over and how they fight for that land, property, and people. And this is a thread throughout the Bible. Friends, if you think the war of the kings in the land of Canaan in this chapter is a rare occurrence in Scripture, then either you have not read much of the Scripture or you have and just did not make the connection. Let me give you an example of this from my own reading of late. Personally, I have been studying the Books of Joshua and Judges. I read through Joshua and I am now into Judges, and sure enough Canaan is still a land with kings where there are ongoing battles and much fighting. You may remember how Joshua led the Israelites into the land of Canaan and they had to fight their way into it?

Do you recall the conquest of Jericho? And the battle at Ai which Israel at first lost, then won. Chapter 10 of Joshua is another chapter involving five kings and their armies and warfare. Then you have the land being divvied up Joshua with the tribes of Israel taking what was granted to them. There is much in Joshua that is reminiscent of Genesis chapter 14. And when we turn the pages in our Bibles into Judges we read of *more* war. There is that difficult cycle the Israelites go through.

They had begun by serving God, then they do evil. They reject God and follow their own pleasures - *sin*! They are then sold into slavery and the hell of war. They serve their new masters until they (finally) cry out to God for mercy. As God's people repent of their sin, the Lord raises up judges to deliver them from their enemies, but their deliverance lasts only a short time before they repeat the cycle doing evil and forsaking God. And what does this remind you of? Are you paying attention to how God's people are treating Him today? Reading the Judges is very convicting.

Each of these judges must deliver the Israelites and this means some element of war in the land, just like in Genesis 14. The first of the judges must defeat the Mesopotamians. The second judge the Moabites. The third, the female judge Deborah, must defeat the Canaanites. The fourth judge, Gideon, overcomes the Midianites. In fact, we read about Gideon in this series. And the cycle continues and God raises up the next judges and on and on this goes until we come to Samson versus the Philistines, a well-known Bible story that a lot of people love. Samson was a very complicated man, yet God used him.

There were enemies to the people of God *still* in Canaan, and holy God sovereignly used them to subject His people to Him again and again. And then there were these wars. My point is Genesis 14 hardly stands alone as a chapter dedicated to military engagement. It is not unique. So, for these reasons, and others that I do not have time to mention today, this is why we did not skip Genesis 14 for Genesis 15.

Will you join me in prayer as we dedicate our time together in this chapter to God? Our Father in heaven, oh how we love You. We worship You and we exalt Your name. There is no god but You. Thank You for revealing Yourself to us in the Bible, and especially in this portion of the holy text we have just studied. And Lord, I pray Your Word will speak to us and to those who will find this series at a future time. We look to You in faith, believing that You will use Your Words to convict us of our deep and unrelenting *need* of You and Your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Word is food for us. This is water for our dry and thirsty souls. Your Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. We cannot live without this sustenance. I pray the ministry of *God Is* will inspire as many as You will to be voracious readers of Scripture, hungering for more, driven to have a deeper and wider understanding of what these words mean, and as always, *please* Holy Spirit strengthen us to obey Christ Jesus in this present evil world in which we live.

I pray You will walk with us this weekend. Protect us from the evil one and from ourselves. I pray You will restore energy to those of us who are weary and tired. I pray You will heal the sick, comfort the widow and orphan, and redeem those in such desperate need of salvation from sin. Your Kingdom come, Your will be done. We pray this in Your Name, Amen.

With Genesis 14 now complete, where do we go from here? Well into Genesis 15, of course, as we continue to discover who God is in the life of Abraham. I am very excited to develop this chapter with you, *but* not yet. It is summertime and we are entering into the heart and heat of this season. In the months of July and August many of you will be traveling or at least taking some time off of work and school and varying your routines. (A lot of coming and going, at least on the radio.) So, I want to save Genesis 15 for the fall or the autumn (however you say it).

In July and August we are going from the first Book of the Bible to the last! I hope you will be with us all summer long as we meet Jesus Christ in Revelation chapter 1. Let's spend our summer with Jesus. Not in the Gospels and Jesus' earthly life, but in Revelation and Christ's heavenly life. Monday is July 4<sup>th</sup>, Independence Day, in the United States. So I will be here with a special edition of *God Is* on Monday and then on Tuesday we will turn to the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. Now don't miss our time together on Monday – only *be sure* and be here for the beginning of our new series on Tuesday!

Frankly, there is no reason for you to miss even one episode. Every broadcast doubles as a free podcast from [godisministry.org](http://godisministry.org). Do visit our website: [godisministry.org](http://godisministry.org). Keep up-to-date on this ministry anytime and anywhere. If you are going to be in the car or up in the air on airplane in these summer months, take *God Is* with you on the go! And share this with others. Please direct them to our website. Enjoy this weekend. For those of you in America – the long weekend. And let's meet back here on Monday because God Is. ---END---