

## The Test of the Two Kings 2015-11-08

### Genesis 14:17-24

Easier courage in physical battle than act bravely when our faith is challenged.

- Battle/rescue set stage for the greater conflict: Abram's spiritual battle.
- 1<sup>st</sup> war in Scripture also 1<sup>st</sup> coordination of secular & biblical history.
- Abram led 318 against a more seasoned, larger army & won.
  - How handle success usually greater test than how deal w/crisis.

When returning from victory Abram was met by 2 kings w/different

proposals/postures that represented 2 very different paths. Gen 14:17-20a

- Great danger when pressure off, battle subsides, & things going well.
  - So Lord arranged Mel to meet Abram 1<sup>st</sup> to prep for encounter w/KoS.

Melchizedek probably title not proper name. Means "King of Righteousness."

- Genealogy customary in Gen but no refer parents, birth/death ever given.
  - Speculate: angel or theophany but unlikely.
- King of Salem was also God's priest (1<sup>st</sup>x in Bible but not told how) gave Abram food & blessing.

In response: HS led to Abram give Mel 10<sup>th</sup> of all bounty. Gen 14:20b-21

- Not tithe (form of income tax everybody paid) because Mosaic law not yet exist
  - Was customary give gift recognizing dignity/position of a superior.
- Symbolically: inferior Aaronic priesthood "in Abram" paying tribute to JC, eternal king-priest after order of Mel. Heb. 4:14-15, 7:1-10, Mt 26:26-27
  - Was Mel's bread/wine symbolic of b/w in hands of JC our priest?

Mel gives food/strength, blessing & put victory in proper theological perspective.

- KoS gives nothing, no mention of Lord or a blessing but made demands.
  - Not fathom temptation: very wealthy w/future secure if accepted.
    - Gifts of world often have deadly strings attached that lead to compromise & sometimes bondage. Gen 14:22-24, Rom 14:5-6,
- Offer: Challenge his convictions/integrity & subtle attack on God's authority.
  - Break vow (lifted hands) to not take any spoils belong to Sodom.
  - KoS take credit for God's work/blessings & Abram indebted to him.

Abram chooses to honor Lord. Only asks king of Sodom to reward his men.

- Not force personal conviction/morality on others not where he at.
  - If did, might have gone away grumbling & a barrier to future faith.

How handle success usually greater test than how deal w/crisis.

- Every Cxn faces the test of the 2 kings when tempted in the good times.
  - Either remember God is in charge & trust Him for our blessings.
    - Or feel entitled, & find satisfaction in world's treasures.
- Learn to develop convictions based on Word before face temptation.
  - Abram made vow before battle. Military preps in anticipation of battle.
- Like Abram, find strength to stand on those convictions & resist the temptations of world by fellowshiping w/King of kings....JC
  - By God's grace, turn away world's empty promises & embrace simple, sufficient, provision that is ours in JC, our reward & our rewarder. Heb 11:6, 24-26, Mt 6:31-33

Gen 14:17-24

17 After his return from the defeat of Chedor-lao-mer 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.'

24 I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Escol, and Momra take their share."