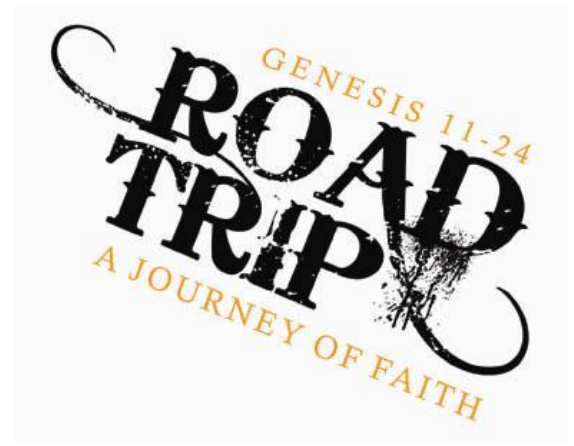


Courage On Our Journey of Faith

Genesis 14:17-24



I. We need courage because we live in a _____.
Genesis 14:1-11

Ephesians 6:10-12; I John 5:18-20; Matthew 24:4-14

II. We need courage because we will engage in the _____ those lost.
Genesis 14:12-16;

II Corinthians 10:3-6; II Corinthians 4:1-7; II Corinthians 2:14-17; Ephesians 4:7, 8; 6:13-20

Who in your life needs to be saved? What steps are you now taking to reach them?

III. We need courage to remain _____ to Christ.
Genesis 14:17-24

Two powers are fighting for our heart: *Who are you following?*

A. King of Sodom, Bera = son of evil vs. 17, 21-24

Temptations: Self sufficiency, Pride, Compromise of faith, Dependence on things of this world.
I John 2:15-17

B. King of Salem, Melchizedek = king of righteousness.

- I must come to Him:
- Christ will bless me.
- I must acknowledge our Lord God Most High as possessor of all things.
- I am a steward of what God alone owns.
- I come to worship and bless His name.
- I give a tithe to Him in honor of His rule and provision for my life.

Digging Deeper

This passage presents a very interesting and difficult story. **Genesis 14:1-16** reveals a world at war. **Genesis 14:17-24** focuses on the heart of Abram, after victory, and his need to bow before the God Most High and the King of Salem, Melchizedek.

Here are some important facts all believers should know about Melchizedek. His name means King of Righteousness and he is a type of Christ. God's Word gives us pictures of the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ, in the Old Testament so we can see His divine plan that is always unfolding. Melchizedek is King of Salem, which means peace. It is believed this is the city of Jerusalem. Read **Psalms 110:4; Hebrews 7:1-17** for more understanding about Melchizedek. This is difficult to fully comprehend, but gives the student of the Bible a chance to dig deeper in the things of God.

Some Melchizedek facts all believers should know:

- He is both righteousness and peace, which is what Jesus is to us.
- Abram saw him as his spiritual superior. So Christ is our superior.
- He is both a king and priest, just as Jesus is both priest, serving us now, and coming King to rule on this earth.
- He has no recorded mother, father, nor death—picturing Christ, who is eternal as God and serving as our priest forever.
- David in Psalm 110:4 saw that Christ would be a priest forever, like Melchizedek.
- Abram was blessed by him, just as Christ came to bless us. Ephesians 1:3
- Abram worshiped by giving him his tithe. We should bring our tithe to worship and bow before our Lord Jesus Christ.

Abram was in a battle for life. This pictures our spiritual world around us now.

In **II Corinthians 10:3-7** and **Ephesians 6:1-12**, what is the nature of our warfare today?

Where do you see it in your life?

- What do you learn about God and Satan in this war from **I John 5:18-20**?
- Just as Lot was held captive, what kind of spiritual control does the enemy have over nonbelievers according to **II Corinthians 4:1-7**?
- What are we called to do in **II Corinthians 2:14-17; Ephesians 4: 7, 8**?
- Read through **Ephesians 6:13-20** and reflect on these parts of our armor. Which part do you need to put on, which are you wearing, how are you using them today? Remember prayer is part of our battle offense.

After Abram was victorious and returned with Lot, he was confronted by two kings, one evil and one righteous.

When you enjoy success and have money, what temptations come to your heart?

What does **I John 2:15-17** teach you?

Remember these five "P's" of pride that Abram would be tempted in by King of Sodom. How are you being tempted by these in your life?

- Prestige, how great others see me now.
- Position, I show others how great I am
- Power, I control my own life now and do not need to trust the Lord, as much.
- Possessions, I have money, so am less dependent, prayerful, trusting on God Most High. I think..."I will get back to you when I need you Lord. Do not ruin my fun."
- Pleasure, party time—I deserve to be happy.