The Christmas You Never Knew—Jesus in Genesis Dr. Rick Griffith

21 December 2014 Message 3 of 3

NLT 40 Minutes

**Our Christmas Priest**

Title

***Genesis 14***

**Topic:** Jesus as Priest

**Subject:** How *should* we respond to attacks against our faith in God

**Complement:** Defend and worship Christ as God’s priest

**Purpose:** The listeners will trust in Christ as God’s appointed Mediator-Priest.

**Meditation:** Christ as High Priest (Heb. 4:14-15)

**Video:** http://www.worshiphousemedia.com/mini-movies/15675/Christmas-Mystery

# Introduction

### Interest: The world not only ignores the Christ of Christmas, but attacks him in direct and indirect ways.

Humbug.

#### In some places we get punished for even mentioning Christmas. At the principal’s office, one child says, “I said the ‘S-H’ word,” another says, “I said the ‘F’ word,” and still another declares, ‘I said ‘Christmas.’”

Cartoon

#### Atheists attack Christmas, such as in Christmas cards that equate Jesus and Santa.

Atheists
(3 slides)

#### But the fact is that Santa is based on Jesus and, as one blogger notes, “the history of Santa can be a way to teach kids about giving to others. The secular version of Santa that we know today is based on St. Nicholas, who was a Christian man that lived in the third century. When his parents died, they left him a large inheritance and rather than spend it on himself, he decided to give all his money away in an effort to obey Jesus’s words to take care of the poor and sick. Some of the traditions that we associate with Santa are based on the stories of St. Nicholas. For example, leaving stockings out for Santa came from tales of St. Nicholas throwing bags of gold through open windows (which apparently sometimes landed in socks and shoes that were left by the fire).” (http://www.tommynelson.com/can-santa-jesus-coexist/).

Santa

### Need: Do you know what you should do when you see the Christ of Christmas maligned?

Sleigh

#### Should you rise up and kill those who dishonor him? No.

#### Should you just do nothing and hope it will go away? No.

#### Should you do something in between? If so, then what?

### Subject: How *should* we respond to attacks against our faith in God?

Subject

### Series Background: Let’s get the context of our series.

Inferior

#### Our three-week series prior to Christmas this year focuses on the three magi gifts in their symbolism of three key attributes of Christ—as King (gold), as Savior (myrrh), and as Priest (frankincense).

Gold

3 Gifts

Exod. 30

Frankin-cense

Toddler

#### Today we will see the meaning of the last one— frankincense—that emphasizes Christ as Priest. Since priests burned incense in the temple, frankincense likely portrays Christ as our High Priest. How should we respond to people who reject his role as mediator between man and God?

Myrrh

### Genesis Background: Today we continue our series on “The Christmas You Never Knew” when we will answer our magi gift question again by going all the way back to the first book of the Bible.

Christmas Knew

#### We have seen in Genesis the past two weeks that Jesus is King who sought to share his rule with us (Gen. 1) and Jesus was promised as the Savior once we gave this rule over to Satan (Gen. 3). What about frankincense depicting him as high priest?

Abraham

3 Gifts Completed

#### The priestly idea first appears in Genesis. God promised Abraham a great nation to bless the world when he went to Canaan (Gen. 12:1-3), but, of course, there would be many attacks against Abraham’s faith in God. Abraham was known as the man of faith—but he faced innumerable tests. Most of us really turn to the Lord during times of difficulty and failure, but perhaps one of the hardest tests of faith is *success.*

The Land of Abraham

By faith

Abraham’s Tent

##### Such was the story of Abraham and Lot, who had such success that their flocks were too numerous for the land to sustain them both. Genesis 13 records how Abraham solved the dispute between his herdsmen and Lot’s herdsmen by giving his nephew the choice where to live. Lot chose the fertile plain of the Jordan, despite the fact that it was filled with wicked people (13:13).

Map

Jordan Valley

##### Sometimes attacks against our faith come through the allurement of the world, which certainly affected Abraham’s nephew, Lot. After moving close to Sodom, Lot failed the test of faith by moving into Sodom—the *successful*, comfortable and affluent Sodom that was the wickedest city on earth.

Lot Tent

Lot Living Inside

##### Today evil people still use money and power to push out righteous people from the most beautiful places on earth! Abraham could see that true success is not always what you see now—so he could properly respond to attacks against godly values.

Carrots

Perils of Success

Preview
2 ways

### Preview: Today we will see *two ways to respond* to attacks against our faith in God.

### Text: Genesis 14 reveals two ways that Abraham addressed attacks against the Lord.

• Gen. 14

(How should we respond to attacks against our faith in God? First…)

# I. Trust God for victory (1-16).

MP

 [Take action against *direct* attacks by trusting in God in practical ways.]

## Abraham recaptured Lot after kings invaded the Promised Land (14:1-16).

Kings from East

### Four Mesopotamian kings gathered against five Jordanian kings (1-7).

Map

#### What is the big picture of these nine kings and their battle (1-2)? Where did they come from and what happened?

• White Arrows

##### Basically, we have four eastern kings against five Jordanian kings.

##### They fought at the south end of the Dead Sea, near Sodom where Lot lived.

• Sodom Battle

### The four Jordanian kings lost the battle and Lot was carried far north (8-12).

• White Arrows

### Abraham rescued Lot, the goods, women and captives at Dan and Hobah (13-16).

• Yellow Arrows

#### Abraham didn’t even stop at Dan but went off the map north to Hobah.

• Dan Battle

#### How could Abraham defeat these four powerful kings with only 318 men (14-16)?

• How win?

##### Humanly speaking, he had his allies Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre (14:13, 24)—plus he had the advantage of a surprise night attack.

• Allies

• Night

##### However, Abraham was quick to give God the full credit as he agreed with Melchizedek’s praise to God for granting him the victory (14:20).

• God

## We must support righteousness with the resources he has given us.

Jesus with Stars

### Many forces oppose us but God gives us all we need for victory. We have already studied this year about Christ as Victor in the book of Revelation.

How & Where?

###  How and Where do we support righteousness? At *work* do we hold back evil and represent Christ? At *home* do we influence our family members towards holiness? Do we fill our *minds* with pure thoughts?

• Mind

• Home

• Work

MPI

(So Abraham trusted God for victory and saw the Lord honor him too. After his *successful* raid against impossible odds, would Abraham take credit for this or worship the Lord Most High? This next section reminds us to humbly place our faith in God when this faith is attacked even by our success! So how else should we respond to attacks against our faith in God?)

MP

Danger of Success

# II. Credit God for his victories in your life (17-24).

[Blame the Lord for success in your conflicts.]

## Abraham worshipped God with Melchizedek rather than identify with the wicked king of Sodom (17-24).

### Two Offers: Two vastly different kings came to Abraham after his victory (17-20a).

Map Route of Bera

#### Bera, king of Sodom, came first to Abraham at Jerusalem (17).

Jerusalem Map

King of Sodom

##### Why would Sodom’s evil king (14:2) congratulate the godly Abraham (17a)?

###### He wouldn’t care if Abraham were evil or good.

###### Like any person—even an evil person—he would have been pleased to have his people back. Without people, he wouldn’t have been a king!

##### Where was the Valley of Shaveh, or King’s Valley (17b)?

Jerusalem Map

Valley of Shaveh

Absalom Pillar

###### Some (e.g., Beitzel, *New Moody Atlas of the* Bible, 103) say it was west of Jerusalem, others say south of the city (e.g., *New Bible Commentary*).

###### But the best guess is that this is the Kidron Valley just east of Jerusalem (BKC, bible.ca, israel-a-history-of.com, etc.). We see the Kidron Valley called the King’s Valley in 2 Samuel 18:18, “During his lifetime, Absalom had built a monument to himself in the King’s Valley, for he said, ‘I have no son to carry on my name.’ He named the monument after himself, and it is known as Absalom’s Monument to this day” (NLT).

###### The interesting thing is that Bera would travel all the way there! Also, evidently Abraham went to Jerusalem instead of to Sodom. Perhaps he didn't even want to get close to Sodom.

#### Melchizedek, king of Jerusalem, then came to Abraham with bread and wine, and blessed him (18-20a).

19-20
Map

18

##### Is there a direct contrast between these two kings (17-21)?

###### “This is one of the most fascinating encounters in the Old Testament. Two kings met **Abram** on his return from the battle, and they could not possibly have been more different. In contrast with the wicked city of **Sodom** and its ruler Bera (v. 2), who also was undoubtedly wicked, was **Melchizedek king of Salem** (i.e., Jerusalem, Ps. 76:2), a **priest of God Most High** (Gen. 14:18). Melchizedek’s name (which means ‘king of righteousness’) suggests a righteous ruler who was God’s representative” (Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

• Wicked v. Righteous

Vastly Different!

##### Melchizedek! What an interesting character! Who was Melchizedek (18)?

Melchizedek

###### The opinions range from considering him an evil man, a mystical man, an angel, and Jesus Christ himself. New Agers have him involved in “spirit releasement” and Mormons appoint men in his order today. One church in Sacramento, CA is even named after him. But what does verse 18 say?

Who?
(9 slides)

###### “Melchizedek” means “king of righteousness” and shows he was godly. Most Canaanites were evil at this time, but this king is an exception.

Really?
• Righteous

• Jeru-salem

###### “King of Salem” shows that he was the Canaanite king of Jerusalem.

Salem is parallel to Zion, or Jerusalem, in Psalm 76:2, “His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion” (NAU).

“Jerusalem” means “city (*uru*) of Salem (pagan deity).” Not this man!

###### “Priest of God Most High” can only mean that he functioned as a mediator (priest) between man and God—even Abraham and God!

• Priest

Here is the first time the word “priest” appears in the Bible.

This is, therefore, the first mention of another person is aid a human in worship of the true God.

Priest at Ark

Just north of this same location 500 years later God would institute another priesthood with the descendants of Aaron.

### One Decision: Abraham accepted Melchizedek’s blessing rather than identify with Sodom (20b-24).

One Decision

#### Abraham accepted Melchizedek’s blessing by giving him a tithe of all the spoils (20b).

20a

##### Why would Abraham pay tithes to Melchizedek (20b)?

###### Ross write, “Melchizedek is the only person whom Abram recognized as his spiritual superior. **Abram** accepted blessing from him (v. 19), and Abram paid him **a 10th** (a tithe) of all he had (v. 20). **Abram** did this deliberately, in full awareness of what he was doing. It shows how unthreatened and humble Abram was, even after a victory. He recognized that God’s revelation was not limited to him. While the reader’s attention is focused on Abram carrying the whole spiritual hope of the world, there emerged out of an obscure Canaanite valley a man nearer to God than Abram was, who **blessed Abram**” (Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

Origins of the Tithe

###### Again: “Melchizedek is an important figure in the Bible. Preceding Abram, he was not a Levitical priest. When David, the first Israelite king to sit on Melchizedek’s throne, prophesied that his great Descendant, the Messiah, would be a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4), David looked beyond the Levitical priesthood which would be done away with. The Book of Hebrews demonstrates how Jesus Christ in His death fulfilled the Levitical order and began a better high priesthood. In referring to Melchizedek as the perfect type of Christ, the writer of Hebrews capitalized on Melchizedek’s anonymity: in a book (Gen.) filled with genealogies and ancestral notations, this man appeared without family records (Heb. 7:3). Melchizedek is remembered as a high priest. Because Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek, the order of Melchizedek is superior to Levi, who descended from Abram (Heb. 7:4-10)” (Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

Chart

Title

Title

##### Abraham wanted to assure that he put his money on the eternal rather than on the temporary things of this world. So…

#### Abraham rejected Bera’s deal by accepting nothing from him except what his allies wanted (21-24).

Jerusalem Map

##### The offer by Sodom couldn’t compare with God’s blessing!

Rejected
21-24

##### Was this a hard decision? Abraham had already given Melchizedek a tithe before Bera even made his offer! Instead of keeping all the spoils of war and thus identify with Sodom, he chose God’s blessing instead!

Two Kings

##### As the OT scholar Ross notes, “Abram knew that he would become more prosperous, and he knew who was blessing him. He intended to receive everything from God and **not even a thread** from Sodom. Obedient believers frame their lives so that for all success, joy, comfort, and prosperity they depend on God—but their faith is like Abram’s, deeply rooted and growing stronger rather than brief and weak. The king of Sodom was obviously a wicked man over a wicked empire; Abram discerned that dealing with him might be dangerous” (Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

• Give back people

## We must credit Jesus as our Mediator with God.

Jesus

### Abraham would later face the biggest challenge of his life just above this valley when he needed another mediator with God in the form of an angel to stop him from offering Isaac as a sacrifice.

Genesis 22

Moriah Map

### Which of us could ever face God on our own without a mediator? If Abraham needed one, do we not also need someone to stand between us before a holy God?

### We must worship Jesus as a priest in the order of Melchizedek.

Order of Melchizedek

#### This order of priests did not depend upon geneaology but godliness!

#### David saw himself in this order, for he says in Psalms 110…

Ps. 110:4

Subject

(Well, as I noted earlier, very few people know the truth about Christmas or Christ as priest—so they ridicule you and me. So how should we respond to attacks against our faith in God? We should…)

# Conclusion

### Defend and worship Christ as God’s priest (MI).

MI

### Main Points: When you are opposed…

MPI

#### Trust God for victory.

#### Credit God for his victories in your life.

Cup & Wine

MPII

### Exhortation: So what should we do?

#### Like Abraham, defend God’s honor against attackers.

• Defend

#### Like Abraham, accept God’s blessing instead of the best the world can offer.

• Blessing

Prayer

• Priest

#### Trust in Christ as God’s appointed Mediator-Priest.

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### Genesis 13 records how Abraham solved the dispute between his herdsmen and Lot’s herdsmen by giving his nephew the choice where to live. Lot chose the fertile plain of the Jordan, despite the fact that it was filled with wicked people.

### The same is true today, where evil people who use their money and power to push out righteous people from the most beautiful places on the planet!

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### Abraham was known as the man of faith—but he faced innumerable tests. Most of us really turn to the Lord during times of difficulty and failure, but perhaps one of the hardest tests of faith is *success*.

#### After moving close to Sodom, Lot failed the test of faith in the *successful*, comfortable and affluent Sodom that was the wickedest city on earth.

#### After his *successful* raid against impossible odds, would Abraham take credit for this or worship the Lord Most High?

### This passage reminds us to humbly place our faith in God when this faith is attacked even by our success!

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### The names of the kings are generally not known, but their regions are known, for the most part.

### Jerusalem was in the hands of the Jebusites at the time of Abraham (2000 BC) and for hundreds of years afterwards.

# Questions

### What is the big picture of these nine kings and their battle (1-2)? Where did they come from and what happened?

#### Basically, we have four eastern kings against five Jordanian kings.

#### The battle was fought at the south end of the Dead Sea, near Sodom where Lot lived.

### How could Abraham defeat these four powerful kings with only 318 men (14-16)?

#### Humanly speaking, he had his allies Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre (14:13, 24)—plus he had the advantage of a surprise night attack.

#### However, Abraham was quick to give God the full credit s he agreed with Melchizedek’s praise to God for granting him the victory (14:20).

### Why would the evil king of Sodom (called Bera, 14:2) congratulate the godly Abraham (17a)?

#### He wouldn’t care if Abraham were evil or good.

#### Like any person—even an evil person—he would have been pleased to have his people back. Without people, he wouldn’t have been a king!

### Where was the Valley of Shaveh, or King’s Valley (17b)?

#### Our best guess is that this is the Kidron Valley just east of Jerusalem. We see the Kidron Valley called the King’s Valley in 2 Samuel 18:18, “During his lifetime, Absalom had built a monument to himself in the King’s Valley, for he said, ‘I have no son to carry on my name.’ He named the monument after himself, and it is known as Absalom’s Monument to this day” (NLT).

#### The interesting thing is that Bera would travel all the way there—he must have ben very thankful! Also, evidently Abraham went to Jerusalem instead of to Sodom. Perhaps he didn't even want to get close to Sodom.

### Is there a direct contrast between these two kings (18)?

#### “This is one of the most fascinating encounters in the Old Testament. Two kings met **Abram** on his return from the battle, and they could not possibly have been more different. In contrast with the wicked city of **Sodom** and its ruler Bera (v. 2), who also was undoubtedly wicked, was **Melchizedek king of Salem** (i.e., Jerusalem, Ps. 76:2), a **priest of God Most High** (Gen. 14:18). Melchizedek’s name (which means ‘king of righteousness’) suggests a righteous ruler who was God’s representative” (Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

### Who was Melchizedek (18)?

#### The opinions range from considering him a man, an angel, and Jesus Christ himself. So what does verse 18 says?

#### “Melchizedek” means “king of righteousness” and thus shows that he was a godly man.

#### “King of Salem” shows that he was the Canaanite king of Jerusalem.

##### Salem is parallel to Zion, or Jerusalem, in Psalm 76:2, “His tabernacle is in Salem; His dwelling place also is in Zion” (NAU).

##### Although most Canaanites were evil at this time, this king is an exception.

#### “Priest of God Most High” can only mean that he functioned as a mediator (priest) between man and God—even Abraham and God!

### Why would Abraham pay tithes to Melchizedek (20b)?

#### “Melchizedek is the only person whom Abram recognized as his spiritual superior. **Abram** accepted blessing from him (v. 19), and Abram paid him **a 10th** (a tithe) of all he had (v. 20). **Abram** did this deliberately, in full awareness of what he was doing. It shows how unthreatened and humble Abram was, even after a victory. He recognized that God’s revelation was not limited to him. While the reader’s attention is focused on Abram carrying the whole spiritual hope of the world, there emerged out of an obscure Canaanite valley a man nearer to God than Abram was, who **blessed Abram**” (Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

#### “Melchizedek is an important figure in the Bible. Preceding Abram, he was not a Levitical priest. When David, the first Israelite king to sit on Melchizedek’s throne, prophesied that his great Descendant, the Messiah, would be a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4), David looked beyond the Levitical priesthood which would be done away with. The Book of Hebrews demonstrates how Jesus Christ in His death fulfilled the Levitical order and began a better high priesthood. In referring to Melchizedek as the perfect type of Christ, the writer of Hebrews capitalized on Melchizedek’s anonymity: in a book (Gen.) filled with genealogies and ancestral notations, this man appeared without family records (Heb. 7:3). Melchizedek is remembered as a high priest. Because Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek, the order of Melchizedek is superior to Levi, who descended from Abram (Heb. 7:4-10)” (Allen P. Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

#### Abraham wanted to assure that he put his money on the eternal rather than on the temporary things of this world.

### Why did Abraham reject the generous offer of Sodom’s king (22-24)?

#### “This incident was a test of Abram’s faith after a great victory. Bera, Sodom’s king, offered a most appealing deal. But Abram, knowing what he did about the king of Sodom, felt that keeping Sodom’s loot which he captured would make him subject to Bera. He wanted something far more enduring than possessions and wealth; he wanted the fulfillment of God’s miraculous and enduring promise. Faith looks beyond the riches of this world to the grander prospects God has in store” (Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

#### “Abram knew that he would become more prosperous, and he knew who was blessing him. He intended to receive everything from God and **not even a thread** from Sodom. Obedient believers frame their lives so that for all success, joy, comfort, and prosperity they depend on God—but their faith is like Abram’s, deeply rooted and growing stronger rather than brief and weak. The king of Sodom was obviously a wicked man over a wicked empire; Abram discerned that dealing with him might be dangerous. Abram could have reasoned that God was seeking to bless him by means of this offer. But he could not bring himself to equate the blessing of God with the best that Sodom had to offer” (Ross, “Genesis,” *BKC*, 54).

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

2. (Chs. 12–15) God makes an unconditional covenant with Abram that promises him a land, a nation, and a blessed name, to reveal to Israel God's initiation, separation, and ratification of His covenant.

a. (Ch. 12) God's initiation of an unconditional covenant with Abram and the threat to its fulfillment shows Israel of its divine call and need to trust God to inhabit Canaan as did Abram (cf. pp. 59-61).

1) (12:1-9) God initiates a covenant with Abram that promises him a land, nation, and blessed name and Abram goes to a new land in obedience to show Israel of its need to trust God's call to inhabit Canaan as did Abram.

2) (12:10-20) Abram fails to walk by faith in his leaving Canaan for Egypt and lying in an attempt to save his life, yet God mercifully spares him because of His unconditional promise and thus undoes the threat to the promise.

b. (Chs. 13–14) Abram separates from Lot and God confirms his inheritance, then Abram rescues Lot from his enemies and is blessed by Melchizedek to reveal to Israel God's blessing upon faith.

c. (Ch. 15) God ratifies His covenant with Abram by promising a son from his own body, prophesying the 400 year Egyptian bondage, and walking alone through the sacrificial animals, to encourage Israel that God’s covenant with the nation is unconditional.

# Possible Illustrations

### How is your faith being attacked right now?

# Possible Applications

### Where so I place my faith as I approach retirement? Where will I live since I have sought to live in abandonment to Christ without buying a home?

**Our Christmas Priest**

***Genesis 14***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The response of Abraham to the looting of the Promised Land was to rescue Lot, disassociate himself with Sodom, and worship God with Melchizedek.

# I. The response of Abraham to the Mesopotamian kings’ plundering of the Jordanian kings was to recapture Lot (14:1-16).

## Four Mesopotamian kings gathered against five Jordanian kings (1-7).

## The result of the five Jordanian kings losing the battle due to the tar pits was that Lot was carried away far north (8-12).

## Abraham rescued Lot, the goods, women and captives at Dan and Hobah (13-16).

# II. The response of Abraham after defeating the Mesopotamian kings was to worship with Melchizedek rather than identify with Lot’s evil king (14:17-24).

## Two Offers: Two vastly different kings came to Abraham after his victory (17-20a).

### Bera, king of Sodom, came to Abraham at Jerusalem (17).

### Melchizedek, king of Jerusalem, came to Abraham with bread and wine, and then blessed him (18-20a).

## One Decision: Abraham accepted God’s blessing rather than identify with Sodom (20b-24).

### Abraham accepted Melchizedek’s blessing by giving him a tithe of all the spoils (20b).

### Abraham rejected Bera’s deal by accepting nothing from him except what his allies wanted (21-24).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will trust in Christ as God’s appointed Mediator-Priest.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: The world not only ignores the Christ of Christmas, but attacks him in direct and indirect ways.

### Need: Do you know what you should do when you see the Christ of Christmas maligned?

### Subject: How *should* we respond to attacks against our faith in God?

### Series Background: Let’s get the context of our series.

### Genesis Background: Today we will answer our magi gift question again by going all the way back to the first book of the Bible.

### Preview: Today we will see two ways to respond to attacks against our faith in God.

### Text: Genesis 14 reveals two ways that Abraham addressed attacks against

(How should we respond to attacks against our faith in God?)

# I. Trust God for victory (1-16).

## Abraham recaptured Lot after kings invaded the Promised Land (14:1-16).

### Four Mesopotamian kings gathered against five Jordanian kings (1-7).

### The five Jordanian kings lost the battle and Lot was carried far north (8-12).

### Abraham rescued Lot, the goods, women and captives at Dan and Hobah (13-16).

## We must support righteousness with the resources he has given us.

### Many forces oppose us.

### But God gives us all we need for victory.

# II. Credit God for his victories in your life (17-24).

## Abraham worshipped God with Melchizedek rather than identify with the wicked king of Sodom (17-24).

### Two Offers: Two vastly different kings came to Abraham after his victory (17-20a).

### One Decision: Abraham accepted Melchizedek’s blessing rather than identify with Sodom (20b-24).

## We must credit Jesus as our Mediator with God.

### Which of us could ever face God on our own without a mediator?

### Worship Jesus as a priest in the order of Melchizedek.

# Conclusion

### Defend and worship Christ as God’s priest (MI).

### Main Points: When you are opposed…

#### Trust God for victory.

#### Credit God for his victories in your life.

### Exhortation/Application

#### Like Abraham, defend God’s honor against attackers.

#### Like Abraham, accept God’s blessing instead of the best the world can offer.

#### Trust in Christ as God’s appointed Mediator-Priest.

### Prayer



**Rick Griffith**

21 December 2014

Message 3 of 3

**Our Christmas Priest**

***Genesis 14***

# Introduction

### The world not only ignores the Christ of Christmas, but attacks him in direct and indirect ways.

### How *should* we respond to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against our faith in God?

# I. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God for victory (1-16).

## Abraham recaptured Lot after kings invaded the Promised Land (14:1-16).

### Four Mesopotamian kings gathered against five Jordanian kings (1-7).

### The five Jordanian kings lost the battle and Lot was carried far north (8-12).

### Abraham rescued Lot, the goods, women and captives at Dan and Hobah (13-16).

## We must support righteousness with the resources he has given us.

# II. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God for his victories in your life (17-24).

## Abraham worshipped God with Melchizedek rather than identify with the wicked king of Sodom (17-24).

### Two Offers: Two vastly different kings came to Abraham after his victory (17-20a).

### One Decision: Abraham accepted Melchizedek’s blessing rather than identify with Sodom (20b-24).

## We must credit Jesus as our Mediator with God.

### Which of us could ever face God on our own without a mediator?

### Worship Jesus as a priest in the order of Melchizedek.

# Conclusion

### Defend and worship Christ as God’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Main Idea).

### What should we do?

#### Like Abraham, defend God’s honor against attackers.

#### Like Abraham, accept God’s blessing instead of the best the world can offer.

#### Trust in Christ as God’s appointed Mediator-Priest.

**Thought Questions**

1. Read Genesis 14 aloud. Contrast what Abraham did with a normal human reaction:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Abraham’s Actions** | **Typical Responses** |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |
| Text | Text |

1. What new insight today did you gain about Christ as our Priest?

Text

Text

Text

Text

1. In what way can you better trust in Christ as your mediator between you and God?

Text

Text