

Genesis 14 – Lesson 24

Melchizedek and Abram's Blessing

1. 14:1-17 – The Battle of the Kings

- a. This is the first account of war, priests, Hebrews, and a tithe in the Bible.
- b. 14:1 – These kings were from the north and east (Babylon, Syria, Persia, Turkey?)
- c. 14:2 – These kings were from the south and east of the Dead sea.
- d. 14:5-7 – The campaign was southward on the east side of Canaan (Lot's land)
- e. 14:11-14 – Abram entered the fray because they took Lot. Remember Gen 12:2-3
- f. 14:14 – Abram has a small army of his servants (318)
- g. 14:15-17 – He drove them out, destroyed them, rescued Lot, returned the goods

2. 14:18-24 – Abram's Blessing

- a. A priest and king gives Abram fruits of the land as he reenters as its protector
- b. “*Blessed be Abram*” – as God had promised he would be – Gen 12:2
- c. “*which hath delivered...*” – as God had promised he would – Gen 12:3
- d. Abram recognizing the greatness of the king/priest gives him a tenth of the spoils
- e. Abram rejects Sodom's offer, which sanctifies his name and his God as being great

3. Who is Melchizedek?

- a. Who is Melchizedek? ... And that is the point. What we need to know is told us.
 - i. People dispute if he is a theophany, a man, or an angel, or Jesus – Heb 7:3
- b. He is a king and priest of the most high God; king of righteousness and peace.
- c. He is surely *like* Jesus - John 8:37-47; “*Who am I?*” – Matt 16:13, John 3:33, 17:3
- d. Psa 110 describes the Messiah being a king and priest for ever, but not after Levi.

4. Melchizedek's Priesthood

- a. Melchizedek is most oft mentioned in Hebrews talking about Israel's high priest.
- b. Jesus is the Apostle and High Priest of the Hebrews - Heb 1:2; Heb 2:16-17; Heb 3:1
- c. Their high priest is Jesus the Son of God, called of God – Heb 4:14; Heb 5:1-6, 10
- d. God's promise to Abraham and Israel, evidenced by Melchizedek – Heb 6:11-20
- e. Israel will be Priests of the Lord – Isa 61:6, but not Levitical – 1 Pet 2:9, Rev 5:10
- f. The royal priesthood is better (7:3-7), longer (7:8-10), more perfect (7:11-19), more sure (7:20-22), and unchangeable (7:23-28). The sum... a better high priest (8:1)

5. Abram's Tithe

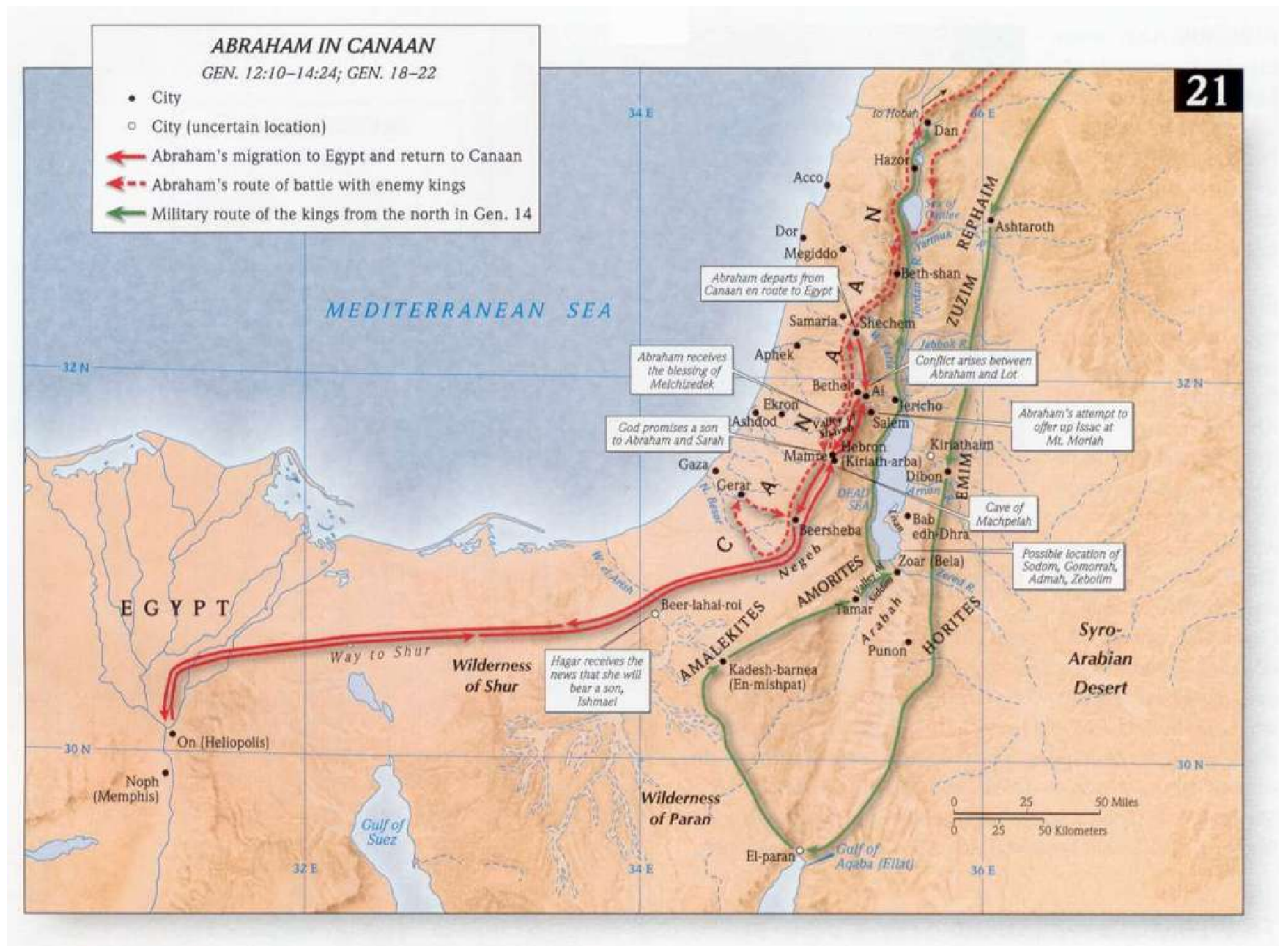
- a. Law tithing from Mal 3:9-10 put people in the church under a curse
- b. The law had not been given in Gen 14, the people in Hebrews still have a law
- c. Christ has become a curse for us (Gal 3:13), and we are not under the law -Rom 6:14
- d. Does Abram's tithe justify the church tithing to the local pastor? No, of course not.
- e. Abram tithed, because of Melchizedek's priesthood; there are no priests today!
- f. The church is instructed to be generous, not of necessity – 2 Cor 9:7

Why Abram's Tithe is Not a Pattern for the Church

1. **Abraham tithed in response to a unique blessing by Melchizedek.** Gen 14:18-19 states that the king brought bread and wine and blessed Abram. You did not receive the blessing from Melchizedek, nor were your "enemies delivered into thy hand."
2. **Abram tithed only of all the spoils** (Heb 7:4). Abram did not tithe of his income.
3. **It was a one time tithe.** Abram never paid another tithe to Melchizedek.
4. **There is no command to follow Abram's pattern.**
5. **Melchizedek's tithe was not a Jewish law tithe.** It is not subject to the same tithing laws.
6. **Melchizedek was a king and priest.** There are no kings and priests in the body of Christ.
7. **Christ is the priest of Israel not of a carnal commandment.** Christ's priesthood was like Melchizedek in that it is without end, and not by the carnal commandment. His similitude was not to collect tithes of carnal things (Heb 7:16).
8. **Your pastor is not the High Priest.** Jesus Christ alone claims this high priestly office.
9. **The tithe from Abram proved a greater priesthood than the Levitical.** So then, why would pastors claim to be spiritualized priests like the Levites over Israel?
10. **The law was insufficient.** This includes the continual required law tithe which was only needed because the priests' work was never done. The Melchizedek priesthood proves that the law with its Levitical priesthood and other requirements was insufficient. It could not make perfect (Heb 7:12).
11. **Christ's priestly tabernacle is not earthly and built with hands** (Heb 9:11). It may be a sure guarantee that the pastors who teach tithing are doing so to pay for an earthly hand-built building.
12. **Christ's priestly function was performed for the *Hebrews*** The book about Christ's priesthood is addressed to the remnant Hebrews who were participants in the new covenant. We are not Hebrews under the covenants.
13. **Christ is not collecting tithes.** His one-time priestly work for the Hebrews is finished (Heb 7:27, Heb 9:28). Those who pretend to collect for him are doing so without authority.
14. **The new covenant was for Israel and Judah** (Heb 8:10). It replaced the old to the same people. Gentiles were and are strangers from Israel's covenants of promise.
15. **Our Head is Christ, our pattern is Paul...** and Paul did not tithe to a local church – 2 Cor 12:15
16. **You are the body of Christ.** Our complete position in Christ precludes us from an obligated tithe to another member of the body. We are all members of each other. Not one of us is above another.

In no way does Abram tithing to Melchizedek place us under the modern day invention of required tithing.

Map for Genesis 14 Outline



Four conquering kings: Amraphel (Shinar), Arioch (Ellasar), Chedorlaomer (Elam), Tidal (nations)

1. Shinar is or is near Babylon - Dan 9:2
2. Ellasar is possibly the same as in 2 Kings 19:12 and Isa 37:12 near Gozan and Haran, at the head of the Euphrates, north of Canaan where children of Eden lived.
3. Elam is in Persia - Dan 8:2; Elam is a son of Shem (Gen 10:22)

Smitten people: Rephaims (giants – Asheteroth Karnaim); Zuzims (giants – Ham), Emims (giants – Shaveh Kiriathaim); Horites (Seir); Amalekites (Kadesh); Amorites (Hazezontamur)

6. Most of these people were considered giants in the land - Deu 2:9-11, 19-23

Five kings in Siddim: Bera (Sodom); Birsha (Gomorra); Shinab (Admah); Semeber (Zeboiim); Zoar (Bela)