

A cosmic background featuring a view of Earth from space, with the Moon in the upper center. The scene is filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy, set against a deep blue and purple color palette.

THE BOOK OF
GENESIS

THE WAR OF FLESH vs. SPIRIT

GENESIS 14:1-16

Remember, above all else, the Bible is the history of redemption: God saving man from himself!

1. ABRAHAM THE WARRING WATCHMAN

- This section records the first war mentioned in the Bible; likely, it would not be included here had it not involved Abraham, the progenitor of the Messiah.
- What is written here helps us understand how God worked out His great plan of salvation in spite of the failures and faults of Lot and Abraham.

LOT WAS ILL-PREPARED FOR WAR

Ezekiel 16:49-50 says the lifestyle of the people of Sodom did not prepare them for war—it was too easy.

Lot and his people focused on earth; believers focus on God and heaven! **1 John 2:15-17**

- Lot was carnal—he loved the world and its pleasures (**2 Peter 2:6-8**). Where did he fail?
- While in Egypt with Abraham, Lot had gotten a taste of the world and enjoyed it; and he got spanked because he conformed. **Rom. 12:2; Prov. 3:11-12**

ON THE FLIP SIDE

2. ABRAHAM WAS A WISE WARRIOR v. 13-16

- Abraham had an attitude: righteous indignation.
- Abraham was separated, but not isolated; he was independent, but not indifferent to the world around him.
- He was a “pilgrim and stranger” in the land, but that was no excuse for inaction—sitting on his hands and saying, “I told you so, Lot.”

SOME WISE WAYS TO WAGE WAR

- **We must not compromise** with the unsaved in matters of spiritual walk and ministry (**2 Cor. 6:14-7:1**), but we may cooperate when it comes to caring for humanity and **“promoting the general welfare.”**
- Sacrificial service is one way of showing the love of Christ to others. **Matt. 5:16**
- Lot was his “brother” (**Gen. 14:16**), so Abraham practiced brotherly love and overcame evil with good. **Gal. 6:1-2**

ABRAHAM'S AWESOME ARMY

- 1.** They were born in his house.
- 2.** They were well armed.
- 3.** They were well trained.
- 4.** They believed in their leader.
- 5.** They were united as one.
- 6.** They were single-minded of purpose.
- 7.** They lived to do God's will.

THE RESULTS

The Spirit wins. Abraham and his allies were so strong that they chased the enemy for 100 miles, freed all the captives, and recovered all the spoils.

- The goodness of God should have led Lot to repentance (**Luke 15:14-19; Rom. 2:4**), but instead of repenting, Lot returned to Sodom.
- ***Don't do it! Turn around!*** When God spares you, make it the last time He has to fetch you out of Sodom! Don't get into heaven smoking! **1 Cor. 3:15**