



# Steps for a Growing Faith

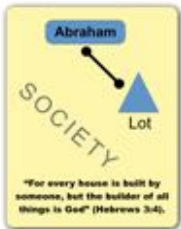
## Genesis 14

### Learning from Abraham’s faith

Paul J. Bucknell

**God’s New Family – Genesis 12-50**

- God starts His special family/society.
- This new society is based on trust in Him.
- This family is the focus for the rest of Genesis, even the rest of the Bible.



**God gives insight into three specific steps to growing our faith in Genesis 14.**

**#1 Observe God’s Blessing (Gen 14:1-10)**

A proper understanding of God’s blessings strengthens our relationship with God.

And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, 2 that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). 3 All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). 4



Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. (14:1-3)

**(1) Historicity and Accuracy of the Text**

- North subjugated south for 12 years
- 13th year southern states rebelled
- 14th year North overpowers the South

**(2) God’s Protection**

**Application**

**#2 Utilize God’s Blessing (Genesis 14:11-16)**

A strong faith helps us proactively carry out God’s good will.

| Connecting God’s Truth                  |                                        |                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| All Blessings are from God (James 1:17) | Observing His ways reaps His blessings | Disregarding His truths bring pain to our lives. |
| Relationships                           | Harmony, kindness                      | Dis harmony. arguing. fighting.                  |
| Money                                   | Content, sharing                       | Dis content. greedy. selfish.                    |
| Marriage                                | Long lasting love, genuine care        | Barrenness. alienation. brokenness. phoniness.   |
| Drive                                   | Team welfare, God’s work               | Covetousness. evil plans.                        |

“Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed. 12 And they also took Lot, Abram’s nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom. 13 Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram.

14 And when Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, 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 as far as Hobah,



**A Hebrew (Genesis 14:11-13)**

Two ways to do good: => (1) Refrain from evil and (2) Proactively do good

**Abram’s big decision**

- God tests us at our most vulnerable places.
- Challenge and growth go together.
- The Lord wants us to win.

**Mission Minded Living**

Is there some people or situation the Lord has set on your heart to respond to? If so, have you responded? How so? If not, why not?

Is your church or personal life in the dying process? Why not seek God for what you can do for others at a cost to your own comfort?

**#3 Secure God’s Blessings (Genesis 14:17-24)**

As we see God’s help, God brings us closer to Him through deeper devotion and personal appreciation for His work in our lives.

“Then 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; now he was a priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said, “Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth;

20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand.” And he gave him a tenth of all. 21 And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give the people to me and take the goods for yourself.” 22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have sworn to the LORD God Most High, possessor of heaven and earth, 23 that I will not take a thread or a sandal thong or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ 24 “I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share” (Genesis 14:11-17).



- (1) Abram’s fighting party
- (2) A secret prayer
- (3) A powerful trust
- (4) A hidden force–King Melchizedek (18-20)

**The Bible connection**

Our understanding of Melchizedek has to partly come from our understanding of Jesus Christ, of whom Melchizedek was a type. There are only two other sections of the scriptures where he is mentioned, one in the Old and one in the New Testament.

|                |                                                                                                                                                 |                                                  |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| #1 Genesis 14  | Surprise visit – described as king-priest to Most High God                                                                                      | Reveals hidden truths                            |
| #2 Psalm 110   | Messiah is of order of Melchizedek<br>“The LORD has sworn ..., “Thou art a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek” (Psalm 110:4). | God promises of someone greater– look for Christ |
| #3 Hebrews 5-8 | Jesus Christ is this king-priest that we serve.                                                                                                 | Jesus Christ is both Lord and Savior             |

**Applications from Genesis 14**

- ♦ Be open to be bold for the sake of others, even if it might cost you something. Remember to do it with the Lord’s help!
- ♦ If you want to help someone but find you can’t, seek God, perhaps He has some special way to answer that problem.
- ♦ As one matures in one’s faith, expect trials of a different kind. They might have to do with something one ought to do rather than some terrible thing happening to you.