

Understanding Prophecy – Part 11 – Genesis 14 – 05/27/2015

Some of the First Prophecies Fulfilled in History

We have taken a look at the beginnings of prophecy concerning Jesus in the Old Testament (Messianic prophecy). We will return to that subject as we get further in Scripture and it reappears, but we have for the time being covered the basics with relation to where we left off in Genesis chapter 12.

I. Genesis chapter 14 is one of the first fulfilled prophecies of history:

A. Back in Genesis 9:25-27, Canaan (a grandson of Noah, one of the sons of Ham) was cursed for having done something detestable to his grandfather while he was drunk and unconscious.

B. Noah cursed Canaan and his direct descendants to be servants to both Shem and Ham's descendants, and that is precisely what is happening in Genesis 14.

C. The various descendants of Canaan (Genesis 14:2) had been paying tribute to various descendants of Shem and Ham (Genesis 14:4), but then rebelled.

D. Their rebellion was squashed; not only were the descendants of Ham defeated (Genesis 14:10+11), but the descendants of Shem and Ham conquered other peoples "on their way" (Genesis 14:5-7) as well.

II. From this prophetically-fulfilled conflict, there was a casualty of war, Lot and his family (Genesis 14:12).

A. Abram was warned back in Genesis 12:1 NOT to take any members of his family with him but he ended up taking Lot (Genesis 12:4). Lot would be nothing but trouble for Abram, and this situation in Genesis 14 was no different.

B. God had warned Abram not to take any of his family with him because God already knew they would be nothing but trouble:

1) Abram also had took his father originally (Genesis 11:31+32), who was a moon-worshipper (Joshua 24:2), and this caused him many years delay when God did not speak to Abram as a result. "Terah", in Hebrew, means "delay", so sometimes the very names of Bible characters are prophetic!

2) Through Terah and Lot, Satan was trying to create situations where Abram would either lose favor with God, or Abram would return to moon-worship with his father, or possibly be killed in a battle to get Lot back.

C. In Genesis 14:13-16, Abram engineers Lot's rescue and succeeds in it. However, what great risk Abram took! In his seed was the seed of Messiah, and for a

troublesome nephew God had told him to leave behind to begin with, Abraham was going to risk his own life, and thus the lineage of Christ!

1) Abram's life teaches us, especially in this moment, that what we might view as a minor disobedience in the beginning, can become life-threatening and potentially damaging beyond our wildest imaginations when Satan gets a hold of our sin!

2) Lot's existence would never prove profitable for Abraham. He was always trouble. Lot's choice to settle in Sodom (Genesis 13:10-12) is what got him and all his family nearly killed this time around, and then he had the audacity after that *to move into Sodom itself!* (Genesis 19:1-3)

3) The fact that Satan did not succeed with getting Abraham killed with the utility of Lot's constant foibles and trouble shows God's GREAT patience with men!

III. Genesis 14:17 and verses 21-24 show how Abram's intervention in this conflict actually preserved Sodom from destruction at this time in history.

A. The King of Sodom comes out to meet Abram in Genesis 14:17 to gift to him the spoils of war (Genesis 14:21) in gratitude for saving him from destruction which seemed very certain in the original battle (Genesis 14:10).

B. Abram's defeat of the King of Chedorlaomer was simply a side effect of rescuing Lot but it also meant the preservation of Sodom (Genesis 14:17).

C. Therefore, Lot's pairing with Abraham, then choosing to live near Sodom (and then *in Sodom!*), combined with Abram's rescue – none of which were part of God's original plan – meant that God had to then intervene to destroy Sodom Himself later on in Genesis 19.

1) Had Lot never come along, and thus never moved near or in Sodom to begin with, Sodom's destruction would have been from their rebellion against their prophetic masters, and would have spared Lot's daughters from their trauma (Genesis 19:8), and thus likely their motivation to sin with and against their father (Genesis 19:30-38).

2) So although God worked around Abram's sin and Lot's stupidity, their unfaithful choices caused more problems down the road, and more work on God's part, and a delay of the coming Messiah altogether!

3) May we realize that "our little sins" are always going to be giant opportunities for Satan down the road!