

Genesis 14:14-24

¹⁴When 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. ¹⁵And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. ¹⁶Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people.

¹⁷After 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). ¹⁸And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of **God Most High**.) ¹⁹And he blessed him and said,

“Blessed be Abram by **God Most High**,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
²⁰and blessed be **God Most High**,
who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. ²¹And the king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself.” ²²But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “I have lifted my hand to the LORD, **God Most High**, Possessor of heaven and earth, ²³that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’ ²⁴I 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.”

*All Scripture taken from the English Standard Version.
(Emphasis Mine)*

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Getting to Know God

Lesson #3 El Elyon — God Most High



Sunday, January 20th, 2008

Genesis 14:18-20

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“Blessed be Abram by God Most High,
Possessor of heaven and earth;
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who has delivered your enemies into your hand!”

God Most High

“God does not ask about our ability or our inability, but about our availability.”

The Most High

- “Let them be put to shame and dismayed forever; let them perish in disgrace, that they may know that you alone, whose name is the LORD, are the Most High over all the earth.” (Psalm 83:17, 18)

The Strong One

- The word, “El” denotes the strong and powerful one.
 - “Elohim” is the plural form of “El” meaning the supreme one of the universe.
 - See *Genesis 1:1-3*
- “In the Bible the word is often defined properly by a qualifier like Jehovah: “I, the LORD (Jehovah) your God (Elohim), am a jealous God (El)” (Deuteronomy 5:9).”

—*Nelson’s New Illustrated Bible Dictionary*
(*Electronic Edition*)

The Most High

- The word “Elyon” means very high, lofty, exalted and supreme.
 - The word “elyon” was not only used for God but for the highest part of the temple walls. (See *Ezekiel 41:7*)
- The Heights of the Lord:
 - “For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy...” (*Isaiah 57:15*)
 - “Thus says the LORD: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest?” (*Isaiah 66:1*)
- This term, “Elyon” is also used in describing a supreme commander.
 - The Lord is the supreme commander of the able.

“Faith hears the inaudible, sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible.”

The Background

- Lot was kidnapped along with the people of the city of Sodom (*Genesis 14:12*).
- Abraham gathered 318 trained servants to rescue Lot and the captives of Sodom (*Genesis 14:14*).
 - The word for “trained servants” implies that these men were trained in the art of warfare and protection.
- Abraham and his servants defeated the enemy and plundered possessions and goods (*Genesis 14:16*).
- Melchizedek, the king of Salem, was a priest of the God most High, “El Elyon” (*Genesis 14:18*).
- Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek and gave the people and goods to the King of Sodom (*Genesis 14:22-24*).

What Does it Mean to Have a God Most High?

- You do not need the possessions of men!
 - Abraham returned all of the possessions he plundered to the city of Sodom (*Genesis 14:22-24*).
 - Abraham knew the Most High God had blessed him (*Genesis 14:19-20*).
 - *It is God who possess heaven and earth (Genesis 14:19).*
 - *It was God who delivered the enemies to Abraham (Genesis 14:20).*
- You do not need to have a majority to win!
 - Abraham’s army was made of “trained servants” not dedicated warriors (*Genesis 14:14*).
 - Abraham’s army was smaller than the other armies, only 318 men (*Genesis 14:14*).
 - There are few walking the road to heaven (*Matthew 7:14*).
 - Those will be the victors (*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15*).