



Searching for a Winner: Abram Mobilizes His Delta Force & Organizes the Coalition Army, Gen 14:14; Establishes Headquarters at Hebron, Gen 13:17-18

- 24- Abram's G-2 was designed to feed him information about his nephew's welfare. It was not sophisticated enough to predict the Jordan Valley Campaign.
- 25- However, knowing of the potentiality of threats from predator powers, Abram had the wisdom to prepare for such an attack. Thus he had entered into a treaty with his neighbors in the area of Hebron.
- 26- These neighbors were three Amorite brothers, Mamre, Eshcol, and Aner. The Amorites were descendents of Canaan, the fourth son of Ham. Consequently, they were Hamitics. Abram did not enter into a treaty with the Semitics of Mesopotamia and pay them tribute. Instead he depended on the Lord and the application of doctrine strengthened by wisdom.
- 27- Wisely he formed a confederation with his neighbors in Hebron where the Lord had directed him to establish his headquarters.
- 28- This confederation agreed to form a Rapid Deployment Force to use whenever their property, possessions, or people came under attack.
- 29- Since Abram's nephew was a victim of Chedorlaomer's invasion of the Valley of Siddim, Abram imposed the provisions of the treaty with his neighbors. These men are referred to as allies in verse 13.
- 30- The word is בְּרִית **berit** and refers to a self-imposed obligation. The concept evolved into the assumption of mutual obligations on the part of two or more partners: a reciprocal *berit*. It refers to the reaching of a settlement or the establishment of an obligation (*Theological Lexicon of the Old Testament*, 1:259-260).
- 31- Abram and his three neighbors were thus in mutual agreement to defend themselves against outside aggression. They formed an army of four divisions of 300-plus special forces personnel each. In verse 14, Abram mobilizes these units into a Rapid Deployment Force.

Genesis 14:14 - And 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.

- 1- The words "led out" give us insight to Abram's military preparedness, his views on homeland security, and foreign policy.

רִיק **raq** - To empty a vessel. It came to mean the "drawing of the sword."

- 2- This became an idiom for the mustering of troops. To muster or mobilize troops they must already have been systematically trained and equipped for combat. This is confirmed by the *hapax legomenon*, "trained men":

חַנִּיק **chanik** - "trained men"

- 3- The number of trained men was 318 servants who were born in Abram's house. This amounts to a small division who were apparently trained by Abram and put on alert as an instant reaction force prepared to defend Abram's holdings or that of the three other signatories to the treaty.



- 4- There are also implications that can be drawn from these numbers:

Leupold, H. C. *Exposition of Genesis*. Vol. 1. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1942), 458:

We are amazed at the number of (the servants)—318. This points to a body of servants easily numbering a thousand and gives us some idea of the size of the flocks as well as of the influence of the man.

- 5- These men are prepared to do battle. When Abram got his G-2 report from his intelligence operative he didn't have to call a meeting with Mamre, Eshcol, and Aner to decide what to do. The men didn't have to negotiate to agree on a coalition. They didn't have to decide to what degree they would participate in a peace-keeping force. There was no debate about how many troops each man would provide and whether or not they would be involved in hostile actions or just police actions. There was no debate about what provoked Chedorlaomer's attack on the Pentapolis.
- 6- No such silliness as this was necessary. The four men had already entered into an alliance that stipulated that they would collectively defend each others interests. The treaty obviously included a paragraph that activated participation by all signatories in the event anyone's relatives or slaves were abducted.
- 7- You will remember that the word translated "allies" is **בְּרִית** *berit* and refers to a self-imposed obligation. The coalition had already been formed and the men had already been trained. They were an instant reaction force that was prepared to be called up for duty whenever a situation demanded it. Therefore, once Abram understood Lot's situation he was able to instantly call the coalition's forces into action.
- 8- We know that the three brothers had also provided their trained men to the coalition force from the statement that concludes the description of the battle between Abram's Delta Force and the Mesopotamian Allied Army:
- Genesis 14:24** - "I will take nothing except what the young men have eaten, and the share of the men who went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their share."
- 9- These four divisions formed a Rapid Deployment Force organized by Abram and motivated by wisdom. Abram had confidence he was in the geographical will of God when he settled on the high ground at Hebron.
- Genesis 13:17** - "Arise, walk about the land through its length and breadth; for I will give it to you."
- Genesis 13:18** - Then Abram moved his tent and came and dwelt by the oaks of Mamre, which are in Hebron, and there he built an altar to the Lord.
- 10- Verse 18 has four Qal imperfect verbs. The first three indicate a change of location for Abram after having taken a walk around the land.
- 11- When Abram entered Canaan he set up his tent on a mountain near Bethel (Genesis 12:8). Following a famine that forced him to move temporarily to Egypt, Abram returned to Bethel as is noted in Genesis 13:3.
- 12- It is at Bethel that the Lord repeats to him the Abrahamic Covenant and invites him to take a walk around the land as we noted in Genesis 13:17.



- 13- After having taken this tour, Abram made the decision to move his headquarters from Bethel to Hebron. Thus we have the three verbs “moved,” “came,” and “dwelt.” Together they tell us that Abram “settled” in Hebron which is on “high ground.”
- 14- This was a strategic move with regard to the best location for him to establish his herds (Genesis 13:2) and to defend them from aggressors.
- 15- At the time Lot had not made the decision to move to Sodom. Therefore, the development of a coalition among Abram and the three Hamite brothers who also lived in the area was motivated by the desire to protect their holding from rustlers or armies.
- 16- This is an expression of wisdom. Abram by faith had come to Canaan. He was directed by the Lord not only to that area but specifically to Hebron.
- 17- Without wisdom, Abram could well have decided that since the Lord took him to Hebron that he was safe there under the Lord’s protection without need for military preparedness.