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ABRAHAM – PART 14
ABRAM AT WAR

Twelve years the Canaanites had paid homage in subservience to the Babylonian King Chedorlaomer. They rebelled in year thirteen. They were then invaded once again by Babylon in the fourteenth year.

Four Babylonian kings, Arioch, Amraphel, and Tidal, led by Chedorlaomer invaded Canaan and all the land around the Jordan River. They defeated the Rephaims, the Zuzims, The Emims, the Horites, The Amalekites, and the Amorites. After defeating these six groups, they set their sights to invade the Plain of Jordan with its five cities, Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboiim, and Zoar.

A confederate army of these five cities went out to meet the Babylonians in war to defend their cities. The Babylonian army thoroughly routed them as they became entrapped in an area of slime pits. Some of them escaped into the mountains to hide.

Four Babylonian kings proceeded to take the inhabitants of these five defeated cities along with all their herds and everything of any value, the spoils of war. A survivor fled to the Plain of Mamre where he found Abram and told him what had happened. Abram heard that his nephew Lot had been taken prisoner. He knew he had to rescue Lot. He must go to war against the kings of Babylon.

Fortunately, God had blessed Abram with great wealth and many servants, probably over a thousand of them, not counting the children. He was able to muster 318 of his own men who were of an age capable of fighting. Mamre and his two brothers, Eshcol and Aner, also added some men of their own. With this small army, Abram pursued the invaders who were by now in the more northern part of Canaan.

When Abram caught up to them, he pulled a surprise attack at night and routed the Babylonians. As they fled, Abram continued to pursue them all the way into Damascus, Syria. He utterly defeated them and took all the spoil they had taken from the eleven defeated cities. He was able to bring back Lot and all of his goods, and all the people that had been taken from the cities.

The King of Sodom, who had escaped, came out to meet Abram and he said just return my people to me and keep all the spoil for yourself. Abram said that in honor of his God, Yahweh, he would not take any spoil. Only Mamre, Aner, and Eshcol would take their portion of it and Abram's portion would be returned to the five kings that had previously been defeated.

Abram's testimony of honor to ***"the LORD (YAHWEH), the Most High God, the possessor of heaven and earth."*** (Genesis 14:22) clearly let the King of Sodom know who it really was that brought the victory. But did it do Sodom any good? Stay tuned to find out.