

# What causes wars among you ?

James 4:1-2 What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.



# The first war mentioned in the Bible

## Genesis 14



At the time when Amraphel was king of Shinar, Arioch king of Ellasar, Kedorlaomer king of Elam and Tidal king of Goyim, these kings went to war .....

## What's in the name "king" ?





these kings went to war against Bera king of Sodom, Birsha king of Gomorrah, Shinab king of Admah, Shemeber king of Zeboyim, and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar).

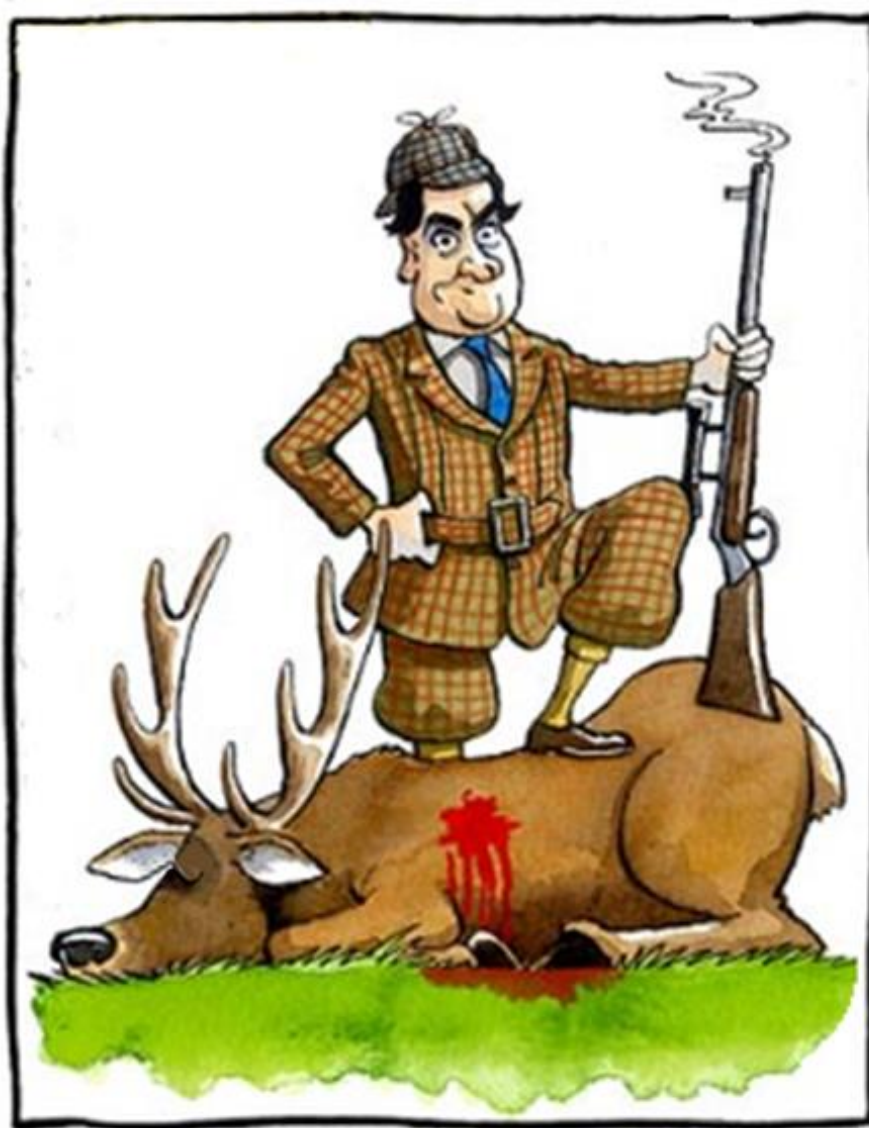


All these latter kings joined forces in the Valley of Siddim  
(that is, the Dead Sea Valley).

Bera  
Birsha  
Shinab  
Shemeber  
The king of Bela



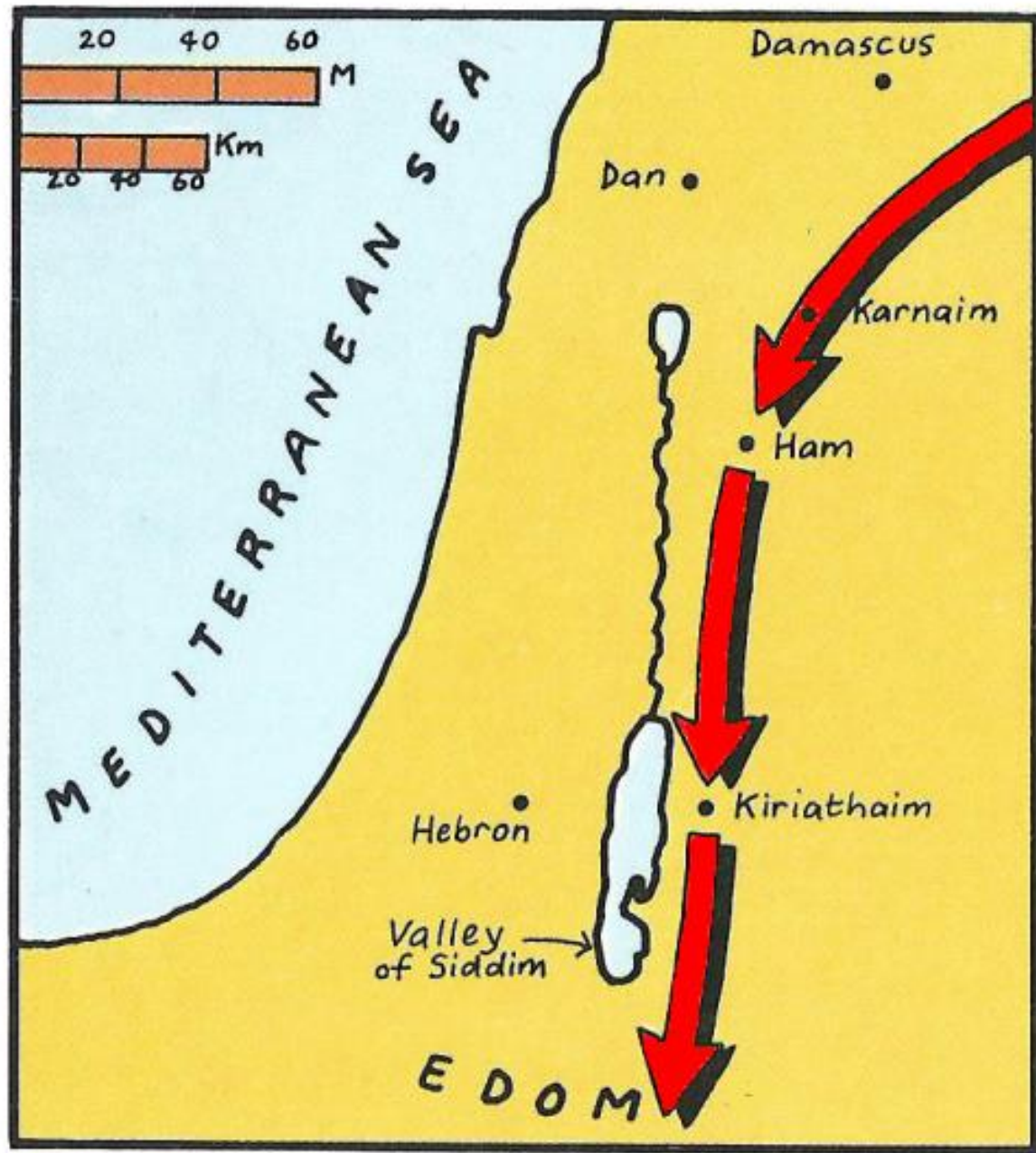
For twelve years they had been subject to Kedorlaomer,  
but in the thirteenth year they rebelled.





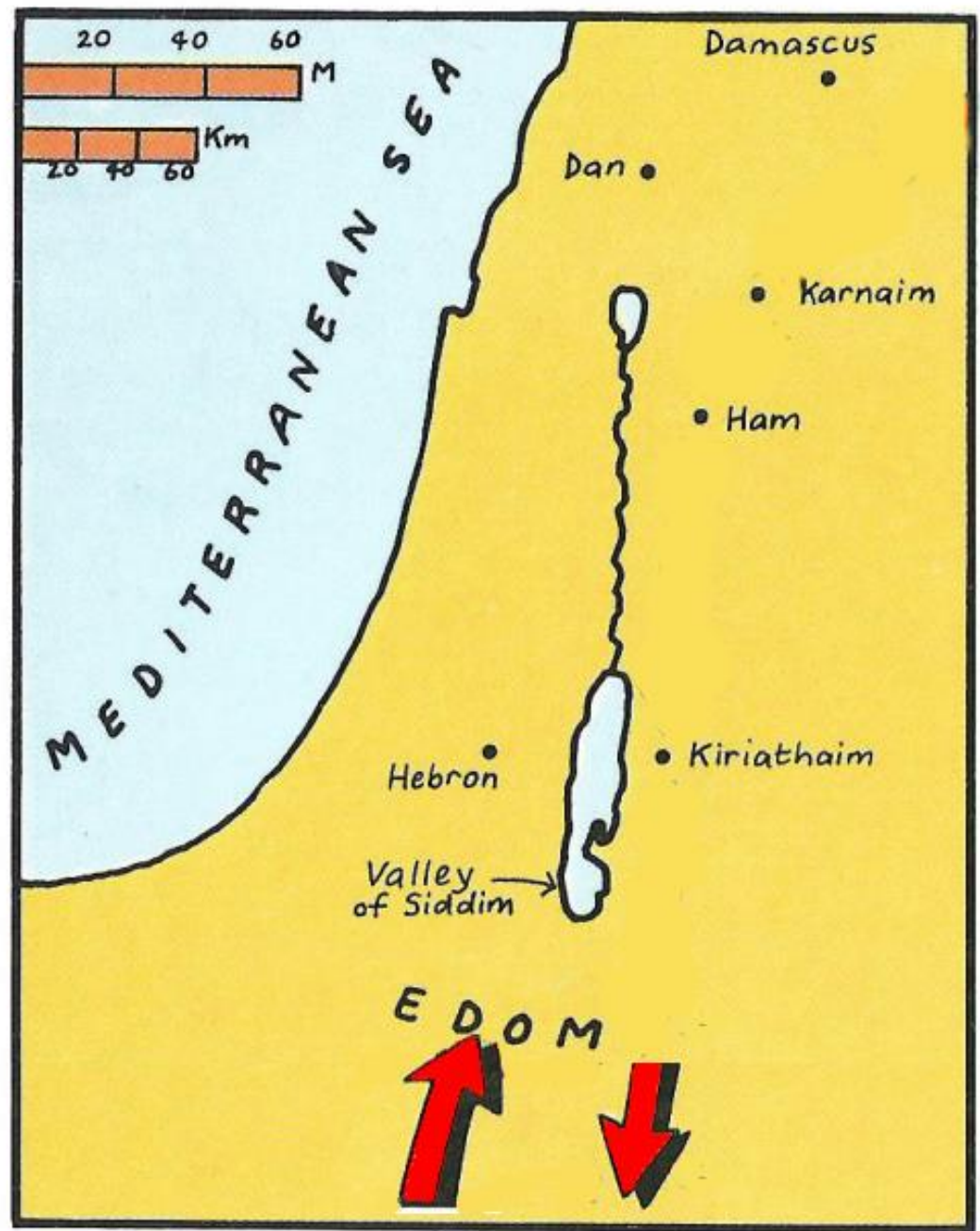
In the fourteenth year, Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him went out and defeated the Rephaites in Ashteroth Karnaim, the Zuzites in Ham, the Emites in Shaveh Kiriathaim and the Horites in the hill country of Seir, as far as El Paran near the desert.

**We'll show them  
who's boss**



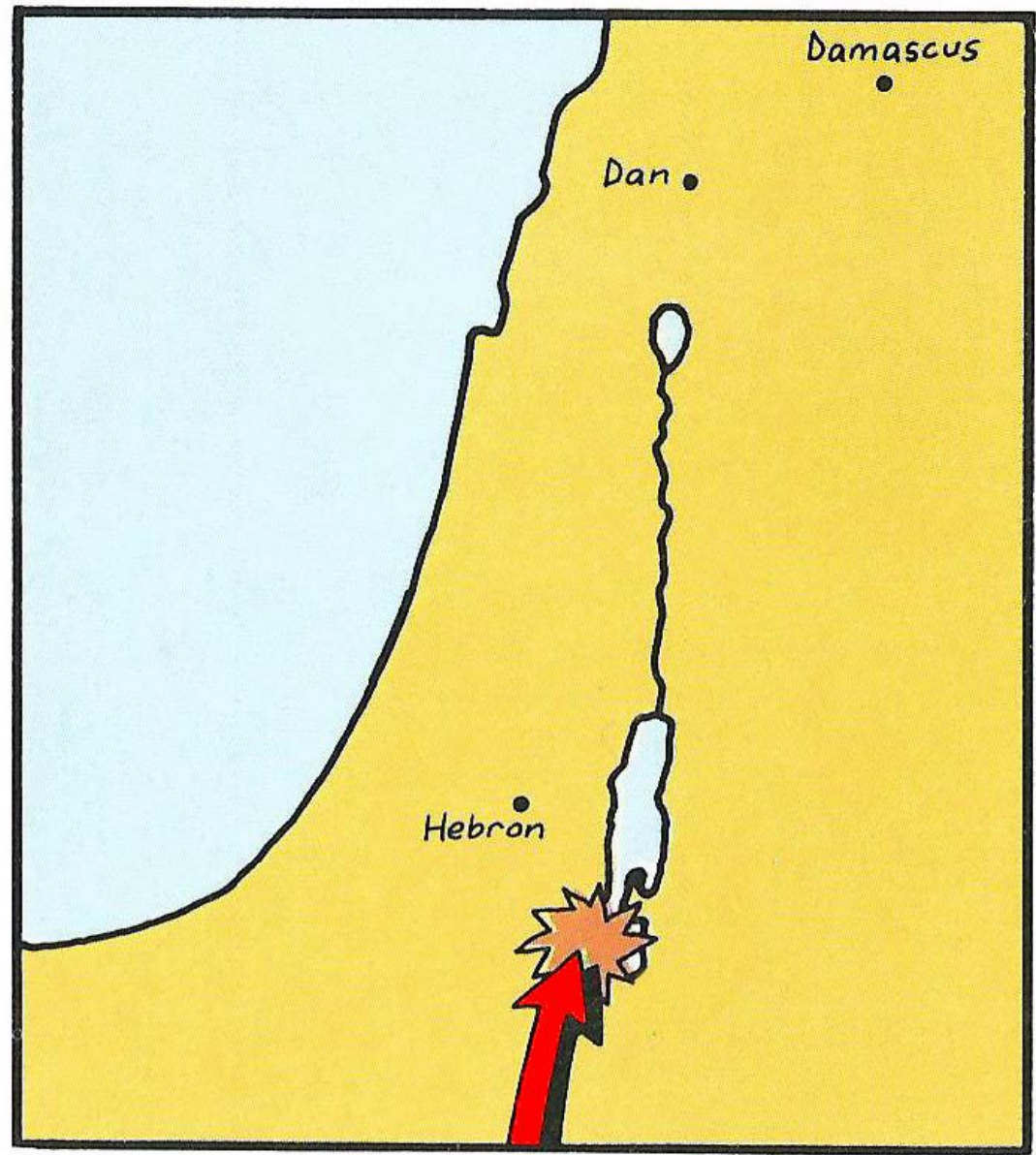
Then they turned back and went to En Mishpat (that is, Kadesh), and they conquered the whole territory of the Amalekites, as well as the Amorites who were living in Hazezon Tamar.

**Riding high !**





Then the king of Sodom, the king of Gomorrah, the king of Admah, the king of Zeboyim and the king of Bela (that is, Zoar) marched out and drew up their battle lines in the Valley of Siddim against Kedorlaomer king of Elam, Tidal king of Goyim, Amraphel king of Shinar and Arioch king of Ellasar--four kings against five.



Now the Valley of Siddim was full of tar pits, and when the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah fled, some of the men fell into them and the rest fled to the hills.





The four kings seized all the goods of Sodom and Gomorrah and all their food; then they went away. They also carried off Abram's nephew Lot and his possessions, since he was living in Sodom.



**It's a warning !**



A man who had escaped came  
and reported this to Abram the Hebrew.



**Why did he go to Abram ?**  
**What would you do if you'd heard ?**

Now Abram was living near the great trees of Mamre the Amorite, a brother of Eshkol and Aner, all of whom were allied with Abram.

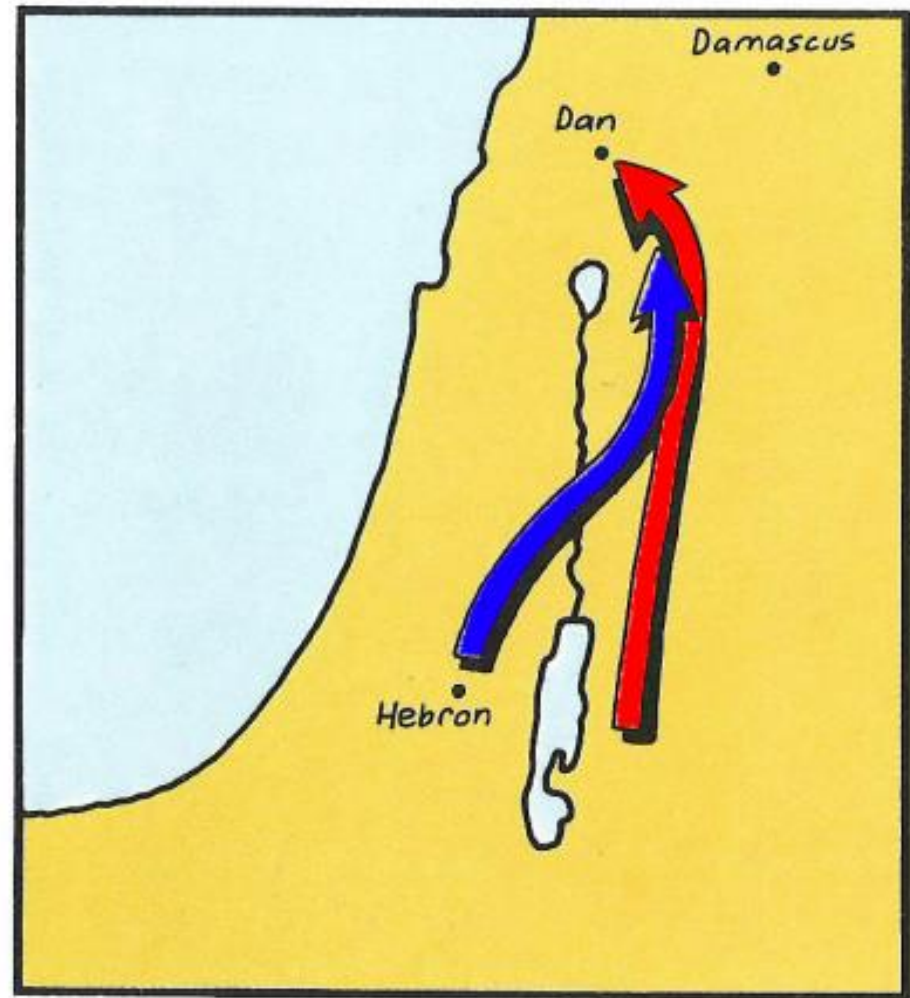


**Getting on with the neighbours**

When Abram heard that his relative had been taken captive, he called out the 318 trained men born in his household and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

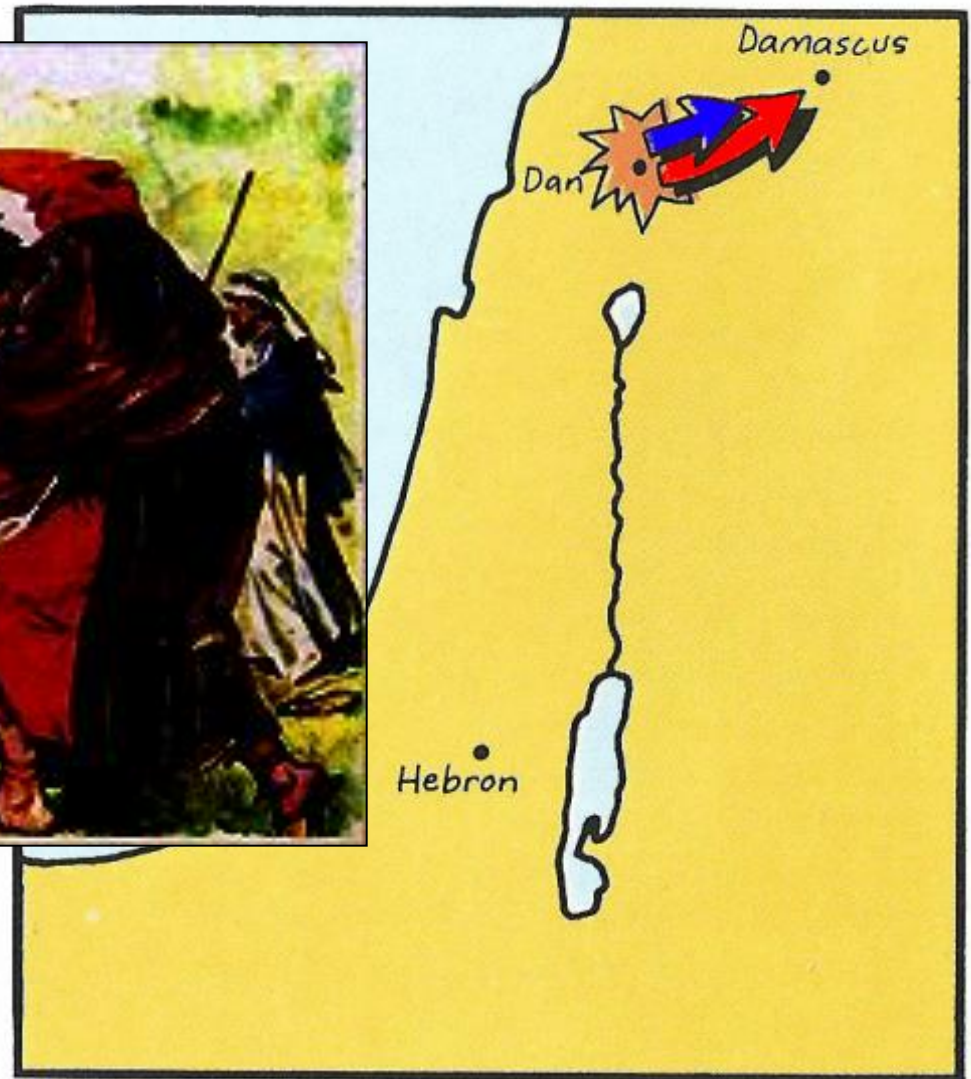


There are some things  
that you have to fight for.





During the night Abram divided his men to attack them and he routed them, pursuing them as far as Hobah, north of Damascus.

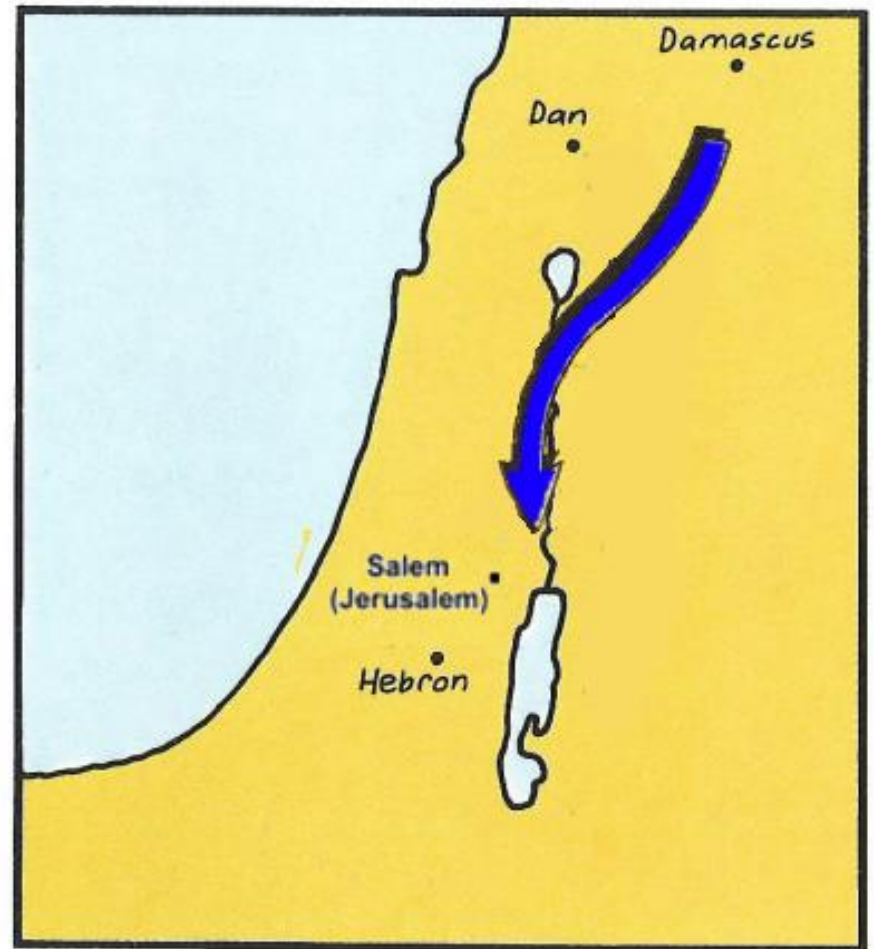


He recovered all the goods and brought back his relative Lot and his possessions, together with the women and the other people.



After Abram returned from defeating Kedorlaomer and the kings allied with him, the king of Sodom came out to meet him in the Valley of Shaveh (that is, the King's Valley).

**Wisdom needed.**





Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine.



**Refreshment**

He was priest of God Most High,

## **Who was Melchizedek ?**



Melchizedek = his title  
King of Righteousness  
ie. Righteous King  
King of Salem = his place  
Priest of the true God = his faith  
(links with Shem ?)

A “type” of the Lord Jesus  
(Hebrews 7, Psalm 110:4)  
He combines  
Kingship and Priesthood

He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram,



Abram's humility  
The designated "King" of the land !



and he blessed Abram, saying,  
"Blessed be Abram by God Most High,  
Creator of heaven and earth. "

The true God's blessing confirmed



"And praise be to God Most High,  
who delivered your enemies into your hand."



Then Abram gave him a tenth of everything.



**What did Abram give ?**



The king of Sodom said to Abram,  
"Give me the people and keep the goods for yourself."



**What were “the goods” ?**

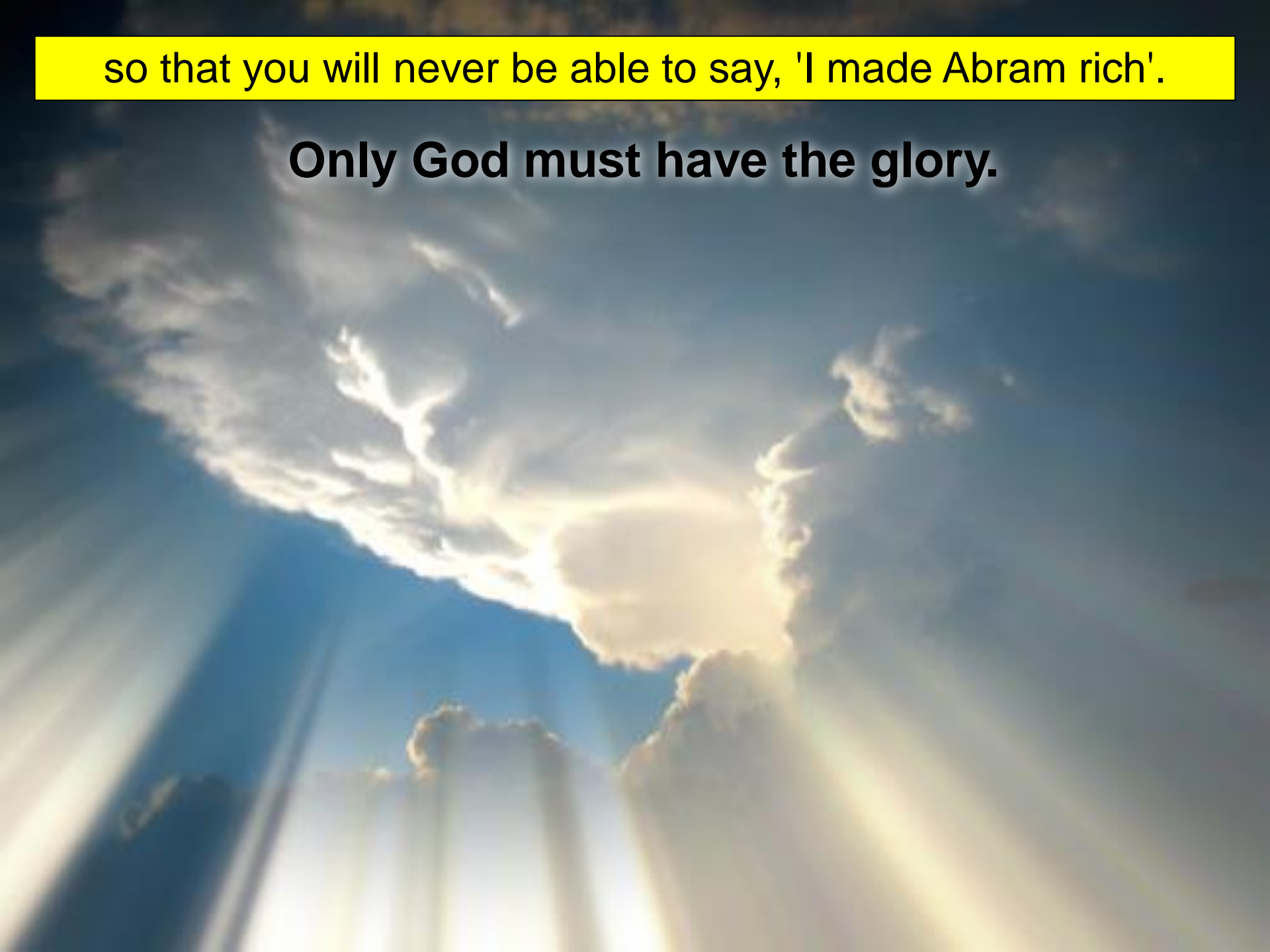
But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "With raised hand I have sworn an oath to the LORD, God Most High, Creator of heaven and earth, that I will accept nothing belonging to you, not even a thread or the strap of a sandal."



**No thanks, it's not about the money !**

so that you will never be able to say, 'I made Abram rich'.

**Only God must have the glory.**





I will accept nothing but what my men have eaten and the share that belongs to the men who went with me--to Aner, Eshkol and Mamre. Let them have their share."

The logo consists of the words "FAIR" and "SHARE" stacked vertically in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The text is enclosed within a rectangular frame defined by two horizontal brown lines, one above and one below the text.

**FAIR  
SHARE**

**We can't impose our rules on others**

# What stops wars among you ?

Looking out for others

Having a humble attitude (there's only one king!)

Thankfulness for every blessing

Generosity to others : credit where it's due

Putting God in first place in your life



If it is possible, as far as it depends on you,  
live at peace with everyone.

Romans 12:18

**Philippians 2:3-11 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.**

**In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death-- even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**