

08.04 Abram Rescues Lot (Genesis 14:1–24; Hebrews 7:1–22)

✓ “Check” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

Visuals and Tools:

- The pictures and other visual aids found at the end of this lesson. Credit sources for the pictures.
- I heartily recommend *Herein Is Love Commentary Series: Genesis, A Commentary for Children*, written by Nancy Ganz and published by Shepherd Press in 2002. Thoughts or quotations borrowed from her will be acknowledged as (Ganz) in the story.
- See “Activities” and “Handwork” for other suggestions.

Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach: [Flashcard words are enlarged at the end of this lesson. Print, cut out, and glue to card stock, or just print on colorful cardstock.]

- *tribute*: money paid by a government to a foreign government that has conquered it
- *confederates*: armies joined together from separate cities, areas, or countries
- *spoil*: possessions and people conquering armies take from the ones they conquer
- *priest*: someone who represents people to God (Later we will learn about Jewish priests. Jesus, however, is the final Biblical priest except that a believer is his or her own priest.)
- *tithe*: one tenth or 10 percent of a person’s income given to God
- *El Elyon*: the Hebrew words for “God Most High” [Teacher, you might ask students to say “*El Elyon*” each time you say “God Most High” in this story.]

Scripture: (ESV)

Genesis 14:1 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). 4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. 5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, 6 and the Horites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran on the border of the wilderness. 7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar.

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.

13 Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. 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.

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

Hebrews 7:1 For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. 3 He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

4 See how great this man was to whom Abraham the patriarch gave a tenth of the spoils! 5 And those descendants of Levi who receive the priestly office have a commandment in the law to take tithes from the people, that is, from their brothers, though these also are descended from Abraham. 6 But this man who does not have his descent from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. 8 In the one case tithes are received by mortal men, but in the other case, by one of whom it is testified that he lives. 9 One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, 10 for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him.

11 Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? 12 For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. 13 For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. 14 For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests.

15 This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, 16 who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. 17 For it is witnessed of him, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek." 18 For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness 19 (for the law made nothing perfect); but on the other hand, a better hope is introduced, through which we draw near to God.

20 And it was not without an oath. For those who formerly became priests were made such without an oath, 21 but this one was made a priest with an oath by the one who said to him: "The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, 'You are a priest forever.'" 22 This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

Introduction/Review:

When Abram and Lot returned from Egypt, they found they couldn't live near each other because of the many animals and the much goods they had acquired. Lot moved east to a well-watered valley of the plains of the Jordan River. He pitched his tent toward the wicked city of Sodom.* Abram lived ✓approximately 40 miles away at Mamre, near Hebron.

Story:

By the time today's story opens, Lot had moved into, not just near, the wicked city of Sodom.

Tribute given

About fourteen years before this story Sodom and other cities in the area had been taken over by a king from Mesopotamia [locate on the map]. (Notice that this is the same area from which Abram and Lot had come with Terah.) For twelve years the cities in Canaan [locate at the south end of the Dead Sea] had to pay tribute to King Chedorlaomer [pronounced Ked or lay O mer]. Imagine paying money to a faraway king for one year, two years, three years, four years . . . (are you getting tired of sending tribute to this distant king?) . . . five years, six years, seven years, eight years . . . (oh, this is tiresome and bothersome!) . . . nine years, ten years, eleven years, twelve years! By the thirteenth year ✓Sodom's king must have thought he could get by without paying; so his city rebelled and quit sending money back to Mesopotamia.

This rebellion didn't suit Chedorlaomer well at all. In the fourteenth year He got three other kings from his area and marched toward Canaan. On his way, he came down the east side of the Jordan River and wiped out clans of ✓giants (called Rephaim, Zuzim, Emim, Horites, Amalekites, and Amorites). These were very significant victories! They were fighting and winning against ✓giants who were 10 to 13 feet tall and taller!

Kings fleeing

Meanwhile, the king of Sodom joined with the kings of four other cities down here [locate on the map] south of the Salt (Dead) Sea where they engaged in battle against Chedorlaomer and his confederates. That made four kings from Mesopotamia against five kings of Canaan. The five kings from Canaan, however, fled from Chedorlaomer. One problem: this area had tar pits—pools of black bituminous slime like the tar you sometimes see being put on streets. Some of the five kings fell into these pits, and others fled to the hill country ✓in the direction of but not to the land where Abram was living.

With the local kings fleeing from their cities, Chedorlaomer's armies were free to take spoil—all the possessions of Sodom and its neighboring city, Gomorrah. Guess *who* else they took. Lot, his wife, his daughters, and his possessions as well as other families and their possessions. These Mesopotamian kings with their spoil from battle went on their way—up the west side of the Jordan River and eventually to Dan [locate on the map].

Abram armed

Abram was totally unaware of this situation, but a man escaped and ran to tell him that Lot had been taken away. Now, I told you Abram was rich, but I'll guess you never thought he would have an army of his own. Well, he did—318 soldiers whom he had personally trained. Abram took them and three friends with their soldier-servants and followed ✓unsuspecting Chedorlaomer all the way to Dan. There Abram's armies split up and attacked Chedorlaomer at night. Who do you think won this battle? God's side—Abram, of course. Then Abram and his confederates chased the enemy all the way to Hobah [locate on map] and recovered all the possessions of the captives and the captives themselves—women, children, and men, including Lot.

Melchizedek welcoming

As this victorious company returned (✓the total distance from Hebron to Hobah was about 160 miles, they were met near Jerusalem by a king named King of Salem, which means "peace"; so we might say he was a "Prince of Peace." This king's name is one I want you to remember; say it after me. "Melchizedek" [pronounced Mel KIH zeh dek.] Melchizedek, whose name means "King of Righteousness" (or right), was not only a king but also a priest—a king-priest—who believed in the one true God. ✓In fact, some people think he actually might have been a physical manifestation of Jesus Christ before He came to earth. Just his names—"Prince of Peace" and "King of Righteousness"—suggest that. At the very least Melchizedek is a type or picture of Jesus, for Hebrews 7:3 tells us Melchizedek "is without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever." These are things that can be said about our Lord Jesus Christ too.

Well, Melchizedek, as we said, met Abram and the victorious armies, bringing bread and wine for them to eat. However, this king didn't just feed the people; he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High [*El Elyon*], Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High [*El Elyon*], who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" (Genesis 14:19, 20). What a great blessing—to Abram and

especially to the “God Most High” [*El Elyon*].

Tithes given

Abram obviously recognized the superiority of this king, for he gave this priest-king Melchizedek a tithe—one tenth that is normally given to God of all the spoils he had gotten from Chedorlaomer’s armies in the battle—to this priest-king, Melchizedek.

Spoils refused

The king of Sodom was there and watched this transaction. ✓Perhaps because the conqueror (who would be Abram in this case) usually took the spoils of war or perhaps because he was grateful to Abram for being delivered out of the hand of Chedorlaomer, Sodom’s king said to Abram, “Let me take all the people you rescued, but you may take all the possessions for yourself.”

Abram would have none of this. He said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand in an oath to the Lord, God Most High [*El Elyon*], Possessor of heaven and earth, that I will not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, so that you cannot say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ I will take nothing but the food the young men have eaten. Let my three friends take their share of the spoil.” (The Bible doesn’t state this, but ✓I wonder if Abram refused payment from Sodom because it would be “dirty money”—payment from wicked people.)

So that’s how the event ended. God gave the victory, and He got the glory. Would those Mesopotamian kings come back for revenge? ✓That was something to consider. Abram trusted God, and God blessed. More than that, Abram got to see a preview of what our Lord Jesus Christ is like.

*The location of Sodom is unknown although several archaeologists claim to have found it. Most seem to think it was in the area south of the Dead Sea. However, “the well-watered plains of the Jordan” were not south of the Dead Sea, at least in my mind. Although my maps for this lesson show Sodom in the favored location, we’ll just have to wonder if they are correct and let the matter drop. God has not chosen to let us know for certain where the city was located.

Lessons from this lesson:

- Lot made a mistake to associate with the wicked in Sodom. He was beginning to reap what he had sown/planted. We should avoid his example.
- “More than two thousand years later, there was another King of Salem, Jesus the Prince of Peace Himself, who was teaching in Jerusalem. The Jews challenged him, ‘Are you greater than our father Abraham?’ Jesus answered, ‘Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad.’ Knowing that Abraham lived two thousand years earlier, the Jews then said to Jesus, ‘You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?’ Then Jesus replied, ‘I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I AM [a term for deity]’ (John 5:58)! Jesus was the Melchizedek, the King of Righteousness, from all eternity” (Ganz).
- We should give a tithe of what we earn to God. How can you do that? By giving an offering in the church.
- We might think all these events took place in a matter of a few days. Remember Hebron, where Abram lived, was 160 miles from Hobah [show on map]. A march at 20 miles per day might have taken eight days; coming back home likely would have taken longer. The point is that doing things for God and doing them well is sometimes inconvenient and time-consuming. We should be willing to make those sacrifices for the sake of God’s kingdom.

Activities:

- Play dough: people, crowns

- Sing the first through fourth stanzas of “Abraham” (found at the end of this lesson).
 - Make trading cards of Melchizedek from the page found below. Print, laminate, and cut apart. Picture (Hebrews 7:3 added) is from <http://slideplayer.com/slide/5867251/>.
 - Bring objects in multiples of ten. Have students figure out how many is a tithe. Or do the math on a chalkboard or white board, moving the decimal point one place to the left to show a tenth.
 - Measure a 10- to 13-foot distance to show the height of a giant, or compare 10 feet to a 10-foot ceiling.
 - Review questions (mostly from Ganz): (Game: Prepare Melchizedek flannelgraph pieces by printing the trading cards page below, backing with flannel or other flocked material, and cutting apart. A correct answer entitles a student to place the piece on the flannel board. Or prepare four crowns of one color and five of another color to represent the Mesopotamian and Canaanite confederations.)
1. How many kings came from Mesopotamia? [Four.]
 2. Name the king from Mesopotamia who seemed to head those confederates. [Chedorlaomer.]
 3. How many kings fought with Sodom against Chedorlaomer and his fellow kings? [Five.]
 4. What happened to Lot? [He, his family, and his possessions were taken by Chedorlaomer.]
 5. How did Abram learn Lot had been captured? [Someone who escaped told him.]
 6. How was Lot rescued? [Abram and three friends with their soldiers rescued him.]
 7. Give one evidence that Melchizedek is at least a type of Christ. [His names: Prince of Peace and King of Righteousness; his giving a blessing to Abram; Abram’s giving him tithes.]
 8. What did Abram receive from the king of Sodom? [Only the food the soldiers had eaten.]
 9. Why didn’t Abram take anything other than food from the king of Sodom? [He had promised God he wouldn’t take anything; he didn’t want the king of Sodom to think he had made Abram rich.]
 10. Fill in the blank. *El Elyon* means _____. [The Most High God.]
- For exercise have students march in place from Hebron to Dan and Hobah. March quickly, going down from Hebron, up some hills, down in to valleys, through rivers. March home, going a little slower because of the spoils.
 - Play act meeting Melchizedek and the king of Sodom.

Handwork:

- Use plastic jewels, glitter, and gel pens to color the crown picture found below.

Memory Verse:

- Psalm 110:4—“You [Jesus] are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

tribute

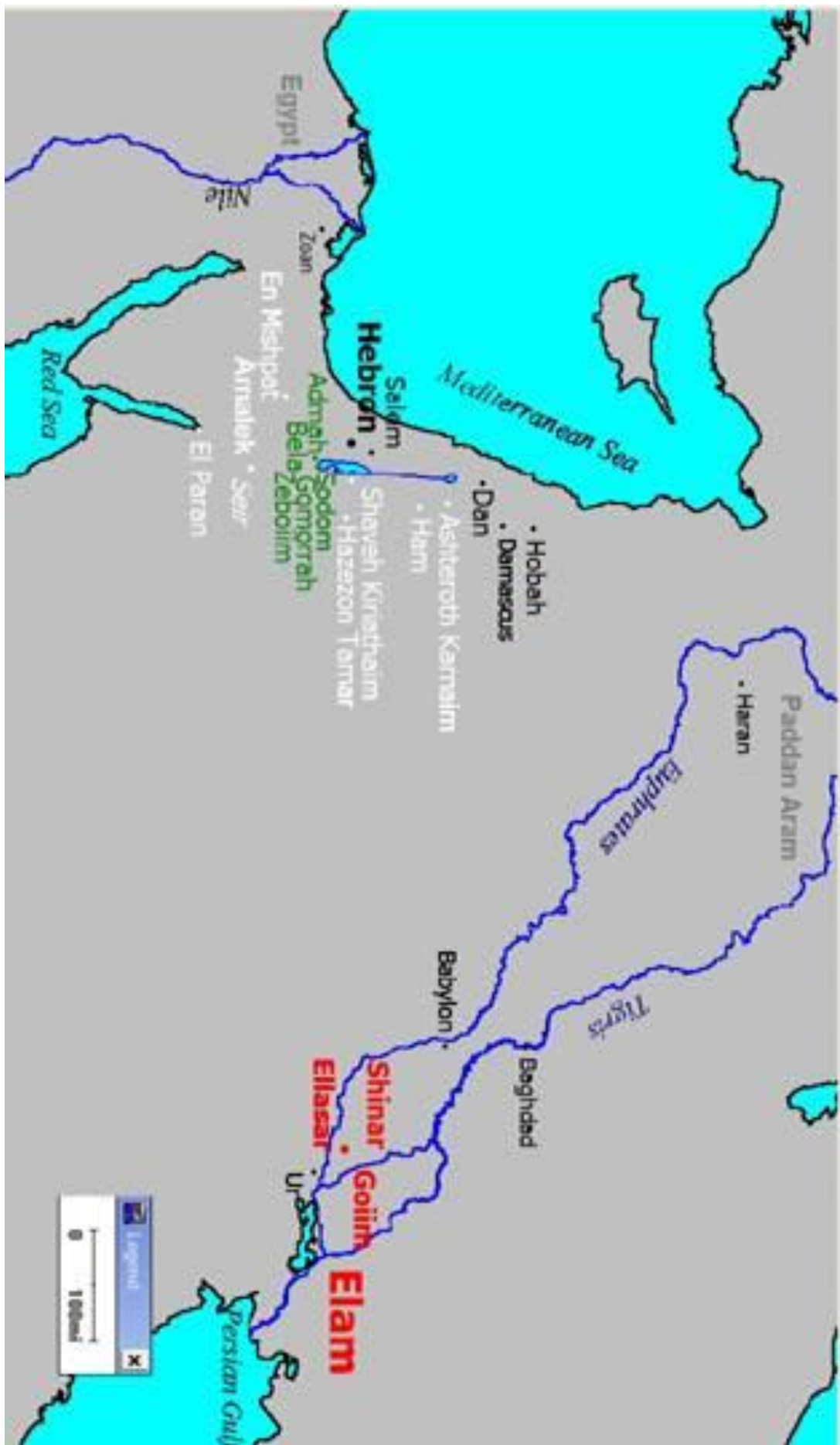
confederates

tithe

El Elyon

spoil

priest





<https://labreawebs.wordpress.com/2017/09/06/stuck-in-the-past-the-science-of-the-la-brea-tar-pits/>



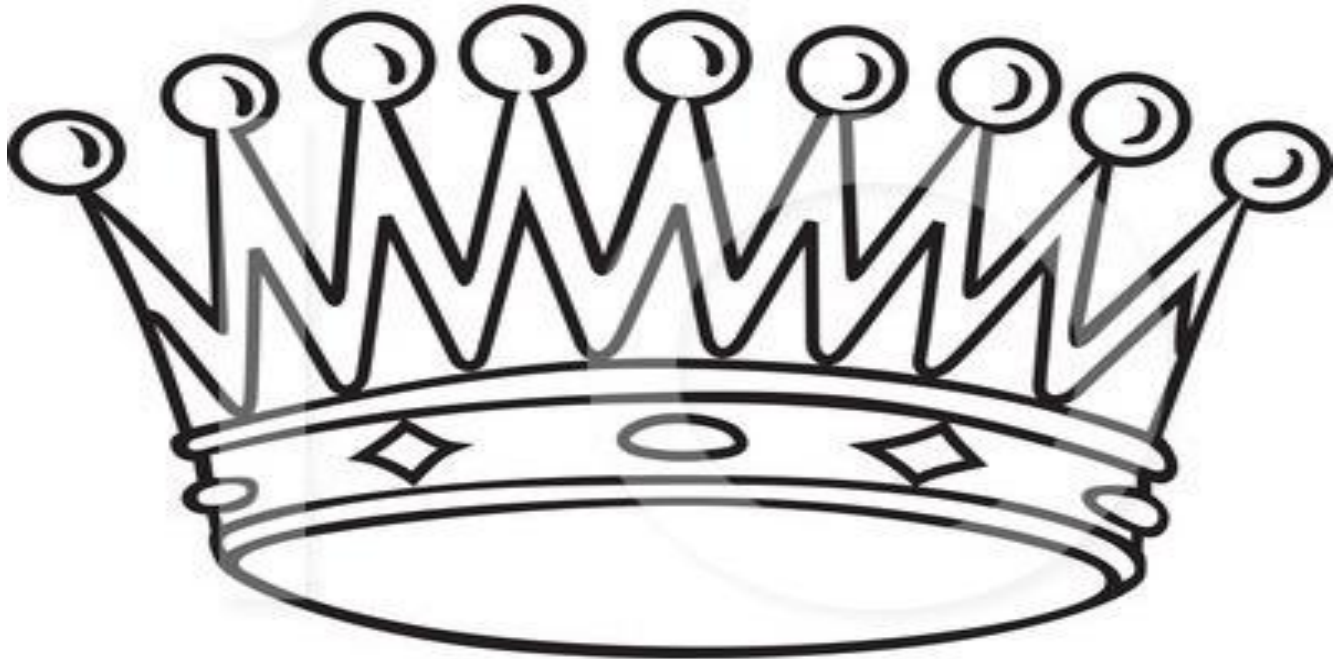






http://bibleencyclopedia.com/goodsalt/Genesis_14_Abram_Rescues_Lot.htm

PSALM 110:4—"YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER, AFTER THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK."



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<http://clipground.com/homecoming-king-crown-clipart.html>

KING MELCHIZEDEK WAS A TYPE OF JESUS CHRIST:

- HE WAS KING OF SALEM ("PRINCE OF PEACE")
- HIS NAME MEANS "KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"
 - HE ACCEPTED TITHES FROM ABRAM
 - HE BLESSED ABRAM
 - HE HAS NO GENEALOGY
 - HE HAS NO BEGINNING OR ENDING
- HE CONTINUES AS A PRIEST KING FOREVER

Abraham

Words and Music by M. Alexander

A F C7

1. "Go to a land that I will show you."

6. God changed the names of A - bram and Sa - rai:
 9. Fi - nal - ly A - bra - ham and Sa - rah had I - saac:
 11. "Go to a moun - tain that I will show you."
 12. Sa - rah had died. It was time for I - saac to

3 F G7 C

This God said to A - - - bram.
 A - bra - ham and Sa - rah their names would be.
 "Abe" - was one hun - dred, Sa - rah, nine - ty years old.
 God was to test His friend A - bra - ham.
 and and mar - ry a suit - a - ble wife.

5 B \flat F C7 F

A - bram went to the land God showed him:
 Three vis - i - tors said they'd have a ba - by.
 "God" has made me to laugh," said Sa - rah. ("Ha! Ha!")
 A - bra - ham was read - y to sac - ri - fice I - saac.
 One named Re - bek - ah wat - ered all the cam - els.

7 F C7

He o - beyed sac - ri - fic - ing a lamb. (Go to B, v2)
 Sa rah laughed, ("Ha! Ha!") but we'll wait and see. (Go to B, v7)
 He ful - filled and what He had fore - told. (Go to B, v10)
 God made him stop (pause) and pro - vi - ded a ram. (Go to A, v4)
 She mar - ried I - saac; they were one for life. (fine)

9 **B** f C7

2. Fam - ine left no - thing to eat in Ca - naan.
 3. Lot's and A - mor - rah were herds - men quar - reled:
 7. Sod - om and Go - mor - rah wick - ed cit - ies.
 10. Ish - ma - el mocked his half - bro - ther, I - saac.

11 f G7 C b \flat f

Down to E - gypt A - bram went. Ly - ing a - bout his
 Too man - y an - i - mals for the land. A - bram said, "You
 An - gels warned Lot to get a - way. Lot's wife turned back be -
 Sa - rah said, "Send him and Ha - gar a - way." They sur - vived the

An audio recording of this song may be found on the "Songs" page at teachingthebibleto kids.org.

Abraham

2

14 C7 f 16 C7

pret - ty wife Sa - rai pro - voked the pha - roah so out they were sent. (Go to B, v3)
 have first choice; if you take the right, I'll take the left hand. (Go to C, v4)
 came a salt pil - lar. The cit - ies burned up; they are gone to this day. (Go to C, v8)
 des - erts dan - gers. Ish - ma - el's child - ren are called A - rabs to - day. (Go to A, v6)

17 C f C7 f

4. Four kings came and cap - tured of Lot, but A - bram's men, armed
 8. Go - ing down to Ge - rar of Phil - is - ti - a, A - bra - ham lied a - bout

20 G7 Bb F C7 F

to the neck, Caught those kings, re - leased the cap - tives.
 Sa - rah a - gain. This time A - bim - i - lech let them stay there.

23 F C7 F D F C7

A - bram gave tithes to Mel - chi - si - dek. (Go to D) 5. "Count the stars; so man - y child - ren
 What God had pro - mised would hap - pen then. (Go to A, v9)

27 F G7 F b b f b f

you will have," this God said. "Ha - gar can be like a wife," said Sa - rai.

31 f C7 f

Ish - mael was born; then Sa - rai was sad. (Go to A, v6)

Note: Major key for "happy" and minor key for "sad" events can be indicated on a *visual aid with a happy or sad face.
 *Visual aid: Print words on paper; glue to the pages of an old spiral notebook that has 26 pages. Illustrate simply. Make a title page to glue to notebook cover.

Melchizedek

"He is [a type of Christ] without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever" (Hebrews 7:3).

Genesis 14:18
And Melchizedek
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bread and wine:
and he *was* the
priest of the most
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