

Faith-Based Vocation

Genesis 14:1-16 Sunday AM, August 31, 2025

Prelude – Scripture: Genesis 14:1-16 (NASB95) And it came about in the days of Amraphel king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, 2 that they made war with Bera king of Sodom, and with Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, and Shemeber king of Zeboim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). 3 All these came as allies to the valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). 4 Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but the thirteenth year they rebelled. 5 In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings that were with him, came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaïm and the Zuzim in Ham and the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, 6 and the Horites in their Mount Seir, as far as El-paran, which is by the wilderness. 7 Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and conquered all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites, who lived in Hazazon-tamar. 8 And the king of Sodom and the king of Gomorrah and the king of Admah and the king of Zeboim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) came out; and they arrayed for battle against them in the valley of Siddim, 9 against Chedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goiim and Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar—four kings against five. 10 Now the valley of Siddim was full of tar pits; and the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, and they fell into them. But those who survived fled to the hill country. 11 Then they took all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food supply, and departed. 12 They also took Lot, Abram's nephew, and his possessions and departed, for he was living in Sodom. 13 Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram. 14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. 15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. 16 He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.

And so we've followed Abram from Ur to Haran through the land of Canaan to Egypt and back again. We've noted not merely what Abram was called to give up (a lot close to our hearts), but also what he was promised by God—a place (land), a people (descendants), and a purpose (the blessing of God spread through him and descendants). All this would come with the protection of God blessing those who blessed him and cursing those who cursed him. We've seen Abram's fear and shaky responses in Egypt and God's great hand to deliver leading back to the land of promise where he worshipped God for blessing and protection. And was he ever blessed! So much that combined with Lot's blessing, the land couldn't hold them together. The ensuing conflict led Abram to graciously offer Lot his pick of the land. Lot chose the land of the Jordan valley, fertile, but also near wicked Sodom. Abram was left with the rest of Canaan and a seemingly rough future. But God once again reaffirmed His promises to him. Abram, lift up your eyes! Yes, Lord, what should I see? Look northward, southward, eastward, and westward; **“for all the land which you see, I will give it to you and to your descendants forever.”** Descendants, Lord? I don't have any—Lot just left. **16 “I will make your descendants as the dust of the earth, so that if anyone can number the dust of the earth, then your descendants can also be numbered.** That is beyond what I can comprehend. Then let's make this concrete. **17 “Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you.”** And our passage ended with Abram moving in line with God's Word. Christian, worship God's grace given those who act on His Word!

*Hymn #350: 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus

Today, we come to the first battle recorded in Scripture. It's big, involving many and must be dealt with. Lot is taken along with his family and possessions, and Abram hears about it from one who escaped. What battles go on around you? Have you noticed who is here/who is not? Why are they not here? Vacation other normal things, or are their other battles for them? How are you doing today mentally, emotionally, physically, spiritually? What does living by faith in the Son of God, trusting God do for these battles in and around you? What about for those thrust on you that you weren't expecting? Sing the confidence of the believer.

*Hymn (Powerpoint): Our God Will Go Before Us

***Pastoral Prayer: Pastor Jahn D. Scripture: Philippians 4:1–13** Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved. 2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord. 3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! 5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things. 9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. 10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Offering: *Doxology:

When Abram heard what had happened, he gathered the trained men of his household, and together with his allies, pursued and defeated those who had defeated and plundered the five kings of the plain. He carefully planned, used the provisions God had given him, and then shows gratitude to God for the victory by giving a tithe to Melchizedek who blessed him in the name of the Most High God. Abram didn't battle alone, he battled looking to the God who promised.

*Hymn #472: The Battle is the Lord's

You may be seated. The passage read from Philippians is full of favorite verses. To whom do they apply? All those who “stand firm in the Lord.” Standing firm in the Lord includes working through conflict with other believers. It includes a gentle spirit that carries into every interaction with others, even when you need to act firmly. Because the Lord is near, you have reason to be anxious for NOTHING. If anxious, you need to get right with God so you are in fellowship with Him. Then you must reflect on His character and promises so you can live accomplishing His will with thanksgiving and quietness of heart because of His power and willingness to act on our behalf. Surrounded by His promises and provision, we can be content in any and every circumstance and therefore can do all things through Christ who strengthens you. As we consider this next episode in the life of Abram, ask God to work THIS kind of living faith in your heart.

*Hymn #359 (Red): My Faith Looks Up to Thee

Message: Faith-Based Vocation Gen. 14:1-16

What does looking to God do for your calling? Follow Abram's example of trusting God's Word through the work of preparation and faithful living enabling you to be faithful through times of crisis such as the one we followed today. Lift your eyes to God knowing that wherever you are, even there God's hand still leads you.

*Hymn #461: He Leadeth Me

*Prayer