

people of the country before them into the mountains. They then advanced, plundered the cities, and carried a number of captives, amongst whom were Lot and his family, with all his flocks and herds.

Q. What did Abraham do when he heard of Lot's misfortune?

A. He immediately gathered together all his servants and all the neighboring shepherds, and pursued the invaders. They came up with them at Dan, and after a sharp conflict, defeated them. Lot was then rescued by his uncle Abraham, and the invaders pursued to Hoba, on the way to Damascus.

Q. By whom was Abraham met on his return home?

A. He was met by the king of Sodom, and by Melchisedech, king of Salem, and a priest of the Lord, who bringing forth bread and wine, offered them in sacrifice, and blessed Abraham, saying—"Blessed be Abraham by the most high God, who created heaven and earth, and blessed be the most high God, by whose protection thine enemies are in thy hands."

Q. What did Abraham then do?

A. He gave tithes, or the tenth part, of all the spoils he had taken, to Melchisedech, the priest of God.

Q. What befel Sodom in punishment of its wickedness?

A. It was consumed by fire from heaven.

Q. Can you relate the circumstances preceding the destruction of Sodom?

A. The Lord having apprised Abraham of his intention to destroy Sodom, Abraham, knowing the great mercy of God, besought him to spare the guilty city.