

## Genesis Behind the Curtain: Abraham's Journey of Faith Episode 5: A Tale of Two Kingdoms

Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

### Genesis 14:17-24

<sup>17</sup>After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup>Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, <sup>19</sup>and he blessed Abram, saying, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. <sup>20</sup>And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. <sup>21</sup>The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself." <sup>22</sup>But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, <sup>23</sup>that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich.' <sup>24</sup>I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me—to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

1. How do we sustain the blessing?
2. How do we rebuke the curse?

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom, must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it."

- Thomas Paine

### A Tale of Two Kingdoms: The Kingdom of God vs. the Kingdom of Darkness

- **Romans 14:7** *For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*
- **Colossians 1:13** *For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves.*

### A Story Of Two Kings: King Bera and King Melchizedek

- **Who is Bera?**
  - Rebellious King.
  - Archetype of Satan.
- **Who is Melchizedek?**
  - Melchizedek mean *king of righteousness*.
  - Archetype of Jesus.
    - **Psalm 110:4** *The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."*
    - **Hebrews 7:1-3** *For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 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. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues to be a priest forever.*

King Melchizedek offers a blessing and Abram responds with a freewill offering.  
Bera offers a deal and Abram responds with a rebuke.

### Abram sustains the blessing: Vs. 18-20 *Then Melchizedek king of Salem...*

- Then Abram **gave** him a tenth of everything.
- Abram swore an oath.

### Abram rebukes the curse:

- Abram would accept nothing offered to him by the king of shadows.

### Small Group Questions:

1. The message brought into sharp relief, the difference between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of the world and darkness. Can you give an example of what the Kingdom of God taking ground might look like in your life?
2. How do we know when something that looks bright and shiny might actually be from the kingdom of darkness?
3. Do you notice anything unique about the meal Melchizedek provided?
4. Abram leaned into the blessing and sustained it going forward. What actions of his in the text showed this to be true?
5. Abram rejects the offer of the king of Sodom. How can we also become adept at rebuking the offers of the enemy of our souls? Are there tools we can use?