



Searching for a Winner: Jim Lawrence's "A Voice from the Wall." Chedorlaomer's Defeat of the Pentapolis & Seizure of Lot; Abram's G-2 Operative, Gen 14:13

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I ran my fingers across the name
Of my brother fallen years ago;
Feeling the edges of the engraving
Of that cold black rock.

I shuddered at the loss;
The tears began to well;
I shook my head
At my inability to proceed.

The fear of the loneliness returned
Like a thousand times before;
The burden of surviving
Filled me with pity
As I trembled there.

Suddenly a voice from the wall
Spoke to me with a strong clear sound.
Startled at the intrusion,
I attempted to pull away,
But by hand held
To the name on the panel
By the force behind the wall.

I recognized the voice
Of my fallen comrade:
"Soldier, what is wrong with you!
Why do you stand here and wallow in your self-pity!
You were no different from me.
We were both soldiers, you and I;
We were both good men,
But the bullet found me and not you;
That is the only difference.
I was meant to die, you to live;
There was a purpose in my dying,
And a purpose in your living.

Yet you burden yourself with having survived;
You have carried your grief and guilt for over thirty years.
Those around you suffer because
You have focused only on yourself and your loss.
Come on, soldier, get over it!"

The voice was scolding and stern,
Speaking words that I hated to hear
Because I knew it was speaking the truth.
The words cut deep into my being,



Past my protective cover of silence,
Past my survivor's guilt,
Past my horror of the experience,
Past my paralyzing fear never forgotten,
And into my soul and heart.

The voice sensed the defeat of my barriers
And the falling of my soul,
For it came again,
Now with understanding,
The consoling tone of a friend.

"Also know that my pain,
Though intense, was quick.
Yet you have suffered for a long time.
You have hurt for me
And considered yourself lucky
For having survived
That horrible battle.
I'm not sure I agree;
Maybe I was the lucky one;
My plight was short;
Your agony continues.

So do us both honor by finding your purpose;
Learn from my death.
Spend some time in remembrance
Of those of us who died that November.
As the leaves fall from the trees
And the cold winds warn of winter,
Spend a quiet moment thinking of us.

But that memory must not consume you.
Move from the past to the present,
Then glimpse to the future.

Honor me by moving others ahead of my memory;
Pay heed instead to those of the present.
Be a thoughtful husband, a loving father, a good neighbor,
And a vibrant patriot,
One on fire with the spirit of our country.
Stand tall when you hear the anthem,
Feel the emotions when you salute the flag,
Support your survivor brothers
And our families we left behind.

One more thing, soldier,
And I will let you go.

Remember this – we did not lose; we left.
The politicians lost.
We paid the price, you and me,
We were good soldiers.
We went over there and fought our battles
Because our leaders called.
We gave for our country



Because we believed in its purpose.
That is all that we could do.

So raise your head, soldier,
And walk away proud.
Take our honor and courage,
Proven on the battlefield long ago,
Into a world that needs it now.

There are more battles to fight,
So do us proud, soldier, do us proud!"

- 13- The exceeding wickedness is revealed to be rampant and unrestrained homosexuality in Genesis 19:1-11. These events occur several years after their defeat at the Valley of Siddim. Their failure to recover results in one of the most widely known catastrophes in history. The conflagration of the Pentapolis is described in:

Genesis 19:23 - The sun had risen over the earth when Lot came to Zoar.

v. 24 - Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven,

Genesis 19:25 - and He overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

- 14- There have been a few clergy who have publicly asserted that the reason the Lord allowed the sons of Hagar to attack our country last September is because of cultural acceptance and legal approval of homosexuality, abortion, and other overt sins.
- 15- But national discipline of a client nation finds its origin in the failure of its pastors to teach doctrine. Over the course of several generations, this failure results in a population that is ignorant of doctrinal thought.
- 16- Without doctrine, the entire population drifts into behavior patterns that are compatible with the trends of their sinful natures. Some have trends toward self-righteousness and thus become involved in human good.
- 17- Some have trends toward lasciviousness and thus become involved in aberrant behaviors.
- 18- The national discipline we have recently encountered is a wake-up call for the entire population to either believe in Christ which provides a fresh start, or to return to doctrine which facilitates spiritual recovery.
- 19- No specific sin is implicated. However, there are certain sins that left unmanaged will eventually exceed the limits imposed by the rules of engagement for the appeal trial. Homosexuality has not reached that level in our society as yet. It did in the Pentapolis and most exceedingly in the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.
- 20- Regardless of the circumstances related to national discipline, believers are protected, if not by the doctrine in their souls then by blessing by association with mature believers.
- 21- Lot was a loser but he was Abram's nephew. On two occasions Abram takes it upon himself to pull Lot's fat out of the fire, the first time figuratively, and the second time quite literally.



- 22- Among the hostages taken captive by Chedorlaomer was Lot. In fact he, like the booty, was seized. The verb “took” in verse 12 is also the Qal imperfect of **לָקַח** *laqach*, which means “to seize violently.”
- 23- This indicates that Lot was taken against his will. He is therefore a hostage of the Mesopotamian Allied Army. He was not a citizen of Chedorlaomer’s empire. He was an Akkadian with citizenship in Canaan. This however did not impress Chedorlaomer.
- 24- A principle emerges: When a believer leaves the garrison-security of his home country and travels to known hot spots he should understand that he is at risk.
- 25- When Lot made the decision to move to Sodom he did so knowing that it was populated by degenerate people. However, Lot had his eyes on what was to him an apparent “garden of the Lord” as he described it in Genesis 13:10.
- 26- I’ve heard tell that San Francisco is a wonderful place to visit. But I can assure you that it, as well as several other “hot spots” around the country, is not the location where a mature believer would choose to live.
- 27- Lot has the opportunity to orient to this principle as he rides in chains up the King’s Highway toward Damascus. The fact he didn’t orient at all is evidenced by the necessity for an angelic extraction force several years later, recorded in Genesis 19.
- 28- On both occasions Lot was at the wrong place at the wrong time, and due to reversionism he did not have the ability to read historical trends and make good decisions to remove himself from a place ripe for divine discipline.
- 29- Lot either didn’t have the doctrinal ability to recognize the level of degeneracy that was so evident around him or he chose to ignore it for “economic reasons.” He was quite prosperous down in Sodom as is evidenced by the fact that his possessions suffered the Qal imperfect of **לָקַח** *laqach* as well.
- 30- Lot could have stayed in Canaan. Up there is where Abram remained, safe and sound from the conflict that ravaged the Jordan Valley. However, Abram is about to enter the fray.

Genesis 14:13 - Then a fugitive came and told Abram the Hebrew. Now he was living by the oaks of Mamre \mam’ re\ the Amorite, brother of Eshcol \esh’ kol\ and brother of Aner \ā’ ner\, and these were allies with Abram.

- 1- Abram had a G-2 agent down in the valley keeping tabs on his nephew, Lot. Once the smoke cleared this operative worked his way northwest into Hebron where Abram was located and reported in.
- 2- Note that Abram had intelligence in the area. This man functioned in the area undetected and had amalgamated himself into the population.
- 3- Thus he was an eyewitness to the events and brought good information back to Abram and did so quickly.
- 4- Abram did not have a dwelling. He lived in a tent that he had set up in a grove of oak trees owned by a man named Mamre who is identified as an Amorite which means “highlander.” Abram had set up his headquarters on the high ground at Hebron.
- 5- God led Abram to Canaan. Although the Valley of Siddim *appeared* more capable of supporting crops and flocks, he chose to stay in the land assigned to him. Lot was lured by what he *saw* not what doctrine would have revealed had he taken a moment to apply it.



- 6- Abram was guided by doctrine and Lot was not. Abram was in the right place at the right time: the geographical will of God.
- 7- Lot was in the wrong place at the wrong time: outside the geographical will of God.
- 8- Abram was not willing to accompany his nephew into a known “hot spot” but he did seek to protect Lot by sending in an undercover operative to keep him informed.
- 9- The operative is referred to in verse 13 as The Fugative. This does not refer to Dr. Richard Kimble but rather the Qal passive participle of פָּלִיט **palit**. “This always refers to someone who has escaped from a calamity, a survivor in a battle or war” (*Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament*, 2:724-25).
- 10- “Fugative” is generally understood in English as someone who is avoiding arrest. The word that might be better is “refugee.” As Abram’s covert agent, he escapes the hostilities and goes directly to Hebron to give his report.
- 11- This is the meaning of the Hiphil verb נָגַד **nagath** which refers to the action of making a matter of high priority known to a person. What was previously unknown is made known. Thus the operative makes a report to Abram.
- 12- Do you believe that this is cheating? Is it wrong to have intelligence operatives gathering data both in foreign locations as well as domestically? Abram, who is the one who is in the plan of God didn’t think so.
- 13- The most crucial failure with potentially the most devastating threat to our nation’s survival is our de-emphasis of and legislation against our intelligence gathering agencies which began during the Carter Administration.