

In the Beginning

Studies in the Book of Genesis

WEEK FOURTEEN – LIFE OF ABRAHAM

Genesis 14:1-12 War and loss of Lot

v1-5a Shinar – where they built the Tower of Babel, Elam in Iran (East of Shinar)
Ellasar & Goiim – where Haran was

All region subject to these kings and rebelled – took a year for kings to respond

v5-12 Defeat of 5 Southern allied kings

v13-16 Abram leads attack against the 4 kings

Abram and his 318 one force

Mamre, Eshcol, and Aner second force (if each had 300, 1200 men total)

Pursues as far as N. tip of modern Israel (Damascus)

Genesis 14:17-20 Melchizedek

1. Rabbinic tradition – Melchizedek = Shem
 - a. Babylonian Talmud, Targum Jonathan, Targum Yerushalimi
 - b. Shem is Abram's ancestor and is still alive (for another 100+yrs)
 - c. Melchizedek a title "righteous king"
 - d. (but is Ham's region)
2. Not a Christophany – real person, holding office of city-state King & Priest
3. V 18, pre-Aaronic (gentile), ordained priesthood – role fulfilled by Jesus Christ, compare with Psalm 110 (v4), Hebrews 5:1-10, 7:1-28

Jeremiah 31:31-34 (New covenant)

Reminder that Abraham's Seed to bless ALL nations, not just his descendants

Genesis 14:21-24

(New?) king of Sodom

Divides spoil AFTER tithing to Melchizedek

Declines alliance with Sodom, but cushions with Sodom getting all his plunder

Reserves plunder for his own allies