



GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING



HOW TO LIVE A SEPARATE, NOT DESPERATE, LIFE

GENESIS 14

GENESIS: THE FOUNDATION FOR EVERYTHING

Abram is learning to live a holy/separate (depending on the Lord) life, and not a sinful/desperate (depending on self) life.

This is a life of trust, and Abram's trust is based in three expressions of God's goodness.

## I. Trust in God's Promises (Genesis 14:1-12)

A response of faith brings godly perspective and peace.

Three threats which most terrified the people of the ancient world:

- famine
- disease
- invading armies

## I. Trust in God's Promises (Genesis 14:1-12)

The *Emim* and *Zuzim* were said to be great, many, and very tall or giants (from Deut. 2)

*Rephaim* meant “strong ones.”

*Zuzim* meant “powerful ones.”

*Emim* meant “terrible ones.”

## I. Trust in God's Promises (Genesis 14:1-12)

God guides the affairs of kings and men according to His wisdom and purposes.

*"The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes."* (Prov. 21:1)

*"There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the Lord. The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord."*  
(Prov. 21:30-31)

*"The Lord has made everything for its own purpose, even the wicked for the day of evil."* (Prov. 16:4)

## I. Trust in God's Promises (Genesis 14:1-12)

As we learn to trust the Lord and to respond to Him in faith, we benefit from God's truthful perspective on the issues of our lives, just as Abram is now benefiting even as this war rages around him.

## II. Trust in God's Protection (Genesis 14:13-16)

A response of faith brings godly boldness and blessing.

The point is that Abram is being faithful in his walk with God, and he is living in the contentment of what God is providing.

He's living on God's timetable and within the means of God's provision (wise stewardship).

### III. Trust in God's Provision (Genesis 17-27)

A response of faith brings godly devotion and discernment.

In their world of wickedness, waste, and war, Melchizedek and Abram are two men who worship *El-Elyon*, the most high God, or God most high.

They are honoring God's sovereignty—God's loving control over His world and their lives.

Under great human odds and in the greater unlikeliness of any possible victory, God's faithfulness and power overcome those odds to God's greater glory and Abram's good.

### III. Trust in God's Provision (Genesis 17-27)

The scene is now set for what is a degrading contrast to this act of honoring the Lord. Melchizedek's godliness sets the tone for what Abram will do next.

Melchizedek is said to be "*a priest of God Most High.*"

Abram is "*Abram of God Most High.*"

The king is "*the king of Sodom.*" The meaning of this is defined in Genesis 13:13.

*"give to me..." and then, "take for yourself."*

### III. Trust in God's Provision (Genesis 17-27)

Several issues of godly discernment prevent and protect Abram from unwisely accepting this material treasure and prestige.

1. Abram is guarding his heart against pride to protect his relationship with God.
2. Abram refuses the king's offer because he recognizes that to accept would diminish God's role in Abram's victory.
3. Abram is unwilling to yoke himself to anything or anyone which would act to draw him away from the Lord or work to diminish Abram's dependence on God for all that he needs for life.
4. Abram's wise discernment keeps him focused on the truth that God will provide for his every need.

### III. Trust in God's Provision (Genesis 17-27)

*"But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil." (1 Thess. 5:21-22)*

*"Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good."*  
(Rom. 12:9)

### III. Trust in God's Provision (Genesis 17-27)

We live by this unseen line of faith at work in how we trust and obey Jesus.

As we seek to "*walk in a manner worthy of our calling in the Lord*," that unseen line is defined by "*trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord*."

*“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord and turn away from evil. It will be healing to your body and refreshment to your bones.”*

Proverbs 3:5-8

A silhouette of a person standing on a hill under a starry night sky. The sky is filled with numerous stars of varying brightness, with a dense concentration of blue and white stars in the upper half. A horizontal band of orange and yellow light, possibly a city glow or a sunset, is visible at the bottom. The silhouette of the person is centered in the lower half of the image, looking up at the stars.

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