

MYSTERY OF SODOM, GOMORRAH, AND THE FIVE CITIES AND FIVE KINGS

Gen. 14:1-3,19:30-38 Bera (king of Sodom), Birsha (king of Gomorrah), Shinab (king of Admah), Shemeber (king of Zeboim),and Zoar (king of Bela). The name Bera means "son of evil" and the name of his kingdom, Gomorrah means "burning". *"The son of evil burning"*. Birsha means "with iniquity" and his kingdom Gomorrah means "submersion". *"The son of evil burned with iniquity, submersed"*. Shinab means "the splendor of the father", his kingdom Admah, means "the river". Shemeber means "lofty flight". Zeboim, his kingdom means "like gazelles". Zoar means "insignificant". Bela means "destruction". So let's recap, we have ***"The son of evil burning with iniquity, (the lawless evil people burning from the brimstone), submersed by the splendor of the Father in a river (submersed like in a river formed from all the rain and hail). They made a lofty flight (like a gazelle and tried to get away), which turned out to be insignificant" (hopeless) destruction"***.



In Genesis 19 we read about when Lot escaped the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah and his wife turning into a pillar of salt. Sodom and Gomorrah is referring to the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah, an area that contained five cities in total which were ruled by five kings. In the names of the five kings of the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah, and their kingdoms, we see the story of what happened written out for all to see. The five kings of the plains of Sodom and Gomorrah were listed in Gen. 14:1-3.

To understand the dynamics of another part of this story, we need to look back in time 4000 years. As the cities are being ravaged by rains of sulfur-and-fire, Abraham's nephew Lot escapes into the hills with his two daughters. Many believe that the daughters look out upon the devastation, and presume they are the only survivors left on earth. That would make their father the only living male. So in order to propagate the human species, they initiate incestuous relations with their father. The two daughters get Lot drunk and... nine months later, each gives birth to a baby boy. (Gen. 19:30-38) The younger daughter named her son "Ben-Ami," which means "son of my people." She felt uncomfortable about the incest, and modestly concealed the baby's lineage. The older daughter also felt uncomfortable about the incest, but she dealt with it in a much different way. She figured that by presenting incest

as a valid alternative lifestyle, that would totally justify her behavior, and she'd have



nothing to feel guilty about! In other words, "I can do whatever I want... and who are you to tell me otherwise?!" So she brazenly named her son "Moav," which means "from my father." She made "incest" the child's name!

DASYD Ministry

Bible Commentary Jerry Hennig (Nov 28/16)