

Genesis 14, Bible Devotions

☐ Monday - Expiration Date on God's Mercy. Genesis 14:1-12

The cities of the Jordan valley were exceedingly wicked, and God raised up a confederation of kings against them. But after the war in Genesis 14, the cities in the Jordan valley returned to their wicked ways and were later destroyed by the Lord's fierce wrath (Gen. 19:24-25). God is long-suffering, giving each one time to repent (Rev. 2:21); nevertheless, there is an expiration date on God's mercy, and those who do not respond to God's amazing grace are met by His untempered anger (Nah. 1:2). Run to Christ! Jesus is our refuge from the wrath to come (Rom. 5:9). Read Romans 8:13, 1 Peter 3:12

☐ Tuesday - Not by Might, Nor by Power. Genesis 14:13-18

In the war between the kings, Chedorlaomer's confederation of four kings prevailed against the king of Sodom's alliance of five kings, and Lot who lived in Sodom was taken hostage (Gen. 14:1-12). Then we read, "When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen" (Gen. 14:14). But what could Abram's 318 men do against four armies? They could win! (cf. Gideon's 300 in Judges 7). "The Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the battle is the Lord's" (1 Sam. 17:47). Christian, if your cause is just, it does not matter how many are against you. For, "If God is for us, who can stand against us?" (Rom. 8:31). Read Lev. 26:8, Josh. 23:10, Jer. 20:11, Zeph. 3:17, Zech. 4:6

☐ Wednesday - Bad Company. Genesis 14:13-18

After Lot was rescued by Abram (Gen. 14:12), he returned to Sodom and had to be rescued again before that wicked city was destroyed (Gen. 19:1-29). What was Lot doing in Sodom? He had no business being there. "By what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day by their lawless deeds" (2 Peter 2:7-8). "Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33). Read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18

☐ Thursday - The Man from the Other Side. Genesis 14:13

"Then a fugitive came and told Abram the *Hebrew*" (Ge, 14:13). This is the first time that the word "Hebrew" is used in the Bible, and there is some consensus that it means "one from the other side". Abraham had left his relatives in Ur and crossed the Euphrates River to enter the promised land. And so, Abraham was called a Hebrew, the man from the other side [of the river]. A line ran through the middle of Abraham's life, in his case it was the Euphrates River. On one side of the river was his old life among the idol worshippers in Ur. On the other was his new life and faith in living God. Friend, is there such a line running through the middle of your life? "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new" (2 Cor. 5:17). Read John 3:3, Ephesians 4:22-24

☐ Friday - Righteousness & Peace. Genesis 14:18-20

Melchizedek, whose name means "king of righteousness" (Heb 7:2), was the king of Salem [later called Jerusalem]. The word "salem" in Hebrew is *shalom* which means "peace." As a type or foreshadow of Jesus Christ (Heb. 7:3), Melchizedek was both the king of *righteousness* and the king of *peace*, and in the Christian's life these two are integrally connected. Righteousness is imputed to the believer on the basis of faith in Jesus Christ (Rom. 3:21-22, 4:5; Phil. 3:9), and having been justified by faith, we have "peace with God" (Rom. 5:1), and the "peace of God" (Phil. 4:7). So then, no righteousness, no peace; but know righteousness, know peace. Read Isaiah 32:17; Psalm 85:10