



# Melchizedek – Part 2

Unpacking the components of the Melchizedek order

וּפֶן־תִּשָּׂא עֵינֶיךָ הַשָּׁמַיְמָה<sup>a</sup> וְרָאִיתָ אֶת־הַשָּׁמֶשׁ

וְאֶת־הַיָּרֵחַ וְאֶת־הַכּוֹכָבִים כֹּל צָבָא הַשָּׁמַיִם

וְנִדְחָתָ וְהִשְׁתַּחֲוִיתָ לָהֶם וְעַבַּדְתָּם אֲשֶׁר חָלַק

יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ אִתָּם לְכֹל־הָעַמִּים תַּחַת

כָּל־הַשָּׁמַיִם:

וְאַתְּכֶם לִקַּח יְהוָה<sup>a</sup> וַיּוֹצֵא אֶתְכֶם מִכּוּר

הַבְּרָזָל מִמִּצְרַיִם לִהְיוֹת לוֹ לְעַם נַחֲלָה בַיּוֹם

הַזֶּה:

the earth. <sup>19</sup> And beware lest you raise your eyes to heaven, and when you see <sup>a</sup>the sun and the moon and the stars, <sup>b</sup>all the host of heaven, you be drawn away and bow down to them and serve them, things that the LORD your God has allotted to all the peoples under the whole heaven. <sup>20</sup> But the LORD has taken you and <sup>c</sup>brought you out of the iron furnace, out of Egypt, <sup>d</sup>to be a people of his own inheritance, as you are this day. <sup>21</sup> Furthermore, <sup>e</sup>the LORD was angry with me because of you, and he swore that I should not cross the Jordan, and that I should not enter the good land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance. <sup>22</sup> For I must die in this land; <sup>f</sup>I must not go over the Jordan. But you shall go over and take possession of <sup>g</sup>that good land. <sup>23</sup> <sup>h</sup>Take care, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and <sup>i</sup>make a carved image, the form of anything that the LORD your God has forbidden you. <sup>24</sup> For <sup>j</sup>the LORD your God is a consuming fire, <sup>k</sup>a jealous God.

<sup>25</sup> "When you father children and children's children, and have



גִּפְרִית וּמֶלַח שְׂרָפָה כָּל־אֶרֶץ<sup>a</sup> לֹא תִזְרַע<sup>a</sup>  
 וְלֹא תִצְמַח וְלֹא־יַעֲלֶה בָּהּ כָּל־עֵשֶׂב כְּמִהְפַּכֶּת  
 סֶדֶם וַעֲמֹרָה אֲדָמָה וְצִבְיִים<sup>b</sup> אֲשֶׁר הִפִּךְ יְהוָה  
 בְּאִפּוֹ וּבְחִמָּתוֹ:

וְאָמְרוּ כָּל־הַגּוֹיִם עַל־מָה עָשָׂה יְהוָה כֹּכָה  
 לָאָרֶץ הַזֹּאת מֵהָ<sup>a</sup> חֲרִי הָאֵף הַגָּדוֹל הַזֶּה:  
 וְאָמְרוּ עַל אֲשֶׁר עָזְבוּ אֶת־בְּרִית יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי  
 אֲבֹתָם אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת עִמָּם בְּהוֹצִיאוֹ אֹתָם מֵאֶרֶץ

the sicknesses with which the LORD has made it sick— <sup>23</sup>the whole land burned out with brimstone and <sup>z</sup>salt, nothing sown and nothing growing, where no plant can sprout, <sup>a</sup>an overthrow like that of Sodom and Gomorrah, <sup>b</sup>Admah, and Zeboiim, which the LORD overthrew in his anger and wrath— <sup>24</sup>all the nations <sup>c</sup>will say, <sup>d</sup>‘Why has the LORD done thus to this land? What caused the heat of this great anger?’ <sup>25</sup>Then people will say, ‘It is because they abandoned the covenant of the LORD, the God of their fathers, which he made with them when he brought them out of the land of Egypt, <sup>26</sup>and went and served other gods and worshiped them, gods whom they had not known and whom he had not allotted to them. <sup>27</sup>Therefore the anger of the LORD was kindled against this land, <sup>e</sup>bringing upon it all the curses written in this book, <sup>28</sup>and the LORD <sup>f</sup>uprooted them from their land in anger and fury and great wrath, and <sup>g</sup>cast them into another land, as they are this day.’

אֵל; noun, common, feminine, plural, construct; Strong's Hebrew #1

<sup>29</sup> The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the

## Review: Abraham

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- Descendant of Shem
- Form Ur
- Father – Terah
- Terah died in Haran
- Abraham went to Egypt
- Expelled from Egypt because of deception
- Separated from Lot



Great Nation  
Great Man  
Bless Others  
Protection  
Blessing  
Descendants  
Land Possession

The Promise → Christ

## **Abram = the “Hebrew”**

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A. One beyond the river (Euphrates)

B. Descendant of Eber

C. A moving tribe

- The hand of the Lord and surprise = victory



# God's covenant with Abraham

- Abram is **called out** from his kindred to go to Canaan, God promises that land to his children. (Genesis 12:1-3- make you a great nation, bless you)
- Genesis 13-Separation from Lot. God promises Abram the land v 14-17
- Genesis 14 – The great war, Melchizedek line passed on to Abram
- **Covenant with Abram** (Gen 15 v1)...Visual proof, stars in the sky...Abram believed God (**acceptance**), this counted to him as righteousness. God says you will inherit the land, Abram asks how will I know this.... Deep sleep revelation...sacrifice...**blood ratified ...**Infinity, One sided covenant,, death penalty....circumcision (token between God and Abraham) and covenant sealing meal Gen:18
- Visual proof...v8 sacrifice...Abram shown the future of his offspring...
- Covenant sealing meal by the Oaks of Mamre – Genesis 18



# MELCHIZEDEK

A BIBLICAL AND HISTORICAL PROFILE

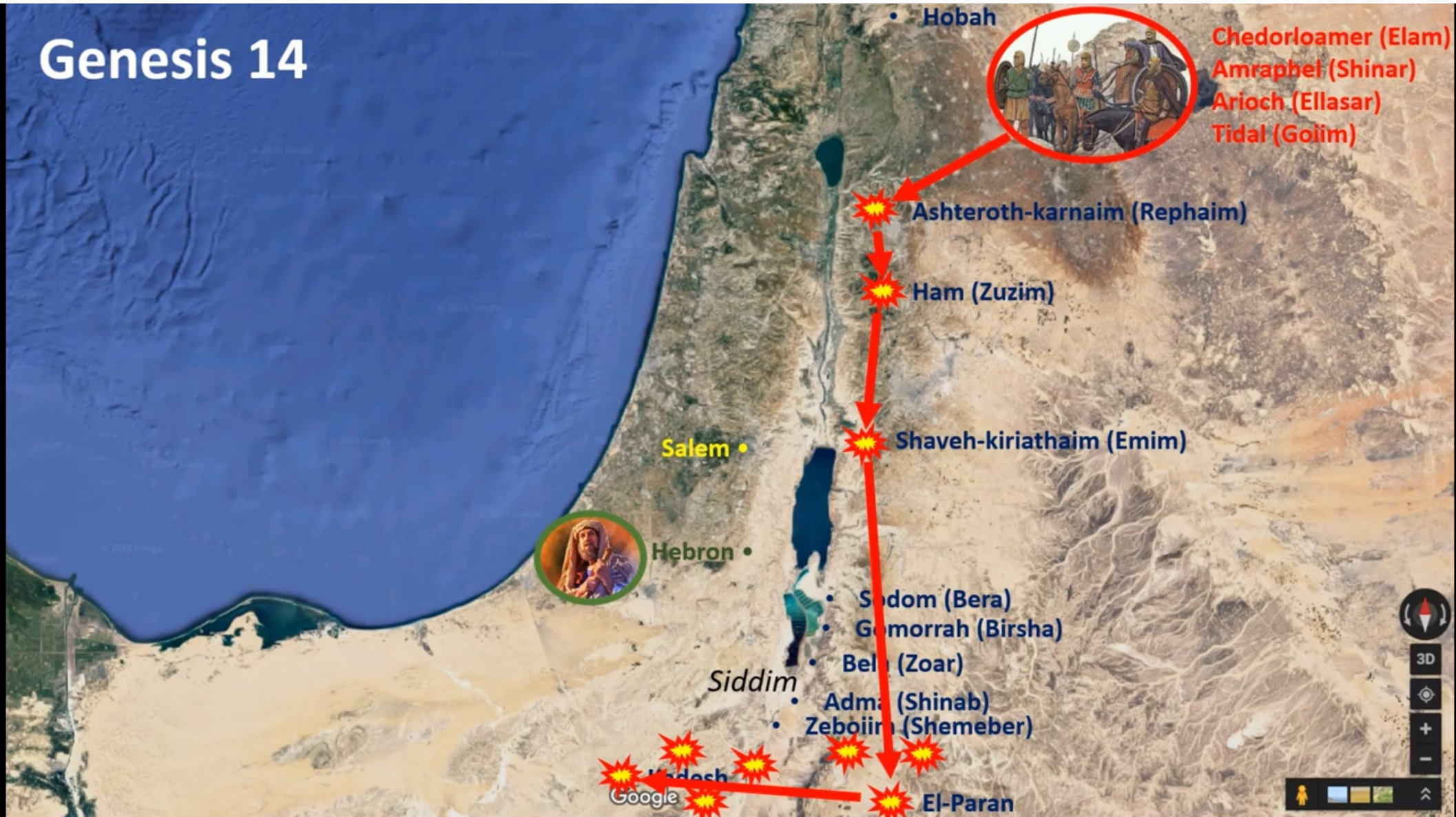


# Genesis 14



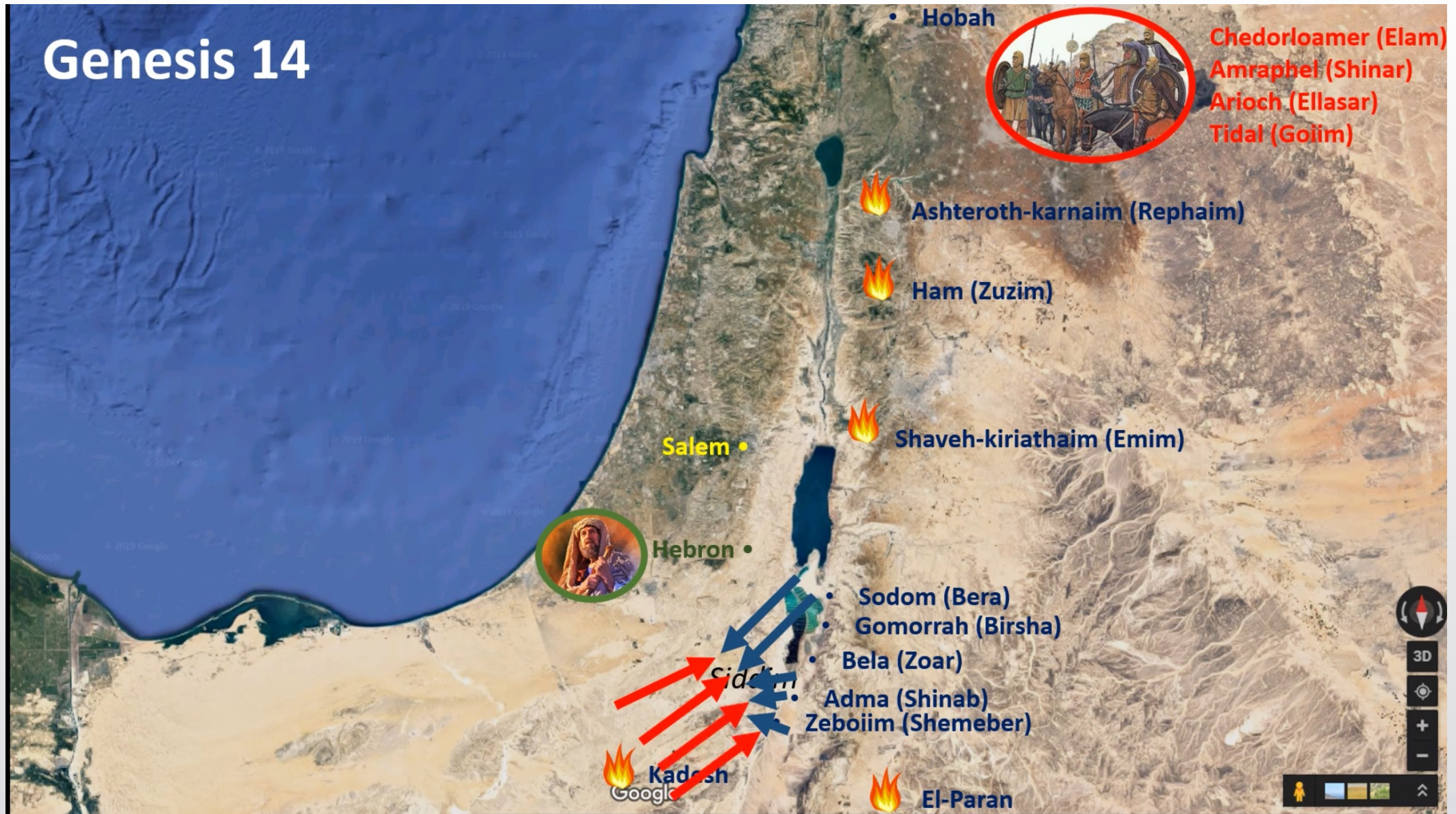


# Genesis 14



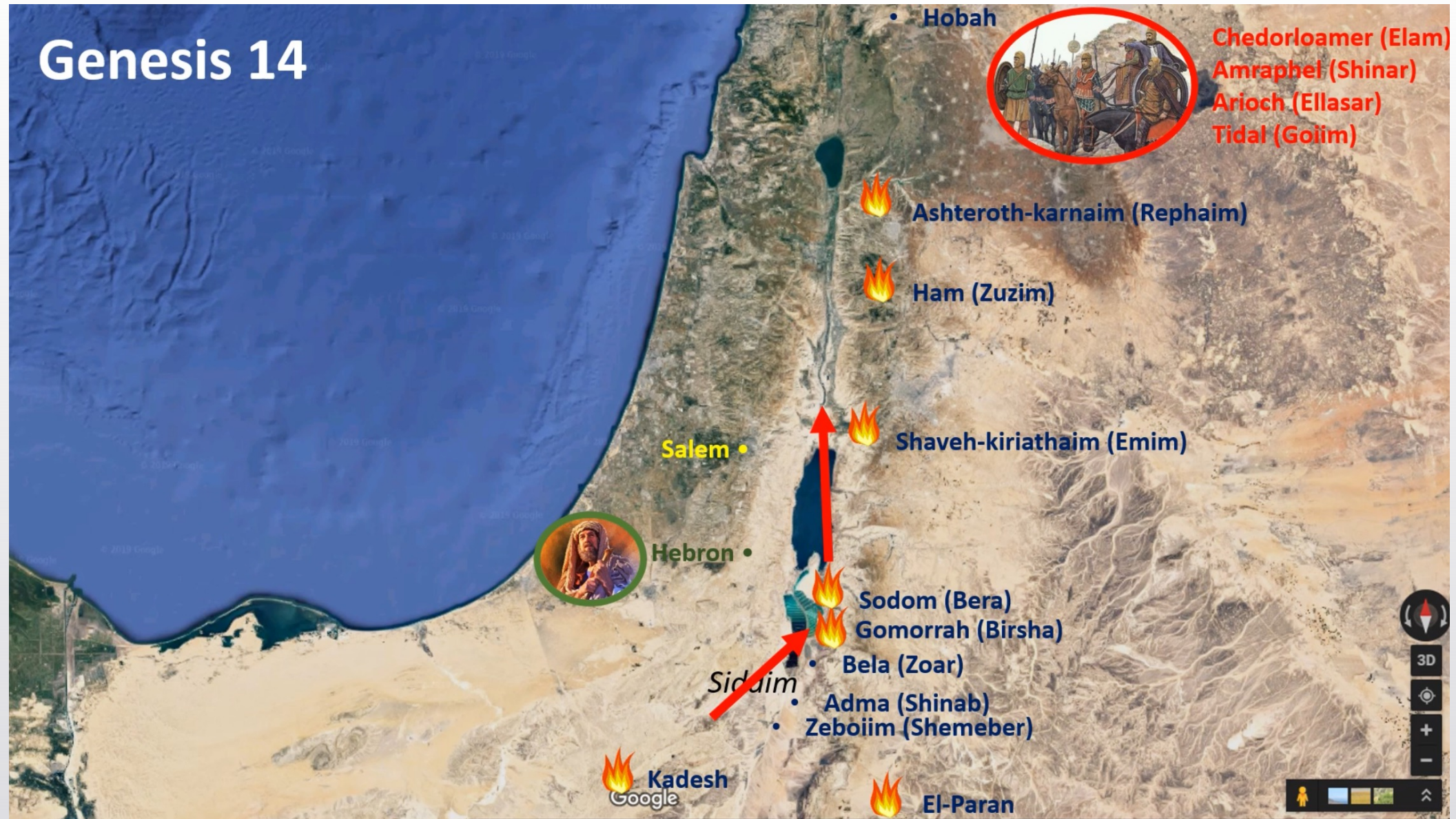


# Genesis 14





# Genesis 14



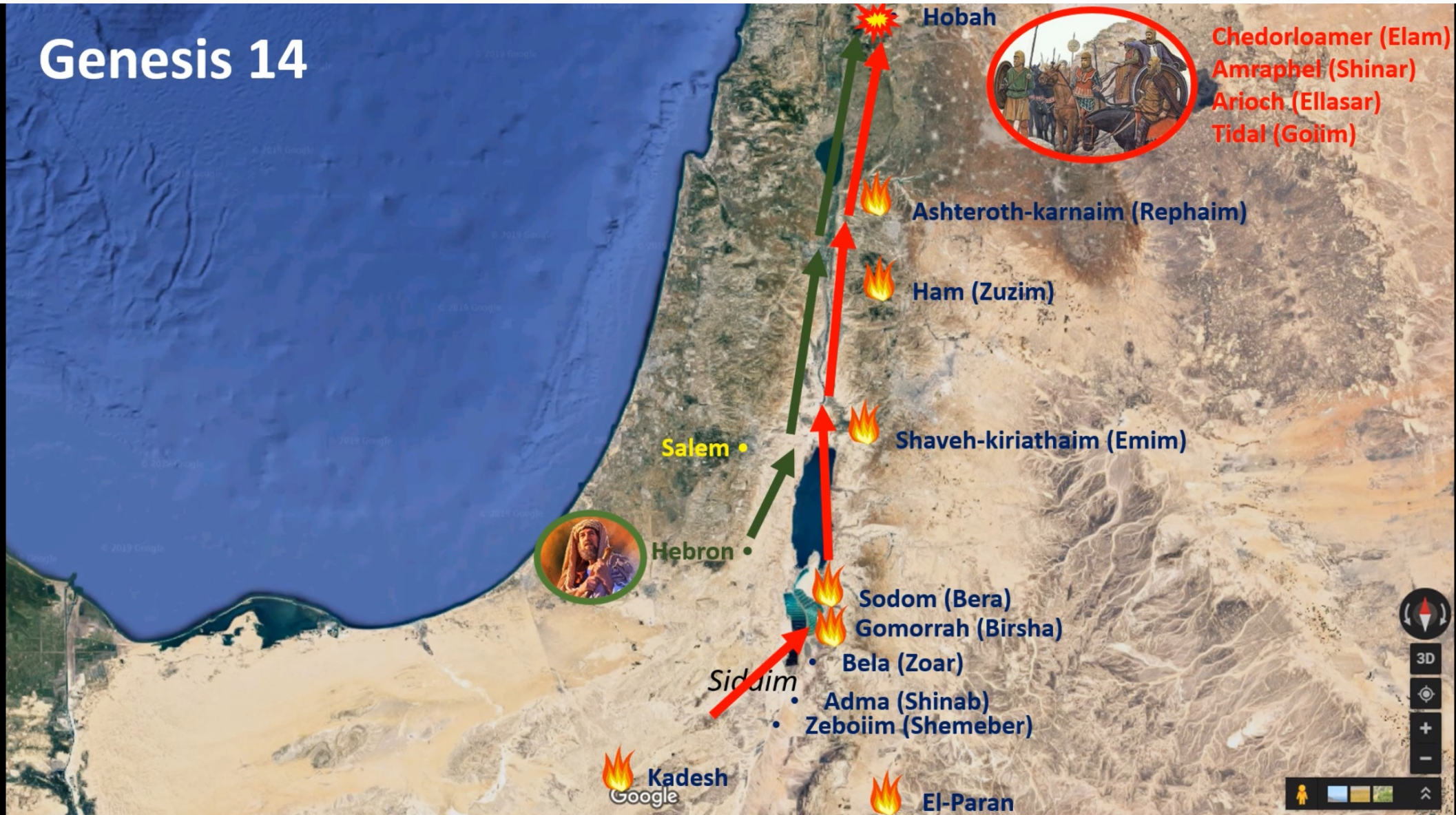


Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre the Amorite, brother of Eshcol and brother of Aner, and these were allies with Abram. When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he led out his trained men, born in his house, three hundred and eighteen, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Gen. 14:13-14



# Genesis 14





He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and defeated them, and pursued them as far as Hobah, which is north of Damascus. He brought back all the goods, and also brought back his relative Lot with his possessions, and also the women, and the people.

Gen. 14:15-16



# Genesis 14





# Genesis 14



Salem •

Hebron •

Siddim

• Kadesh  
Google

• Hobah

• Ashteroth-karnaim (Rephaim)

• Ham (Zuzim)

• Shaveh-kiriathaim (Emim)

• Sodom (Bera)

• Gomorrah (Birsha)

• Bela (Zoar)

• Adma (Shinab)

• Zeboiim (Shemeber)

• El-Paran







# Genesis 14

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.











## Will the Real Melchizedek Please Stand Up

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- A Canaanite Priest-King
- Pre-Incarnate Christ
- Another name for Noah's son, Shem
- Angelic Redeemer
- Manifestation of the Logos
- End-Time Priest
- The Holy Spirit



# Biblical Interpretation Requires Reading Non-Biblical Literature

Every biblical author was situated in a unique place and time, surrounded by texts and traditions and myths in his culture, all of which had the potential to shape his worldview and mode of expression. Reading this literature outside the Bible helps us to better understand the Bible itself.





# Psalm 110

The LORD says to my Lord:  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I make your enemies your footstool."

...

The LORD has sworn  
and will not change his mind,  
"You are a priest forever  
after the order of Melchizedek."





**Psalm 110 is quoted some fourteen times in the New Testament, which is more than any other psalm:**

Matthew 22:44; Mark 14:62; 16:19; Luke 22:69; Acts 2:34-35; 7:55-56; Romans 8:34; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 1:3, 13; 8:1; 10:12; 1 Peter 3:22

**The New Testament authors taught that this psalm was embodied in the person and ministry of Yeshua—the ultimate priest-king.**



The Lord [YHWH] says to my Lord [adonī]: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” The Lord [YHWH] sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies! Your people will offer themselves freely on the day of your power, in holy garments; from the womb of the morning, the dew of your youth will be yours. The Lord [YHWH] has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.” The Lord [YHWH] is at your right hand; he will shatter kings on the day of his wrath. He will execute judgment among the nations, filling them with corpses; he will shatter chiefs over the wide earth. He will drink from the brook by the way; therefore he will lift up his head.

Psalm 110



### Psalm 110 summarized:

- An eternal priestly office that is somehow related to or like the priesthood of Melchizedek is bestowed upon the Davidic king addressed in the psalm.
- This Davidic priest-king of Psalm 110 will have a scepter, a symbol of reigning power.
- He will rule and execute judgment among the nations.
- He will sit at YHWH's right hand, which is a symbolic position of honor and distinction.
- His rule will extend from Zion into the midst of the enemy's territory.



So as early as Psalm 110, Melchizedek is seen as a theological symbol. He offers a biblical model for the combination of priestly and royal offices, which is applied to the king addressed in the psalm.



# 11QMelchizedek

- Found in Cave 11
- Written in three columns of Hebrew sometime between 50 BC and AD 50
- First published in 1965





# The Melchizedek of the Dead Sea Scrolls

History is divided into Jubilee periods. This is the tenth and final jubilee.

Melchizedek appears from heaven as the general of the heavenly armies, visible representative of God, and redeemer of the people of the Lord.

He makes his appearance on Yom Kippur, thus indicating his priestly role.

He is called El or Elohim.



## Melchizedek in the Dead Sea Scrolls:

- Melchizedek is a heavenly being who launches an eschatological jubilee that releases people from their sins.
- Melchizedek is a heavenly savior figure that reigns during the Messianic era and carries out judgment upon the wicked.
- While he is never called “Messiah,” he is portrayed as a heavenly high priest who makes atonement for the “Sons of Light” on Yom Kippur.
- Shockingly, when the author quotes Isaiah 61:2, he even goes so far as to substitute YHWH for Melchizedek!



# The Strange Melchizedek of 2 Enoch

- Midrash on Genesis 5:21-32
- Date of composition is disputed but many scholars argue for a 1st c. AD dating
- In 73 chapters, the author describes Enoch's ascent through the seven heavens, instruction from angels, and the birth of Melchizedek





# The Melchizedek of 2 Enoch

Nir, brother of Noah, is married to Sopanim but they are childless.

She becomes pregnant apart from sexual relations.

She dies before giving birth, but a son emerges from her womb, fully developed, with the badge of priesthood on his chest.

Gabriel takes Melchizedek to heaven, whence he will return after the flood to reestablish the priesthood.



## The name Melchizedek in Hebrews 7:2:

- The idea that “king of righteousness” in Hebrews is an allegorical interpretation, instead of a one-to-one translation, makes sense in light of the context.
- For instance, the author interprets Melchizedek’s title, king of Salem, to mean “king of peace,” which is his way of presenting Melchizedek as a symbol of peace.
- This exegetical tradition is also found in the first century writings of Josephus (Ant. 1.180) and Philo (Leg. 3.79), who likewise interpret Melchizedek’s name and title allegorically as “righteous king” and “king of peace.”
- Furthermore, the author’s mention of Melchizedek having no mother and father in the next verse is certainly an allegorical statement based on the silence of the text, as we’ll cover later.



# Philo and Melchizedek

- Philo mentions Melchizedek in four of his works.
- Melchizedek is “king of peace” and “God’s own priest.”
- He is a priest, even the Logos, and all his thoughts of God are vast and sublime.
- His priesthood is *automathe* (“self-taught”) and *autodidakton* (“instinctive”)





# Josephus and Melchizedek

- He writes of Melchizedek in two of his works, *Wars* and *Antiquities*.
- Melchizedek, a Canaanite chief, a righteous king, was the original founder of the city
- He was the first to officiate as priest, first to build a temple, and renamed Salem as Jerusalem





## Summary of Melchizedek Traditions Contemporaneous with Hebrews

**Historical Figure:** Canaanite chief, priest, king, founder of Jerusalem, representative of the Logos, who has an enduring priesthood connected to the messianic king.

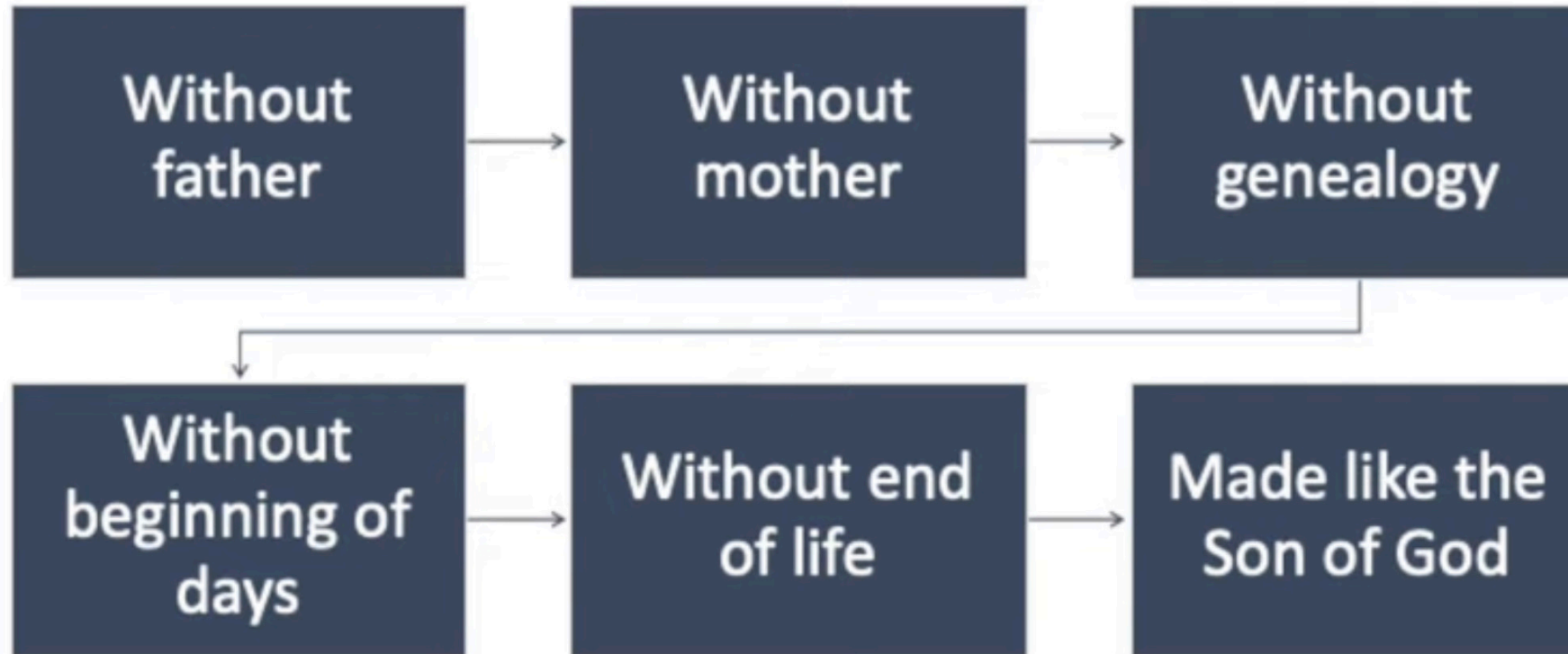
**Heavenly Figure:** Angel, Divine Redeemer, leader of heavenly armies, precocious child with no father and dead mother, founder of post-flood priesthood, eschatological priest in final jubilee.

# Melchizedek in Hebrews 7

For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.



## A String of “Withouts”



# Use of Non- Biblical Traditions in the New Testament

The author of Hebrew was echoing the views of others in his culture regarding Melchizedek, without necessarily espousing those views as true.

Paul does something similar when he cites the non-biblical names of the Egyptians magicians, Jannes and Jambres, in 2 Tim. 3:8.



### Melchizedek—a theophany? Unlikely:

- There's nothing in the text of Genesis 14 that indicates Melchizedek was anything more than a regular human.
- In other theophanies, the person encountering God always seems to be somewhat aware that they are in the presence of the divine, but there's nothing in Genesis 14 that suggests Abram thought he was encountering God in his interactions with Melchizedek.
- Finally, the theophany view is based largely on how Melchizedek is described in Hebrews, but the author of Hebrews himself distinguishes Yeshua from Melchizedek. The author says that Melchizedek resembles Yeshua, not that they are the same person.

## Melchizedek—a theophoric name?

- If malki does mean “my king,” it’s possible that this is a theophoric name. That means the name bears the name of a deity.
- For example, the name Malchiel (Genesis 46:17) means, “my king is El.” El, of course, is the singular of elohim, God. You also have Malchijah (Ezra 10:31), or Malkiyyahu in Hebrew, which contains the divine name, Yah. So the name means, “my king is Yah.”
- If we continue with this train of thought that Melchizedek is a theophoric name, then zedek wouldn’t be an adjective meaning righteous but the name of a deity.
- What’s interesting is that, while zedek does mean “righteous,” there is also a well-known Canaanite deity named Zedek!



## Melchizedek—a theophoric name?

- In Joshua 10:3, 3 we have this king of Jerusalem by the name of Adoni-zedek.
- Adoni in Hebrew is “my lord.” Again, you have the i (yod) suffix here, adding the meaning “my” to the word. So the name literally means “my lord is Zedek.”
- Keep in mind that Jerusalem, in Joshua’s day, was a Canaanite territory. Jerusalem didn’t become the capital city of Israel until King David’s time (2 Samuel 5:6-9).
- So, here we have a Canaanite king named Adoni-zedek, “my lord is Zedek.” He is the king of Jerusalem, which is widely considered to be the same region as Salem in the time of Abram (see Psalm 76:2).

The West Semitic deity Zedek, 'Righteousness', is found in the Bible only in the personal names Melchizedek (Gen 14:18; cf. Ps 110:4; Heb 5:6; 6:20-7:17) and Adonizedek (Josh 10:1.3), both Canaanite kings of pre-Israelite Jerusalem. Zedek is probably to be identified with the deity known as Isar among the Amorites and Kittu in Babylonia, and thus a hypostasis or personification of the sun god Shamash's function as divine overseer of justice. The cult of Zedek appears to have been well established in pre-Israelite (Jebusite) Jerusalem.

Bernard F. Batto, "Zedeq." Dictionary of Deities and Demons in the Bible. Karel Van Der Toorn, Bob Becking, & Pieter W. Van Der Horst, ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm B. Eerdmans, 1999), p. 929-930



If we are called to heed God's previous revelation through Moses, the priesthood, and so forth, how much more ought we to be faithful to God's greatest revelation of himself in Yeshua the Messiah?



## Called out – into the Light! (1 Pet 2:9)

- But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.





# Called out – into the Light! (1 Thess 5: 1-11)

- **The Day of the Lord**

([Zephaniah 1:7–18](#); [Malachi 4:1–6](#); [2 Peter 3:8–13](#))

- [1](#)Now about the times and seasons, brothers, we do not need to write to you. [2](#)For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3](#)While people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.
- [4](#)But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief. [5](#)For you are all sons of the light and sons of the day; we do not belong to the night or to the darkness. [6](#)So then, let us not sleep as the others do, but let us remain awake and sober.
- [7](#)For those who sleep, sleep at night; and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8](#)But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and the helmet of our hope of salvation. [9](#)For God has not appointed us to suffer wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.
- [10](#)He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. [11](#)Therefore encourage and build one another up, just as you are already doing.

## Revelation 18 KJV

3 For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

4 And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

5 For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.

6 Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.





# Called out – into the Light!

- Romans 1:7 - To all in Rome who are loved by God and **called** to be his holy people
- 1Pet 5:10 - And the God of all grace, who **called** you to his eternal glory in Christ...
- 2 Pet 1:3 - His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who **called** us by his own glory and goodness.
- 1 John 3:1 - See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be **called** children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.
- Heb 3:1 - Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the **heavenly calling**, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest.
- Eph 1:18 - I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has **called** you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people,



# So... what do we do...

- Matthew 6:33 - Seek ye first the kingdom of God (Malkhut) and His righteousness (Tzadikah) and all these things will be added unto you.
- The problem is as explained in Romans 10:2-4 - For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone that believeth.





## Galatians 5: 1-10 (read the rest of the chapter)

- 1It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered once more by a yoke of slavery.
- 2Take notice: I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. 3Again I testify to every man who gets himself circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. 4You who are trying to be justified by the law have been severed from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.
- 5But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the hope of righteousness. 6For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. All that matters is faith, expressed through love.
- 7You were running so well. Who has obstructed you from obeying the truth? 8Such persuasion does not come from the One who calls you. 9A little leaven works through the whole batch of dough. 10I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is troubling you will bear the judgment, whoever he may be.

	Aaronic Priesthood	Melchizedek Priesthood
1.	Priest of the nation of Israel. God reveals his name as YHWH (covenant name of God for Israel)	Universal Priest of God most high, El Elyon, God of all nations. The Lord God of heaven, God <b>most high</b> (Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel 4:34-35; Cyrus king of Persia- 2 Chr 36:23; Ezra 1:2) Yeshua in Hebrews, Genesis 14:18- King of Salem priest of the most high God.
2.	Subject to kings of Israel	King of Righteousness, not subject to any king. Kingly himself.
3.	Offered no permanent righteousness or peace, required ongoing sacrifices. Always shattered by sin.	Offers permanent righteousness by faith, eg. Abraham
4.	Priesthood by heredity, line of Aaron of the tribe of Levi.	Personal dignity, faith, eternal dignity of sonship. Personal worth of Yeshua
5.	Bound by time: 25 -50 years of service as priest.	Not bound by time or age. Hebrews 7:3 Ephesians 2:12-15
6.	Priest of Judaism. Judaism a closed system did not seek converts, eg. Jonah, not by God's design but their own design- not wanting to be a witness to God intended them to be.	Priests of the most High God, believers, Christians. Yeshua of the order of Melchizedek- John 1:29- ...Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world. John 4:41 And many more believed because of his own word; and said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. Zechariah 6:12-13 <sup>12</sup> And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: <sup>13</sup> Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.
7.	Began only after the rebellion of the people with the building of the golden calf and the breaking of the covenant.	Preceded the Aaronic priesthood.





# Examining the Covenants

- Next time 😊