

Read Genesis 14:1-16

The first twelve verses of this chapter may be summarized as follows:

This is the story of a war. This is the first war mentioned in the Bible—the first specific account of a military engagement. The war was between two blocks of nations. the four kings of the east (14:2) and the five southern kings, which included the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah (14:2).

For twelve years the four eastern kings had ruled over the five southern kings (v. 4). There was a road that ran between Egypt and the four eastern kingdoms. It was called the “way of the kings. It was the road that everyone used to carry on trade and sell their goods. The four eastern kings controlled that road and made everyone pay to use it. The five southern kings were tired of having to pay to use the road so they refused to pay. But the four eastern kings could not let anyone get away without paying because they needed the money. So, they decided to fight and they went to war.

Fast forward...The end result was Sodom and Gomorrah were sacked. Everything and everyone that could be carried off was. The four kings conquered the five kings and retained control of the trade route.

11 The four kings 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 and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.

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

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.

15 During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.

16 He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.

When Sodom and Gomorrah were captured, who was captured with them (v. 12)? Lot and his family (v. 16).

When Abram heard that Lot had been captured, what did he do (v. 14)? He got his army together (all 318 of them!) and chased after the bad guys who had kidnapped Lot.

Who was Abram fighting against? The armies of the four eastern kings -- probably thousands of men.

What did Abram do when he caught up with the bad guys (v. 15)? He attacked them at night and they ran away.

What was the end result (v. 16)? He got Lot and his family back and all his belongings.

What does this tell us about Abram? He loved Lot. He trusted God for victory. He was very brave.