

“Melchizedek, King of Salem – Part 1” Genesis 14:1-24

FOUR KINGS AGAINST FIVE. v.1-12

1. The political/military setting in Abram’s day.

- Canaan was occupied by a number of city-states or regional kingdoms.
- Often one or more of these city-states dominated others through warfare, treaties, trade, and/or threats.

2. A coalition of 4 kings made war against a coalition of 5 kings. v.1-4

TEAM A: Kings of the Euphrates River area

Amraphel, king of Shinar
Arioch, king of Ellasar
*Chedorlaomer, king of Elam vs.
Tidal, king of Goiim

TEAM B: Kings of the Dead Sea Region

Bera, king of Sodom
Birsha, king of Gomorrah
Shinab, king of Admah
Shemeber, king of Zeboiim
The king of Bela (the city of Zoar)

- Team B had served Chedorlaomer for 12 years but rebelled against him in the 13th year. v.4

3. Team B (the kingdoms of the Dead Sea Region) failed in their rebellion against Team A. v.5-12

- In the 14th year, Team A began a successful military campaign from north to south in Canaan. v.5-7
- Team A eventually met Team B on the field of battle in the Valley of Siddim. v.8-9, 3
- As Team B retreated, some from the kingdoms of Sodom and Gomorrah fell into bitumen pits. v.10
- Chedorlaomer took plunder and people—including Abram’s nephew Lot, now living in Sodom. v.11-12

ABRAM DEFENDS THE LAND AND HIS FAMILY. v.13-16

1. Abram received word of what happened. v.13

2. Abram led a group of men to go and rescue Lot. v.14

- The text is showing us Abram’s growing influence in the region.
- The text is also showing us that Abram was prepared to defend his family and the land. (People & Place)
-Abram had weapons and was equipped and ready for battle.
-The men in his household/under his influence were trained in self-defense.

3. Abram defeated them in battle and brought back Lot, his possessions, and the other people. v.15-16

- God blesses those who bless Abram and destroys those who threaten him. Ref. Gen. 12:1-3
 - Abram “led forth” the men of his household—and took responsibility to protect and defend God’s promise.
- Donald Grey Barnhouse: “The man of faith is a realist, not a passive coward, or one incapable of leadership. When the crisis comes, he draws new strength from God and pursues to victory.”
- Jeremiah 48:10: Cursed is he who does the work of the Lord with slackness, and cursed is he who keeps back his sword from bloodshed.

TWO KINGS & ABRAM’S CHOICE. v.17-24

1. Two kings greet Abram after his victorious return: the king of Sodom & Melchizedek, king of Salem.

- A compare & contrast scenario: the king of Sodom (v.17, 21-24) and Melchizedek (v.18-20)

2. Melchizedek, king of Salem. v.18-20

- Melchizedek = “king of righteousness” was the king of Salem = “peace” (‘shalom’)
- He was priest of God Most High = Heb. *EI Elyon*
- Melchizedek blessed Abram (v.19) and blessed God Most High (v.20).
- Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth (“tithe”) of everything. → Melchizedek is a “type” of Christ (next week)

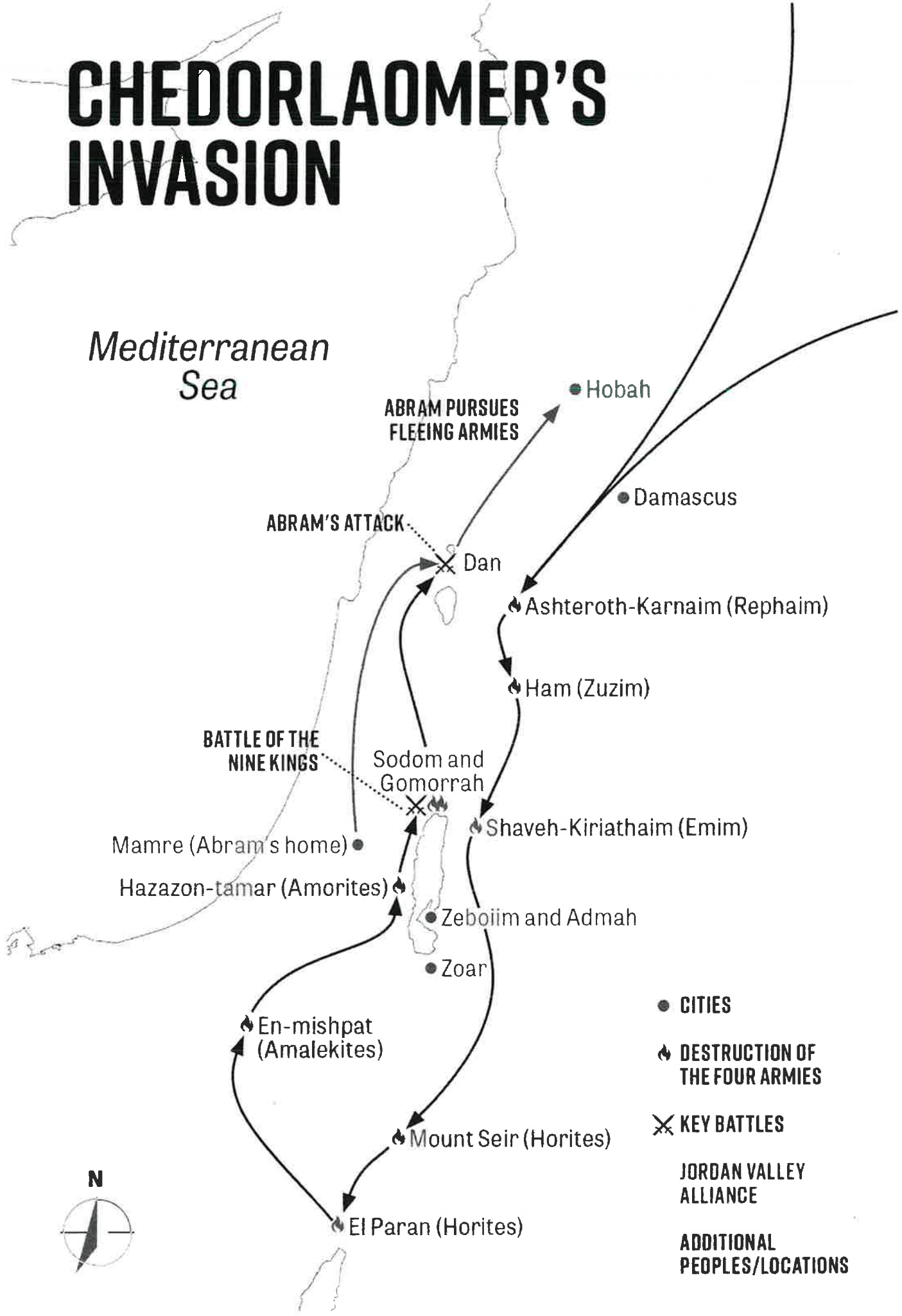
3. The king of Sodom. v.21-24

- Give me the people (rescued by Abram) and you keep the possessions. v.21
- Abram refuses the offer of Sodom’s king. v.22-24 → WHY?
- “I have lifted up my hand” = I have taken a solemn oath → Hebrew: in the present (at that moment)
-“...to the LORD, God Most High...” = His God (the LORD, *Yahweh*) IS God Most High (*EI Elyon*)
-“...Possessor of heaven and earth...” = the One who created & owns everything

Abram’s choice—and ours...

Consider Jesus... His life and temptations (Matthew 4:8-10)...on the cross...at the Table.

CHEDORLAOMER'S INVASION



Mediterranean Sea

ABRAM PURSUES FLEEING ARMIES

ABRAM'S ATTACK

BATTLE OF THE NINE KINGS

Sodom and Gomorrah

Mamre (Abram's home)

Hazazon-tamar (Amorites)

Zeboiim and Admah

Zoar

En-mishpat (Amalekites)

Mount Seir (Horites)

El Paran (Horites)

Hobah

Damascus

Ashteroth-Karnaim (Rephaim)

Ham (Zuzim)

Shaveh-Kiriathaim (Emim)

● CITIES

🔥 DESTRUCTION OF THE FOUR ARMIES

✕ KEY BATTLES

JORDAN VALLEY ALLIANCE

ADDITIONAL PEOPLES/LOCATIONS

