

## Genesis 14:17-20

**<sup>17</sup> Then after his return from the defeat of Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him, the king of Sodom went out to meet him at the valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley). <sup>18</sup> And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; now he was a priest of God Most High. <sup>19</sup> And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; <sup>20</sup> And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand." And he gave him a tenth of all.**

It is important to understand a little history here, before we get into the verses. Lot, Abram's nephew, had been taken captive when the Kings of Sodom and Gomorrah refused to pay Chedorlaomer tribute. There were five kings against four. But Chedorlaomer and the three kings with him defeated the King of Sodom and the four other kings with him. After the defeat, all of the goods and food supply of Sodom and Gomorrah were taken including Lot and his possessions. When Abram heard through a fugitive about the capture of Lot, he took 318 of his trained men, born in his house, and went after his nephew. They came upon Chedorlaomer and the three other king's, with their men at night time. Abram divided his men and defeated them. Understand that no number is given here of how many men were under each king. So remember that five kings and their kingdoms could not accomplish what Abram and his 318 men did. I believe that it is imperative to remember this fact, because divine intervention played a significant role here.

So we see that Abram was met by Melchizedek upon his victorious return from the valley of Shaveh. Melchizedek brought out bread and wine to Abram and his men who I'm sure appreciated this gesture immensely. Have you ever considered why Melchizedek would even bother himself to go out and bring his own bread and wine to a nomad; one that he may have never met before? The answer to that question is in the title of Melchizedek. He was not only a king of Salem, which is ancient Jerusalem; but a priest of God Most High as well. As a priest, I am certainly confident that the Lord told Melchizedek to personally go out and meet Abram. Not only did Melchizedek meet their physical needs, but he did something spiritually, that was quite profound. He blessed Abram! God told Abram that he would bless those who blessed him, and I am confident that is exactly what Melchizedek reaped in his obedience to the Lord. In fact, Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth, or tithe of all that had been recovered.

Did Abram do this out of obligation? Absolutely not! Abram did it, because he recognized the high office of priest that Melchizedek walked in, and he did it as unto the Lord. Abram recognized that the victory which he had just won was absolutely the result of God's hand upon his life. For many believers who believe that the tithe is Old Testament only and part of the Mosaic Law; this even took place over five hundred years prior to Moses. I am convinced that when our hearts are in the right place, our actions will follow. Moses didn't need anyone to tell him the right thing to do, as a man of honor; he simply knew it and did it. What about you? Do you struggle honoring the Lord as Abram did?