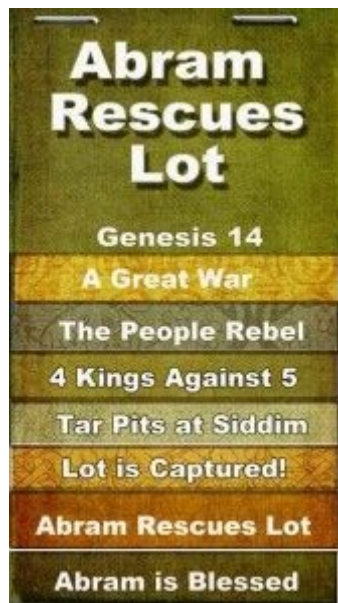


Abram, for his part, gave instead of took. True faith has that effect. When given the two choices of giving God the glory or take the spoils of war, the man of faith glorifies God. "I have lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.'" Abram knew where his riches truly came from.

### Let us Pray

Father, we thank You that we have Jesus to save us as Lot had Abram. Help us make the right choices and give you the glory for all the riches we receive. Amen.



14. LOT'S CAPTIVITY AND RESCUE  
(GENESIS 14)



"And they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their victuals, and went their way. And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed."  
GENESIS 14:11-12

*May God's blessing surround you  
each day.*

*As we trust in and walk in his way;*

*May His presence within,*

*Guard and keep us from sin;*

*Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.*

## Minster Bethel Congregational Church (MBCC)

16/08/2020

## Give God the Glory



The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. **Revelation 21:23**

Good morning and welcome to this weeks church service.

This weeks hymn is "To God be the Glory"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2CeBoSQsBR0>

- 1 To God be the glory  
Great things He has done  
So loved He the world that He gave us His Son  
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the earth hear His voice  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord  
Let the people rejoice  
Come to the Father  
Through Jesus the Son  
Give Him the glory  
Great things He has done

- 2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood  
To every believer the promise of God  
The vilest offender who truly believes  
That moment from Jesus a pardon receives
- 3 Great things He has taught us, great things He has done  
And great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son  
But purer, and higher, and greater will be  
Our wonder, our worship, when Jesus we see

### Our reading today is Genesis 14—Abram Rescues Lot

Verses 1-11 describe a battle between tribes

<sup>12</sup> They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

<sup>13</sup> A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew. Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother<sup>14</sup> of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram. 14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. 15 During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. 16 He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

<sup>17</sup> After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

<sup>18</sup> Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, 19 and he blessed Abram, saying,

"Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth.

20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand."

Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

<sup>21</sup> The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself."

22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' 24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

### Abram Saves Lot

Genesis 14 holds the first war in the Bible. It's a large one, international in scope, four against five. The four made up the coalition from the east. For twelve years, five kings from the west paid tribute to the eastern kings. But they decided those days were over. It was rebellion time.

The rebellion only makes the pages of the Bible because of Lot's presence in Sodom. When the rebellion came, Lot was taken captive. Then, Abram had a choice to make. He could intervene, or let Lot go. He chooses to intervene, a choice that proves his valor and leads him to a blessing.

#### ABRAM'S CHOICE TO RESCUE LOT (vv. 1-16)

Last week we saw Lot chose in Genesis 13 to take the valley near the city of Sodom. He saw the promise it held and moved away from God's promised land to live among sinners. It is no surprise, then, that a chapter later we find Lot in deep trouble. In the midst of a war, he and his family are taken captive.

As Lot's hopes died, Abram sat far away, uninvolved. Then a captured man escaped and ran Abram's way, involving him.

Abram faced a choice. He could think, "Well, you know, Lot got himself into this mess by moving over there. He should have stayed out of the city. I love him, but I'm God's chosen man to bring blessing to the world. I can't risk my neck in this war. Besides, I'm a shepherd, a wanderer, not a soldier."

But Abram didn't think that. He risked his life for his nephew Lot. He knew the choices Lot made, and he pursued him anyway. His pursuit was successful, bringing them all back. Lot was restored thanks to Abram's valor.

Abram rescued Lot the way Jesus rescues us. As the knowledge of our plight rises to heaven, Jesus does not sit still. He springs into action to save and redeem. It was a risk. It was painful. Jesus not only *could* have died; he *did* die. As far as Abram went, Jesus went further still. This story is here because it shows us the heart of Christ. When we get into trouble, we have someone better than a brave uncle. We have the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, on our side.

#### ABRAM'S CHOICE OF BLESSING (vv. 17-24)

On his return to the land, he met two kings on the way: the king of Sodom and the king of Salem, Melchizedek. The contrast between these two kings could not be greater. The king of Sodom ruled over a sinful people. Melchizedek was not only a king but also a priest of God.

Melchizedek blessed Abram As God's priest, He recognized Abram for who he truly was. He brought out bread and wine showing goodwill and generosity. When meeting him, he worshiped God with him. In response, Abram gave him a tenth of everything. Then came the king of Sodom. Here we see that as difficult as the battle may have been to rescue Lot, the real battle is here in the Valley of Shaveh with these two kings. Abram between two kings, between two worlds. The king of Sodom represents the world and all its unfaith. The king of Salem represents the kingdom of God and all its faith. The king of Sodom doesn't understand the things of God. What he witnesses between Melchizedek and Abram is totally lost on him. His offer of worldly goods seems far greater in worth than the blessing of a priest.

