

Read Genesis 14:17-24

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).

18 Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High,

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." Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.

21 The king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself."

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.'

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."

When Abram returned home from rescuing Lot, who came out to meet him (v. 17)? The king of Sodom

Who else came out to meet Abram (v. 18)? Melchizedek

What do we know about Melchizedek? He was both the king of Salem and a priest of God. No one else has ever been both a king and a priest. This is the only time he appears in the Bible.

What did Melchizedek do (v. 19)? He blessed Abram.

How did Abram respond to Melchizedek's blessing (v. 20)? He gave him a tenth of everything he had captured. This is the first example of tithing in the Bible.

What did the king of Sodom offer Abram (v. 21)? You can keep the stuff you captured, just give me the people you brought home. The king of Sodom didn't believe in God. He wasn't a nice man.

How did Abram answer his offer (vv. 22-23)? There is no way I will give you anything!

Why did Abram answer this way (v. 23)? Because Abram knew that the king of Sodom would say that Abram made him rich. He knew the king of Sodom wanted to be friends and he didn't want the people to think they were friends. The king of Sodom was a deceiver.

What did Abram accept from the king of Sodom (v. 24)? The food that his men had eaten and whatever they deserved from the stuff that they had helped capture.