

Genesis 14-16 KJV

[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.¹

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[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.²

[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.³

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[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.⁴

¹ Chedorlaomer was the king who was being paid tribute. The 4 kings of the north were attracted to the same area that caught Lot's eye.

² Upon joining the war the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fell into slime pits that were all over the area. The battle was not going in their favor so the remaining kings fled to the mountain.

³ Because the armies and the kings deserted the battle the enemy was able to loot and capture the people.

⁴ Abram and his confederates tracked the enemy about 120 miles to the north to rescue Lot and retrieve what was stolen.

[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.⁵

Genesis 14:17-20 KJV

[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.⁶

[18] And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God.⁷

[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.⁸

Genesis 14:21-24 KJV

[21] And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.⁹

[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:¹⁰

[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.

⁵ Abram retrieved Lot, and all the goods because the Lord was with him. Lot and his 318 plus about another 60 or 70 men from his friends camp defeated the army of about 5,000 men.

⁶ After fleeing and leaving the people to fend for themselves the king comes to claim the booty from Abram and his men.

⁷ Melchizedek comes to bless Abram, and brings communion to him.

⁸ In this scripture he means Abram. This is the bible's first example of tithing.

⁹ The king offers Abram the spoil of the victory. He tries to give Abram the possessions of his people, probably in an attempt to bond with Abram.

¹⁰ Abram refuses to accept anything from the king, lest the king say his gift, rather than the blessings of God is what made Abram rich.

Genesis 15:1-4 KJV

[1] After these things the word of the Lord came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.¹¹

[2] And Abram said, Lord God , what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?¹²

[3] And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

[4] And, behold, the word of the Lord came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

Genesis 15:5-7 KJV

[5] And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be.

[6] And he believed in the Lord ; and he counted it to him for righteousness.

[7] And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it.

Genesis 15:8-11 KJV

[8] And he said, Lord God , whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?¹³

[9] And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon.

[10] And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not.

[11] And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

Genesis 15:12-16 KJV

[12] And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him.

¹¹ It is risky in the natural for Abram to refuse the king, but the power of God has just been displayed and the king of Sodom wanted no part of the wrath of God. God then because of Abram's faithfulness soothes his fears and promises his protection on Abrams life.

¹² Abram asks God what would be his reward. In Hebrew culture a man with no children upon death, his possessions went to the top servant in his household.

¹³ Abram asks for a sign.

[13] And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years;¹⁴

[14] And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance.

[15] And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.

[16] But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.

Genesis 15:17-18 KJV

[17] And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

[18] In the same day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates:¹⁵

Genesis 16:1-6 KJV

[1] Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

[2] And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.¹⁶

[3] And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian¹⁷, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

[4] And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

[5] And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the Lord judge between me and thee.¹⁸

¹⁴ God gives Abram the prophesy of his family.

¹⁵ The illustration of the sacrifices showed the split of Abrams blessing and the borders of his territory.

¹⁶ This is the second time in the bible a man heeds the words of his wife and disregards the word and promise of God.

¹⁷ Hagar was most likely a dark skinned Egyptian woman.

¹⁸ Sarai now asked God to intervene because she was unhappy that HER suggestion caused her pain and humiliation.

[6] But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.¹⁹

Genesis 16:7-10 KJV

[7] And the angel of the Lord found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

[8] And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

[9] And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

[10] And the angel of the Lord said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.²⁰

Genesis 16:11-13 KJV

[11] And the angel of the Lord said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the Lord hath heard thy affliction.

[12] And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.²¹

[13] And she called the name of the Lord that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

Genesis 16:15-16 KJV

[15] And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

[16] And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

¹⁹ After Abram gives Sarai permission to do with her as she would, Hagar leaves Abram's camp.

²⁰ The angel of the Lord convinces Hagar to return and promises her son will be a leader of a nation with countless heirs.

²¹ The angel predicts Ishmael will be a wild man and constantly at war. This has come to pass, the descendants of Ismael are the Arabs.