**Genesis Chapter 14-16**

Welcome back to SDG! In the first quarter of our study of the book of Genesis we encountered:

1. The Creation Account
2. The Fall of Man
3. The First Promise of the Messiah
4. The First Murder
5. The First Judgment /The Flood
6. The Call of Abram
7. The First Covenant
8. The Split between Abram and Lot

As you will remember, Abram gave Lot the choice of where he wanted to live. Lot chose “all the Jordan Valley.” Abram then moved to Hebron and settled by the Oaks of Mamre and built an altar to the LORD there. We hope that during our Christmas Break you built an altar to the “Babe in Bethlehem,” Jesus our LORD and Savior, within your heart.

With Chapter 14, we continue the account of Abram, the Great Patriarch. Please read chapter 14 and then refer to the three maps at the end of this lesson to get a feel for what takes place and some context or the location of these events. Then, begin to answer the questions in our study for this week.

Chapter 14

1. How many kings came from Mesopotamia?

Four

2. How many kings opposed the Mesopotamia kings?

Five

3. Who led the Mesopotamian kings?

Chedorlaomer, the king of Elam, was the leader of the Mesopotamian kings.

4. Why did the Mesopotamian kings come?

The kings of the plain had been vassals of Chedorlaomer for twelve years. They rebelled in the thirteenth year and stopped paying their tribute. In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer brought his army. This matches up very well with the events described. It would have taken quite a bit of time for word of the rebellion to reach Chedorlaomer. He probably responded by making a demand of payment. The kings of the plain would have refused. Then Chedorlaomer would have assembled his army and come. This sequence of events would have taken at least a year because of the distances involved.

5. Verses five through ten describe the route that the Mesopotamian kings followed. Refer back to the three maps at the end of the lesson to see the distance covered by these kings. Where did the battle between the Mesopotamian kings and the kings of the plain take place?

The battle took place at the Valley of Siddim.

6. Describe this location. What is significant about this description?

Genesis records that the land was full of bitumen pits or tar pits. Such pits exist at the south end of the Dead Sea. However, they are now covered by water. This would indicate that this area was originally above the level of the water. This would have made the plain where the cities were located much larger than it is today.

7. Who won the battle?

The Mesopotamian kings were the victors.

8. What did they do following their victory? (Vs. 11-12 & 16)

The Victors plundered the towns and took the women and those left in the cities. They also took all the possessions of the people as well as Lot and his family.

9. Where was Abram living at this time?

Abram was living in Hebron by the oaks of Mamre.

10. How is Abram described in verse 13? Why?

Abram is described as a Hebrew. This sets him apart from the people of the region. The Hebrew’s were descended from Eber the great-grandson of Shem.

11. Who was Mamre?

Mamre was an Amorite who had two brothers, Eshol and Aner.

12. Who were the Amorites? (10:15-16)

The Amorites were descendants of Ham through his son Canaan.

13. Why are these distinctions made? (9:20-25)

As descendants of Canaan, the Amorites were cursed to be the servants of the descendants of Shem and Japheth.

14. Besides being Amorites, what else do we learn about Mamre, Eshcol and Aner? (vs. 13)

All three were allies of Abram.

15. How did Abram respond to the news that Lot was taken captive? What does this tell us about Abram?

Abram led his 318 trained men on a rescue mission to save Lot. From this we learn:

1. Abram had tremendous loyalty to family
2. Abram was a powerful and wealthy man.

16. What was Abram’s battle plan?

He divided his forces at night and then attacked from two sides at daybreak.

17. Where did Abram mount his rescue raid?

Abram attacked at the area of Dan.

18. What was the outcome of the battle?

Abram:

1. Rescued Lot and all the people along with their possessions.
2. Chased the five kings all the way past Damascus. This sent a powerful message, “Don’t come back!”

19. Verses 17-24 provide us with two unique contrasts. Who came out to meet Abram?

The king of Sodom and The king of Salem, Melchizedek.

20. Meet Melchizedek? Who / What was he? How do you know?

Melchizedek was a:

1. King – the account tells us he was king of Salem, which later became Jerusalem.
2. Priest of God Most High – the account tells us he was the Priest
3. Prophet – He is a prophet because he proclaims God’s word.

21. Who is later compared to Melchizedek? (Hebrew 5:10; 7:1)

Jesus

22. What did Melchizedek do when he met Abram?

 1) Melchizedek blessed Abram in the name of God.

 2) Melchizedek blessed God – He gave all the credit to God Most High. To bless is to put into the highest position.

23. How did Abram respond to Melchizedek’s action? Why?

Abram gave him a tithe of everything. By giving the tithe to the Priest Melchizedek, Abram acknowledges that his words are true. All glory belongs to God.

24. Now for the contrast! How did the king of Salem meet Abram?

In spite of hearing what Melchizedek said and seeing Abram’s action, the king gives the credit to Abram by telling him to keep the possessions but give him the people.

25. How did Abram respond to the king of Salem?

Abram refused to take any possessions. All glory was given to God. In no way did he want to take credit or give the king the chance to take credit for being the source of Abram’s blessings.

26. What do we learn about Mamre, Aner and Eschol? These three Amorites had gone into battle with Abram. Abram provided for them so that their service was honored.

**Word Study: God Most High / LORD, God Most High**

In the Hebrew language the word “El” means God. #Elyon” means “Most High.” El Elyon expresses God’s power over the nations No king is above God, He is the Most High King. From this name we get the description, King of kings.”

Yaweh (Lord) El Elyon “LORD, God Most High” identifies the great “I Am” as the “Most High God.” Other pagan religions would have claimed their gods as being the most high god. Abram clearly makes the distinction of who the Most High God is. This was probably because of the beliefs of the king of Sodom and his lack of praise to God.

**Chapter 15**

27. What is the significance of the opening words, “after these things?”

These three words tie what is going to happen to what had just happened.

28. What three things did God tell Abram in the first verse of Chapter 15? Why?

He told Abram:

1. To fear not – Abram had nothing to fear, because:
2. God was Abram’s shield – God would protect Abram
3. His reward would be great. – Abram had refused physical and monetary reward for the sake of God’s glory. God would reward this.

29. What was Abram’s immediate concern?

Abram was concerned that he had no son. Who would inherit all that God had blessed him with? Abram felt it would go to Eliezer his servant from Damascus.

**Name Study: I am your shield**

In chapter 15 we are introduced to a characteristic of God. This trait is that God serves as our shield or protector. It is expressed in a number of ways throughout the Old Testament. God is revealed to be our:

Hebrew English

Maon (Ma-OHN) Dwelling Place

Machseh (Mach-SHE) Refuge

Magain (Ma-GAIN) Shield

Metsuda (Me-tsu-DAH) Fortress

Migdal Oz (Mig-Dal OHZ) Strong Tower

God is our Refuge, Mighty Fortress and Shield. “If God be for us, who can be against us?” Romans 8:31

30. What two great promises did God make to Abram?

Vs. 4 - His own son would be his heir.

Vs. 5 – He would have more descendants than he could count.

31. How did Abram respond to these promises? What was the result of this? What does this mean? What is the lesson for us today?

Abram believed and it was credited to him as righteousness. Believing God is the right thing to do, trusting Him and His word is righteous. We are to be like Abram and simply trust and believe God’s Word because it is His Word.

32. What additional promise did God give to Abram in verse 7? How did Abram respond?

God promised that Abram’s descendants would inherit the land where Abram lived. Abram asked for a sign of this promise. We can see that it wasn’t unbelief because of God’s response.

33. What was the significance of cutting the animals in half?

This was the sign of the covenant. Both sides walked through the cut animal (s). In essence saying, “May it be so to me if I do not fulfill the covenant.”

The significance of the individual animals is not known. However, since the heifer, goat and ram were all three years old we can assume they represent something to do with God Himself since the number three represents God. Perhaps the animals represent God’s people. The birds of prey that came down to eat the animals may represent the enemies of God’s people who want to feed off of them. The smoking fire pot and torch are traditional symbols for God Himself.

34. What did God reveal to Abram in his vision? (Vss. 12-16)

God revealed that:

1. Abram’s offspring would live in a separate land for 400 years.
2. They would be afflicted or suffer during this time.
3. God would deliver them and bless them.
4. Abram would live a long life.
5. His offspring would return to the Promised Land.

35. What is meant by the phrase, “For the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete?”

It is like a stay of execution. The Amorites’ sin would grow to a point where God would judge them and they would be destroyed. God would use Abram’s offspring to accomplish this.

36. In a Covenant, both parties passed through the sacrificial animals. What happened in this covenant? Why?

 Only the symbols of God passed through. God would stay true to His Covenant even though Abram’s offspring would not.

**Chapter 16 - The Conflict Begins!**

It seems like almost every day we hear or read about tension, crisis and fighting in the Middle East. Many of the conflicts in the Middle East today can be traced back to the events presented in chapter 16.

37. We have seen that God promised Abraham that, “your very own son shall be your heir (15:4).” We have also seen that God promised that Abram’s offspring would be beyond number (15:5). What problem (s) arise in chapter 16:1-2?

Though God promised Abram a son, Sarai remained barren.

Though God promised Abram a son, Sarai doubted that God would provide and came up with her own plan to provide Abram with a son.

Though God promised Abram a son, Abram listened to Sarai and followed her plan.

38. Who was Hagar? What did she become?

Hagar was an Egyptian slave who Abram probably received from Pharaoh when Pharaoh sent him away. She was a servant to Sarai. She became Abram’s wife. Sarai was still “the wife.” Hagar was a concubine who had all the rights of a wife but not any claim to the inheritance or family name.

39. How did Sarai’s plan backfire on her?

Once Hagar conceived she looked on Sarai with contempt. Obviously Sarai was too old to bear children so Hagar’s son would be the heir. As a result, Hagar felt superior.

40. Verse five reveals Sarai’s innermost feelings. Who does she blame for her problem? Why?

Sarai blames Abram for Hagar’s contempt. Sarai felt that Abram was allowing Hagar to act the way she was. She probably felt that Abram should have treated her as a servant instead of a wife. Therefore, Abram needed to put Hagar in her place.

41. How did Abram try to rectify the situation? What was the result?

Abram told Sarai to take Hagar back as her servant. Sarai then treated Hagar harshly. As a result, Hagar ran away.

42. Hagar fled toward Egypt, but an angel of the Lord came to her by a spring of water. What were the angels instructions and revelations to her?

Instruction #1 (vs. 9) – Return to Sarai and Submit to her

Revelation #1 (vs. 10) – She would have many offspring

Revelation #2 (vs. 11) – She would have a son

Instruction #2 (vs. 11) – She was to name her son Ishmael

Revelation #3 (vs. 12) – Her son and his offspring would be in constant

 conflict with his kinsmen.

43. What does the name Ishmael mean?

Ishmael means, “God hears.”

**Name Study: “You are a God of seeing”**

In chapter 16 we find another name for God, “El Roi.” “El” means “God.” “Roi” means “sees.” Hagar gave this name to God because, unlike the Egyptian gods she had been raised to believe in, God saw her misery, had compassion on her, told her what to do and gave her hope. El Roi has also seen our misery. We are sinners and fall short of His glory. We deserve eternal judgment. El Roi has seen our inability to save ourselves and has given us His Son to be our Savior. Praise be to God who sees His people and acts on their behalf!

Bonus Question: What does Beer-lahai-roi mean?

Beer – Well

Lahai – Living One

Roi – Sees

“The well of the Living One who sees me.”

When was Ishmael born?

Ishmael was born when Abram was 86 years old.