

“War Zone”

Abraham (Part 4)

“I looked on the earth, and behold, it was without form and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light.” (Jeremiah 4:23)

The Settlement of the Sanctified

Genesis 13:14-18 – (14) “The LORD said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, ‘Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, (15) for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. (16) I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. (17) Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you.’ (18) So Abram moved his tent and came and settled by the oaks of Mamre, which are at Hebron, and there he built an altar to the LORD.”

The World at War

Genesis 14:1-3, 8-12 – (1) “In the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, (2) these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). (3) And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). (8) Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim (9) with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shinar, and Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five. (10) Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. (11) So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. (12) They also took Lot, the son of Abram’s brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way.”

Responsibilities of the Righteous

(1) Rescue & Reconciliation

Genesis 14:14-16 – (14) “When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. (15) And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus.

(16) Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.”

“Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.” (Proverbs 24:11)

(2) Recommitment & Rejection

Genesis 14:17-23 – (17) “After his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley). (18) And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) (19) And he blessed him and said, ‘Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; (20) and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!’ And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (21) And the king of Sodom said to Abram, ‘Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.’ (22) But Abram said to the king of Sodom, ‘I have lifted my hand to the LORD, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, (23) 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.’”

“...choose this day whom you will serve...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” (Joshua 24:15)

Questions to Ponder:

- (1) Am I troubled by this War Zone world? (Luke 21:9)**
- (2) Do I understand my warrior status in this troubled world?
(Judges 6:12; Daniel 11:32; Romans 8:37)**
- (3) Am I concerned with the service God has left me here to do?
(2 Cor. 5:18)**
- (4) Am I “doubling down” in my devotion to God?**

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)