**Origins (pt.2) - wk 4 – A Lot of Firsts**

**The OT is the sign to the Messiah - NT is the arrival of - JESUS.**

**Genesis to Revelation is about Jesus.**

**The first, Genesis, means “Beginning / Origin”**

**Genesis 11 – The Life of Abraham - the beginning of the way.**

**A down and outer idol worshiper whose family is falling apart is challenged by God to leave everything and follow him**

**He is given five promises – the greatest of which is that his descendants will bless the world - the family of Jesus, the Way**

**Abe starts to grow in his walk with God and has settles in Canaan.**

**Lot (with him) ends up being a thorn in his side for years to come.**

**He and his nephew split up over staff disputes. Abe lets him pick first.**

**Lot – picks the fertile plain near Sodom (known for evil)**

**Gen 13:12 Abram lived in the land of Canaan, while Lot lived among the cities of the plain and pitched his tents near Sodom. 13 Now the people of Sodom were wicked and were sinning greatly against the Lord.**

**Today a bunch of firsts… An action-packed story – could be a movie.**

**The next few verses may seem boring – but what we have here is**

**THE FIRST WAR - recorded in the Bible (World War 1)**

**4 Empire kings at war with 5 Tribal kings.**

**(11 verses serves as the setup for the story – see map) Genesis 14:1** **At the time when Amraphel was king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goyim, (4 powerful kings)**

**2 these kings went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboyim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). (5 small tribal Kings – servant of the 4) \*\* This will not be on the test.**

**Interesting – Shinar is modern Iraq / Elam is modern Iran.**

**5000 yrs ago - the first war was led by the region of Iraq & Iran. Sounds familiar. The oldest civilization still at it.**

**(map) 3 All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Dead Sea Valley). 4 For twelve years they had been subject to Kedor-laomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. (small tribal kings rebel against the empire)**

**5 In the fourteenth year, (it lasted a year) Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him went out and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim 6 and the Horites in the hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran near the desert. (aka - The Empire strikes back) 7 Then they turned back and went to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazezon Tamar. (The Empire kings laying waste the region)**

**8 Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim 9 against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar - four kings against five. (the 5 small tribal kings sick of it - rally and face the 4 kings)**

**10 Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills. (things are not going as planned – they run – some die running away) 11 The enemy seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. 12 They also carried off Abram’s nephew Lot (bum, bum, bum) and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.**

**Music swells. This is why it’s recorded. Abe’s has to get involved.**

**Remember when Lot left Abe, he settles outside Sodom (Gen 13:12) 2 yrs later living in Sodom (Gen 14:12) By (Gen 19:1) he is a judge in the city. Knowing full well the wickedness of the city & his friends**

**\*\* Last wk – we talked about the deceptive progression of sin.**

**So, the empire sweeps in plunders and plows through taking prisoners and possessions – Lot is one of them. Now what?**

**14:13 A man who had escaped came and reported this to Abram the Hebrew.**

**First time the word Hebrew is mentioned in the Bible.**

**He is no longer just a wanderer – he is Abram the Hebrew.**

**The root word of his (5th) great grandfather, Eber. They were known as the Ebers (Hebrews). Name means “other side” from the other side of the Euphrates river. The ones who wander.**

**Abe is, “The Hebrew” that is his people and his reputation.**

**Abe gets the word - Imagine he runs in out of breath… They took him! Who? - Lot! - My lot? It’s always something with this kid… He had to hang around Sodom.**

**13b Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram. (they lived in peaceful alliance in the area together) 14 When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan. (Young and ready to fight. Okay guys, new assignment)**

**(Map) 15 During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus. (two fronts - attack at night - sends them running) 16 He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.**

**Abe rallies 318 Yellowstone roughneck herders and sets out to rescue his nephew. Ready to bust some heads. With tact and skill - he does it – and rescues other people while at it!**

**This is crazy! He and his cowboys – chase off the empire!**

**With a clear strategy executes the plan – and sees lives saved.**

**The greatest battle for Abe was possibly the next. His success.**

**He had possessions and people. A miraculous victory. A great bounty. He is a hero. Who did this? Who gets the credit?**

**17 After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King’s Valley).**

**Returning with nearly a thousand people, carts full of spoils. He is riding tall and upright – we did it. We defeated the empire. First and last time he is described as a warrior.**

**Riding thru the Valley of Kings (Kidron Valley) kings come out to greet him - with crowds of people – a victory parade.**

**(Then a hotly debated and strange passage) 18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, (El ‘elyon)**

**Whoa - who is this guy – where did he come from?**

**First mention of his name, this place, and a priest of God.**

**\*\* Valley of kings - the valley between the future temple mount and the mount of olive. This place is special.**

**An important Biblical location for many events (good and bad) Near where Jesus prayed and was arrested – the location of the final battle in Rev.**

**Out comes Mel. to greet Abraham: Who is he? He just shows up.**

**18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High, (El ‘elyon) 19 and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, (El ‘elyon) Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And praise be to God Most High, (El ‘elyon) who delivered your enemies into your hand.”**

**He makes it known – the God of all creation – did this for you.**

**20b Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (This is the first tithe)**

**Mel blesses Abe – Abe gives him a tenth of everything he has.**

**Then he disappears never to appear again. What was that?**

**King of Sodom sees this display – and thinks I’m going one up Mel.**

**21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, “Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself.” (Piously- don’t give me anything - just give me my subjects)**

**22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, (El ‘elyon – first heard from Mel, I like that! Now he is repeating it – a lot) 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’ (I’m not taking a shoelace or thread from you – God is my source) 24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me - to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share.” (That was his alliance)**

**Now we see behind the curtain. We don’t when he made this oath with God. But he never went in his own power. He set out to honor the LORD and not to take advantage of the situation.**

**15:1 After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: “Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”**

**Lot takes his family and possessions right back to Sodom getting on the city’s payroll. Abe will again come to his rescue**

**Next week – God makes a promise to Abram – with a bizarre event that is rarely preached on.**

**The Cost of having a lot – Some practical Truths**

**1. Never forget where your strength and provision come form**

**Gen 14:19 and he blessed Abram, saying, “Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth. 20 And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.”**

**Abram - used his brain, his resources, and cunning – then**

**stepped out – but God was the one who did it all.**

**His best efforts were always at the hands of God will.**

**Your talents, abilities, skills, intelligence, possessions, home, family – God did that. When we start thinking we did it – we stumble with pride and a desire for more. “I did it – I’m smart..”**

**Compare: Which King do you follow?**

**King of Sodom – look what you did! You are awesome!**

**Our flesh is drawn and loves this one.**

**King of Salem – Look was God did! God is awesome!**

**Our Spirit in Christ love this one.**

**2. Success is not built on the efforts of self or others – but the LORD!**

**Gen 14:22 But Abram said to the king of Sodom, “With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, 23 that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal, so that you will never be able to say, ‘I made Abram rich.’**

**I will not act, talk, take, or relish in the world’s offerings.**

**I will serve the Lord in my work and deals. God gets the glory!**

**With my business and earnings, I want people to see the LORD**

**3. Sin is not an ally**

**Abe was offered to take the spoils of Sodom – along with it came the reputation of Sodom – but he wanted nothing to do with their wicked way.**

**There comes a time when we must part ways with sin and its reputation. Not a thread – not a stitch – not a shoelace.**

**I will not take the world's approach – in my actions, my words, my attitude, my activities - I don’t any part of it.**

**The world & the flesh says here take it you deserve it.**

**Abe had a definitive stance. Are you ready to say no to sin?**

**Sadly, some are like Lot – He knows God’s goodness and has been rescued by God more than once and still returns to his old life.**

**Prov 26:11 - Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.**

**Lot – near, in, and then with Sodom. Always playing with sin.**

**Abe – I don’t want your fingerprints on my life.**

**4. We can’t force people to follow the LORD.**

**Gen 14:24 I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me - to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share.”**

**To his non-believing allies, keep what you want - but I don’t want it.**

**He respects their work but wants nothing to do with Sodom.**

**Whether it was to Lot or his friends he modeled devotion to the LORD, but never forced them to live like him.**

**They can have it; I will speak it and live it - God work on their heart.**

The Mystery Man **– Some Eternal Truths**

**Gen 14:18 Then Melchizedek, king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High…**

**Who is this guy – where did he come from?**

**\*\* Introduced with no genealogy- Abram the Hebrew, family of Eber.**

**\*\* Melchizedek means - king (Melek) of righteousness.**

**\*\* Salem means peace - He is the king of peace.**

**\*\* Salem is later Jerusalem - He is the first king of Jeru-salem.**

**\*\* He is a king and a priest of God Most high (the supreme)**

**First use of that title for God. First priest of God ever mentioned - He is the King of peace, king of righteousness, and priest & mediator of God Most High!**

**!!There are no priests yet – won’t be for another eight generations!!**

**He is a genuine priest/King of the God of Israel before Israel exists.**

**\*\* Bringing bread & wine- with communion in his hands. Body/ blood**

**Who is this guy??? You expect a DeLorean to pull up - and this guy jumps out and says – I’m from the future.**

**To top it off Moses it is writing about this story in the Torah where he later says God forbids kings to be priests. What is going on?**

**4 possibilities: 1) A Christophany, 2) A literal local king whose life happens to point to the coming king Jesus, 3) A mysterious vision, or 4) a writing technic of Moses to foreshadow the law of God.**

**We don’t know – but he is a representative of God most high and points clearly to Jesus. Mentioned throughout OT and NT.**

**Moses is being clear – Abraham encountered YHVH**

**Abraham and Melchizedek give us a glimpse into the coming Messiah.**

**1. Jesus is the eternal royal priest and king!**

**Most exhaustive discussion on Mel is in the Book of Eber – Hebrews**

**NT - Hebrews 5-10 (7 whole chaps unpack this)**

**Heb 7:3 Without father or mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever. / 17 For it is declared: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” 24 …but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. 25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.**

**Jesus alone is the mediator of God to man – thru the cross!**

**2. Jesus the eternal royal king, deserves our first and best!**

**Gen 14:20b Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything. (the first tithe)**

**400 years before God instructs 10% to be given to the priests**

**Long before the temple, priests, Jerusalem, and the tithe. This is not an issue of the law; this is an issue of honor & worship.**

**The tenth is known as the Tithe – the first and best / it is an act of surrender and devotion to God. A very real action of trust in the LORD and provision for his kingdom. God all I have is yours.**

**This is not just about our resources, this is about ourself. God does not want our leftovers – he was out first and best.**

**(David mentions Mel. in what became Jesus favorite Psalm - about the Messiah)**

**Psalm 110:1 The LORD (YHVH) says to my Lord: (Adonai) “Sit at my right hand until (while) I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.” (most quoted in NT)**

**2 The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion, saying, “Rule in the midst of your enemies!” 3 Your troops will be willing on your day of battle. Arrayed in holy splendor, your young men will come to you like dew from the morning’s womb. (His armies will be strong, powerful, and ready)**

**4 The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: “You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.” 5 The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. 6 He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth. 7 He will drink from a brook along the way, and so he will lift his head high. (A glorious refreshing exalting event)**

**Psalm 110 describes the Messiah as:**

* **A priest – who makes provision for sin forever (the Cross)**
* **A king- who rules as eternal sovereign ruler of all (the resurrection)**
* **A judge – who judges the nations - everyone. (righteous wrath)**
* **A warrior - who will conquer all the enemies of God. (bring peace)**

**3. Jesus the eternal royal king and priest is coming back!**

**You will be either a recipient of his judgment or his grace.**

**You can know him today**