

# Israel's Patriarch

## A Study in Genesis 12-24

Abram Meets  
Melchizedek  
Genesis 14:1-24  
August 9, 2020

And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine.  
(He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him...  
- Genesis 14:18

### I. ANCIENT NAMES AND BIG BATTLES

- Nation-state subjugation and subsequent rebellion is well attested in the Middle Bronze Age (W.F. Albright, *The Archaeology of Palestine*).
- Four regional kings wage war against five.
- King Bera (Sodom) and King Birsha (Gomorrhah) are compounds of the words “evil” and “wicked.”

### II. ABRAM THE SAVIOR

- Abram is a “Hebrew” who has allied himself with a Canaanite clan. When he hears of Lot’s capture, he mobilizes his armed men and pursues (Gen. 14:13-15).
- Abram secures a great victory, demonstrating his role as both warrior and savior. He becomes a “type” of the future and ultimate Savior — Jesus (Matt. 1:21, 20:28; Mark 5:1-20; Heb. 9:15).

### III. MELCHIZEDEK THE MYSTERIOUS

- Melchizedek remains a shadowy figure. He was a real person, a king and priest over Jerusalem (Gen. 14:17-20).
- Abram demonstrates his reliance on God for his victory by giving a tithe to God’s priest (Gen.14:20b).
- Melchizedek also serves as a “type” of Christ. His priesthood is in the order of the priesthood of Christ himself (Ps. 110; Heb. 5:6; Heb. 7).

### IV. ABRAM SAYS “NO THANK YOU!”

- Alliances are vital. Abram refuses to be blessed by wicked men. Who we “hang with” matters (Gen. 14:20-24; 2 Tim. 4:9-11).

**KNOW:** Abram demonstrates his role as “God’s man.” Even when he has earned a reward, he will not allow himself to be blessed by evil men. Our alliances and friendships matter as Christ-followers.

**DO:** Maintain utmost integrity in your relationships as a follower of Jesus Christ.

### Suggested Reading:

*The Company we Keep: In Search of Biblical Friendship* by Jonathan Holmes (LifePoint Library #248.4 HOL)

### Questions/Discovery Points for Life Groups/Families

#### Please Read Genesis 14:1-24

1. What seems to be the theme that is developing about the character of Abram? What kind of man is he?
2. The last we heard of Lot, he was living near Sodom. Now he lives in Sodom. What does this tell us about Lot?
3. War has been a part of the human experience. What do you think about Abram being elevated as a warrior in the narrative?
4. What are your thoughts concerning Melchizedek? (see Heb. Chapter 7 for help here)
5. Why is Abram not so keen on being connected to the king of Sodom? What lesson is there in this for us?
6. What are your main takeaways from Sunday’s message?