

Abraham Rescues Lot

Genesis 14:1-24

"Drawing upon the life and joy of God in close communion with him was Abram's secret weapon. It should be ours as well. As long as we are far from God, the world will present its temptations and we will succumb to them because there will be nothing deep within to warn us away. If we are filled by God, who comes to us at the end of the day of battle and fills us with his bread and wine, we will be filled to overflowing and will want nothing more. Then we will be ready to go out and fight again. It is said that John Knox, the great Scottish reformer, was once asked if he was not afraid to face the Queen of Scotland. He replied, 'How can I fear a mere earthly monarch when I have just spent four hours with God.' The one who lives close to God cannot be intimidated by an earthly king."
Boice

- I. One of the primary things we struggle with as men and women of faith is trust. Faith equals trust, and that is very hard for us to do because of so many uncertainties in living life. The Lord knows this, and that's why He constantly reinforces through Scripture, circumstances, and fellow believers, His faithfulness toward us. Our struggle is in believing that *in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose (Rom. 8:28)*, which is an **absolute truth** that does not waver even when our lack of confidence in God does. God didn't infuse Abram with a super faith that didn't need testing. His flight to Egypt is a perfect example of that. He ran, but God, in His covenant faithfulness toward him, brought him back. We run to Egypt too often, but God always bring us back. And when he does, we will find our trust in him strengthened because of his faithfulness toward us. We'll find too, that our trips to Egypt are much less often and of shorter duration.

Gen. 13:3-4

Gen. 13:14-18

Acts 3:19 *Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.*

- II. God is a warrior God who fights on many battle fronts. He fights against Satan and his demonic forces of evil and their attempts to thwart His sovereign will. He fights for the nation of Israel and Satan's attempts to destroy the Jewish people. He fights for His redeemed children who battle against the rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world and the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms (Eph. 6:10-12). He is always victorious because He is God Almighty (El Shaddai), there is no one like Him. We entered His battle for righteousness upon salvation. He trains us for battle through the truth of His Word, through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit and through progressive sanctification. We don't fight with our weapons but with the ones he has provided (Eph. 6:13-19). Like with Abram, our responsibility is to train well so that we can fight well. Abram didn't hesitate to go into battle, and he was victorious as a result. His victory not only rescued Lot a righteous man, but it also brought glory to God Most High.

Gen. 14:1-16
2 Cor. 2:14-16
Ex. 15:3,6
Isa. 42:13
Gal. 5:6
James 2:14,17,26
Rom. 5:7-8

Ps. 144:1 Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle.

- III. Believers who fight well understand who and what they are fighting for. Their loyalty is to Jesus, the captain of their faith, and to the commands He gives to assure victory in the strategic warfare they are engaged in. He is the one who goes before us in battle, and He alone is the one who is to be given the glory for the victories that are won. Like with Abram, God will refresh us and keep us strong to continue fighting well for Him as long as our loyalties remain true to Him.

Gen. 14:17-24
Heb. 7:1-4
Heb. 7:15-17
Isa. 37:17
Ps. 85:8-11

Hebrews 2:10 *10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make **the captain** of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (**archēgos**, a chief leader:—author, captain, prince)*

Psalm 20:7-8 *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God. They are brought to their knees and fall, but we rise up and stand firm.*