

## Fighting for the Saint in Sin

### Introduction & Review

- God intervened to deliver Abram, his family & possessions from Egypt (Gen. 13:1-4) – **a result of famine, fear & prayerlessness.**
- God led Abram back to the place of prayer in the promise land where he was tested again (Gen. 13:5-7) – **strife in the land.**
- Abram responded to his second major trial in prayer & humility while remaining in the promise land (Gen. 13:8-13) – **peace among saints may result in separation (Lot chose Sodom).**
- God rewarded Abram's faith by giving him spiritual insight or understanding about his present possessions & the future (Gen. 13:14-18) – **God must reveal the true value of his gifts to us.**

### I. God Delivers the Wayward Saint (Gen. 14:1-16)

- A. The slavish & destructive power of sin (Gen. 14:1-12)  
*Lot is a weak, but righteous believer (2Pe. 2:7-8). Four kings, led by Chedorlaomer, waged war & conquered the kings of the Jordan valley (v. 1-3). This is the 1<sup>st</sup> war recorded in the scriptures. Thirteen years later the defeated kings rebelled against Chedorlaomer & caused another war (v. 4-7). Sodom & Gomorrah was defeated; Lot, his family & possessions were taken captive (v. 8-12). Lot chose to live in Sodom & Gomorrah because of its prosperity & sinful attraction (Gen. 13:13; 1Jn. 2:16). He was weak in faith & **ensnared** by this evil lifestyle (Gen. 19:1). The desire for power, greed & insecurity led the unbelieving kings to war & Lot is captured in this web of evil.*
- B. The liberating & victorious power of God (Gen. 14:13-16)  
*The providence of God ensures that Abram is informed (v. 13). Every member of God's family is worth the battle or a fight (v. 14) – "kinsman"=brother. God's deliverance of a wayward believer is not dependent upon human strength or power (v. 14-16) – "318" men, Gideon's 300 men, etc. Many other people may benefit from a believer's deliverance from the consequences of sin – Sodomites. .*

**APPL:** It is a wonderful blessing to see a blood-relative converted & become a true Christian. It is also very hurtful to see any Christian ensnared by any sin. We must be willing to fight Satan, his servants & any wicked scheme in order to set a weak Christian free!

### II. Response to God's Deliverance (Gen. 14:17-24)

#### A. Blessing & praise (Gen. 14:18-20)

*Melchizedek (king & priest) discerned that God had accomplished this mighty victory through Abram. He had a celebration & pronounced divine blessing upon Abram (v. 18-19) – land & genealogy. He also praised God who is the source of this victory (v. 20a). Abram demonstrated his love for & worship of God as the source of his blessings (v. 20b) – "tenth of everything". Every victory & every praise belong to our God.*

#### B. Ungratefulness & pride (Gen. 14:17, 21-24)

*The king of Sodom expressed no gratitude, blessing or praise toward Abram or God. He is ungrateful, prideful & deceptive (v. 17, 21). This king & Lot should be extremely grateful & humble, yet the king is not & nothing is said of Lot's response – **silence!** Abram is completely trusting God, not man, to provide everything He promised (v. 22-24) – possessions & people.*

**APPL:** People respond to God's goodness through believers in these two ways (Gen. 12:3). People responded to Christ in this same way & He has prepared us for these responses (Jn. 15:18-19) – hated, despised, rejected by the world. People who love, listen to & obey God will also honor us; they will see our good works & glorify our Father who is in heaven.