

1. Success is a harder test than prosperity.

In the days of Amraphel king of Shiner, Arioch king of Ellasar, Chedorlaomer king of Elam, and Tidal king of Goiim, these kings made war with Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar). And all these joined forces in the Valley of Siddim (that is, the Salt Sea). Twelve years they had served Chedorlaomer, but in the thirteenth year they rebelled. Genesis 14:1–4 (ESV)

1. Amraphel king of Sinar is from Iraq.
2. Arioch king of Ellsar comes from Syria.
3. Chedorlaomer king of Elam comes from Iran.
4. Tidal king of Goiims comes from Turkey.

1. The king of Sodom is named Bera. Bera means evil.
 2. The king of Gomorrah is named Birsha. Birsha means wicked.
- There is nothing new under the sun. People are looking for strength in alliances rather than God.
 - This isn't going to be a fair fight.

In the fourteenth year Chedorlaomer and the kings who were with him came and defeated the Rephaim in Ashteroth-karnaim, the Zuzim in Ham, the Emim in Shaveh-kiriathaim, and the Hornites in their hill country of Seir as far as El-paran on the border of the wilderness. Then they turned back and came to En-mishpat (that is, Kadesh) and defeated all the country of the Amalekites, and also the Amorites who were dwelling in Hazazon-tamar. Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboiim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) went out, and they joined battle in the Valley of Siddim with Chedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goiim, Amraphel king of Shiner, and

Arioch king of Ellasar, four kings against five. Now the Valley of Siddim was full of bitumen pits, and as the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some fell into them, and the rest fled to the hill country. So the enemy took all the possessions of Sodom and Gomorrah, and all their provisions, and went their way. Genesis 14:5–11 (ESV)

They also took Lot, the son of Abram's brother, who was dwelling in Sodom, and his possessions, and went their way. Genesis 14:12 (ESV)

Then one who had escaped came and told Abram the Hebrew, who was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and of Aner. These were allies of Abram. When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan. And he divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. Then he brought back all the possessions, and also brought back his kinsman Lot with his possessions, and the women and the people. Genesis 14:13–16 (ESV)

- Abram worked with people that didn't know God, so can I.
- Abram had a plan.
- Christians can go to war.

Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. Romans 13:2 (ESV)

for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. Romans 13:4 (ESV)

2. How can I handle success without it destroying me?

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). And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.) And he blessed him and said, "Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; and blessed be God Most High, who has delivered your enemies into your hand!" And Abram gave him a tenth of everything. And the king of Sodom said to Abram, "Give me the persons, but take the goods for yourself." But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have

lifted my hand to the Lord, God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, 'I have made Abram rich.' I will take nothing but what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me. Let Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre take their share." Genesis 14:17–24 (ESV)

1. Let Success Make God **Bigger** — Melchizedek

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:6–8 (ESV)

2. Be careful of success making **me bigger** — Bera, king of Sodom

- Make a decision on how to handle temptation **before** you face it.
- Don't impose your Christian convictions on others that don't know **Jesus**.

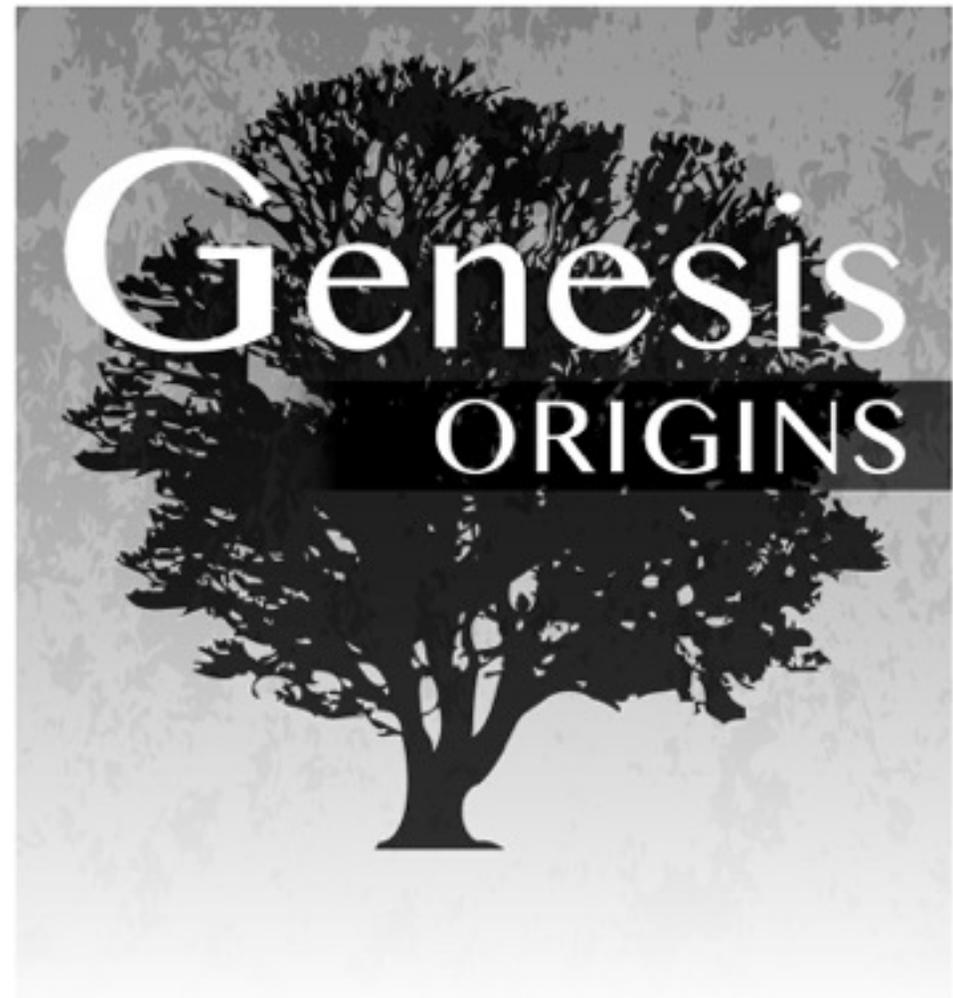
3. What is the difference between **passive** and **active** faith?

1. **Passive** Faith - Genesis 12

2. **Active** Faith - Genesis 13

Don't let success make me bigger. Let success increase my worship, thanks and giving to Jesus, the giver of all good things

January 17 — [Genesis 15 - The Original Promise Keeper](#)
January 24 — [Genesis 16 - When should I ignore my wife?](#)



Genesis 14 — Success



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