

Tell the Stars,
"Don't Fall
On Me" ~

Genesis 14:12 – 15:6



~ Our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God takes us down a very dark path into Palestine in this report. In our last report, we considered the first recorded war in man's history. We didn't develop that fully and I don't consider it necessary; but, if you were to study it on your own from secular history's perspective, it would be very enlightening and edifying to you. Now, to be clear, while I say it was "the first war" – chances are, it probably wasn't. It was the first war written of in the Bible and, apparently, the only reason it's in here is because it has to do with Lot, Abraham's nephew. Either way, we saw the kings of the east defeat the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah. Evidently, there had been war before, because these people were in subjugation - and they were now rebelling.

Of course, Lot lived in Sodom, and he was taken captive in that war. Abraham went out, defeated the kings of the east and delivered Lot. The question is: how could Abraham realistically have done it? Well, as we said in our last report, the kings of the east moved out of Sodom and Gomorrah and went north along the west bank of the Dead Sea. That is not far from Hebron and Mamre where Abraham was dwelling. If you stand where Abraham was living you can see any movements down there along the Dead Sea. So, Abraham had been brought word about what had happened to his nephew; and he immediately began pursuing the enemy north....

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12 And they took Lot, Abram's brother's son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods, and departed.

13 And there came one that had escaped, and told Abram the Hebrew; for he dwelt in the plain of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol, and brother of Aner: and these were confederate with Abram.

14 And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto Dan.

~ If you had lived in Abraham's day, you would have had to have established alliances with your neighbors for protection; because the enemy would constantly approach and attempt to kill you and your family and steal all of your possessions. There was safety in numbers; and you would either hang together - or you would hang separately! So, moving on, we know they went north at this time because Dan is to the north. For Abraham to have three hundred eighteen men that he was able to train, and arm tells us more about his vast wealth, too; another fact we learned all about in our previous safari report....

15 And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus.

....I think Abraham made a frontal attack and the rest of his men went around behind them and then advanced. I don't think the killing was as much as simply scattering them so that they would be forced to leave behind the prisoners and the booty. My personal estimation is that this chapter was intentionally placed here for a very definitely reason: to tell us HOW Abraham rescued Lot. It may seem like extraneous information; but this is a very important episode in the lives of both of these men and, in the next chapter, we'll see another very purposeful reason this information about Abraham is provided....

16 And he brought back all the goods, and also brought again his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.

17 And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale.

18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most High God.

19 And he blessed him, and said, blessed be Abram of the Most High God, possessor of heaven and earth:

~ That passage brings up several more fair, legitimate and sincere questions in my mind. I hope these will be your questions, too: (1) where in the world did Melchizedek come from? (2) why does Melchizedek simply walk onto the page of Scripture, bless Abraham, and then immediately walk off of the page of Scripture? (3) why is that all we have? (4) what is it all about? (5) where did he come from? (6) where is he going? (7) what is his business? (8) how did he become Priest of the Most High God? (9) how did Melchisedek even FIND OUT about the Most High God?

I mean, obviously, Melchizedek found out about God from somewhere, right? "El Elyon" = the Most High God – Creator and Possessor of Heaven and Earth! The Living God – the same Living God we saw in Genesis chapter one, Jehovah, the God of Noah and Enoch. We aren't talking about some localized deity here with Melchizedek. This is strictly a monotheistic conception. This reveals there was monotheism long before polytheism; and all mankind had knowledge of the Living and True God, friends. Paul said, "when they knew God they glorified Him not as God." What happened? - They rejected God and became vain - so down they went and began to worship the creature rather than the Creator; and that's exactly where mankind is at today with the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, here is a man in the days of Abraham who is the High Priest of the inhabited world of that day! He had a proper, correct and complete knowledge of the Living and True God. This man, Melchisedek, was the priest who conducted the first sacramental Lord's Supper as he brought out bread and wine and communed with God's man, Abraham! Honestly, because I always am honest with you dear readers, I have to wonder what

they had in mind. How much did they know about the Lord Jesus Christ? That ought to bedazzle, stagger your thought and bring up at least a thousand more questions. Frankly, I think they knew more about Christ than you or I do today.

We are going to come across Melchisedek two more times in the Bible. We will see him in a prophecy of Christ in the one hundred tenth Psalm, where it says "...thou art a priest after the order of Melchisedek." Then, we'll see him again in Hebrews where he is mentioned several times. In Hebrews, we will get the answer to why we know absolutely nothing about his origin or family. Not having a genealogy here is strange to me because Genesis is the book of families by their generations. Genesis is all about the beginnings of all of the families of the earth. Everyone else that is important in Genesis has their parents, at least, mentioned; but we have nothing about Melchizedek! Why not? – Well, Hebrews tells us he had no mother or father or beginning of days, because the priesthood of Christ is after the order of Melchizedek. As far as SERVICE goes, Christ follows the order of Aaron; following the sacrifice and entering into the Holy of Holies - which is in Heaven today - but in His Person our Lord had neither beginning nor end of days. As a King, Christ is both Son of Abraham and Son of David, according to Matthew. As our Holy High Priest, John tells us, "...in the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God!" Christ has no beginning, nor ending, of days as far as creation is concerned.

See, friends, we are dealing with the eternal God Who came out from Heavens glory as a man. The Word was made flesh and we beheld His Glory, is what John says. So, what we have in Melchisedek is a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ bringing forth bread and wine to commune with His own. Melchizedek is remembering the death of Christ here; and that is truly mind-boggling – at least, it is to me! Blessed be Abraham of the Most High God, El Elyon ~ Jehovah ~ Christ Jesus - our Holy High Priest today after the order of Melchizedek. As for being after the order of Aaron, that is STRICTLY for the nation Israel and the Tabernacle service; and we have a fine picture of that in Scripture, too - but, as our High Priest in Heaven today Jesus is of the order of this man, Melchizedek. I cannot overstate this truth because it is utterly CRITICAL to work out in your thinking. This

understanding will decide all of your comprehension and will form which perspective of the Bible you take from here forward. Note that Abraham also pays tithes to Melchizedek. How did they know about paying tithes when the Mosaic Law hasn't been given yet? So many questions....

20 And blessed be the Most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.

21 And the king of Sodom said unto Abram, Give me the persons, and take the goods to thyself.

~ This is the temptation of Abraham right here: according to the ancient Code of Hammurabi – which was the code of all law and governed warfare in that day. Abraham had every right to keep all of the goods and persons he took when he secured the victory in battle; but the king of Sodom was a very smart little man - and he says, “....give me the people and you take the booty, Abraham, it's all yours.” Well, Abraham was just a little bit more wise, and he responds back, “....you will never say you made me rich.” God always prepares you for any temptation that's coming along, my beloved. God says He will never let any temptation come to us that we cannot bear. That does NOT mean God will not test us beyond what we can handle – because testing and temptation are two different things – and we know God tests us with impossibilities so we can learn to depend on and trust Christ. Let's just make sure we recognize this distinction, because most people today cannot grasp this overly simple concept....

22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth,

23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoe latchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich:

~ Remember, when Abraham first started out his only mission was to recover Lot. God permitted Abraham to recover Lot. So, Abraham tells this king of Sodom, “....I worship the Living and True God and only He will make me rich, not you!” Now, there were others who had fought for Abraham

and they had the same rights to the stuff, also. So, being a very fair, gracious and generous man, Abraham tells the king; “...they’re going to take what they want, too - because that’s their pay for fighting you!” ~

24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

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1 After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward.

~ Here, in chapter fifteen of Genesis, we have God appearing to Abraham again to re-affirm His promises to him. This is one of the high-water marks of the Bible. This is the fourth time God appears to Abraham and God is developing Abraham to a point of extremely high refinement. God is really bringing Abraham along now because Abraham has taken this tremendous step of faith in going out and rescuing Lot, refusing the booty, taking communion with the high priest and paying tithes to him. See, God does well to appear to Abraham now because obedience is now finally a part of Abraham’s faith. Obedience hadn’t quite characterized Abraham up until now. Faith and obedience MUST go together in order for us to receive the blessings from God that He wants to give us. It simply will not – and cannot - be otherwise, friends – not ever. Make a very definite note here.

God is our shield and God is our reward. I think out there in the heat of that battle, Abraham got into some real trouble; and I am sure that he had a moment of wondering whether he was going to make it out alive. God reminded him, “...I am your shield, Abraham.” “...I am your reward.” Well, God intends to reward us, too - someday. I’m afraid we don’t have many men or women who simply believe that. Candidly, we could actually close the Bible right here because everything we have learned on safari thus far is all we really need to know about God. Isn’t it beautiful that God said more? So, so, much, more! Abraham is not some super-duper pious boy who gets a free halo shining every morning. Abraham is very realistic and practical, and he immediately gets right down to the nitty gritty of business

with God. I think God enjoys us doing that, friends. I wish we could get rid of the hypocritical attitude so many so-called Christians assume these days that don't even seem real. Some of those people are WAY out there, 'ya know – but I digress, sort of....

2 And Abram said, Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus?

~ Abraham tells God very directly that he doesn't need anything material; but a son was on Abraham's heart - because he didn't have one – and God had promised to make Abraham the father of a nation. Well, that would have to start with some children, naturally. God promised Abraham that Abraham's number would be as the sand on the sea-shore – innumerable - but we don't even have a single grain of sand yet! If Abraham and Sarah didn't have a child, then Eliezer's son would have inherited all of Abraham's possessions. Of course, Abraham was very disturbed about that grim prospect....

3 And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir.

4 And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, this shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir.

5 And he brought him forth abroad, and said, look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, so shall thy seed be.

~ So, we end this leg of our Spiritual Safari expedition through the entire Word of God with God's promises to Abraham. First, God's promise was as the sand on the seashore. Now, it's as many as the stars. God told Abraham to look at the stars and, my friends, that means Abraham was in total darkness! Today, Abraham has two seeds: one is a physical seed of the nation Israel through Isaac; and the other is the spiritual seed of the church. Israel and the church are two totally and completely different things. How did the church become a child of Abraham? BY FAITH! Paul said to the

Galatians, "...ye are the sons of Abraham by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."
This is no natural lineage we're talking about here. If you tell an Orthodox Jew today that you are a son of Abraham, be prepared for some very strange looks and remarks....

6 And Abraham believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness ~

