

Parshas Lech Lecha – All Your Actions Should Be For the Sake of Heaven:

1. **Bereishis 14, 10-14:** The valley of Siddim was filled with bitumen wells. The kings of Sodom and Amora fled and fell into them, while the rest fled to the mountain. They seized all the wealth of Sodom and Amora and all their food and they departed. And they captured Lot and his possessions – Avram’s nephew – and they left; for he was residing in Sodom. Then came the fugitive and told Avram the Ivri, who dwelt in the plains of Mamre, the Amorite, the brother of Eshkol and the brother of Aneir, these being Avram’s allies. And when Avram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his disciples who had been born in his house – 318 – and he pursued them as far as Dan.
2. **Rashi 14,10:** And an Aggadic message says that the clay was sticky, and a miracle took place for the king of Sodom, in that he emerged from there. God performed a miracle on his behalf because there were among the nations some who did not believe that Avram was rescued from the fiery furnace of Ur Kazdim. Since this one, the king of Sodom, got out of the pit, they retroactively believed in the miracle that took place for Avram.
3. **Rashi 14,13:** Og intended that Avram would be killed attempting to rescue Lot, and he would marry Sara.
4. **Rashi 14,14:** Our Rabbis said, it was Eliezer alone, and 318 is the numerical value of his name.
5. **Bereishis 15,17:** So it happened: The sun [“Shemesh”] set and it was very dark.
6. **Bereishis 13, 1-3:** So Avram went up from Egypt, he and his wife and all that was his – and Lot with him – to the South. Now Avram was very laden [“Kaved”] with livestock, silver, and gold. He proceeded on his journeys from the south to Beth-el to the place where his tent had been first...
7. **Rashi 13,3:** When he returned from Egypt to Eretz Canaan, he stayed in the same inns as on the way down to Egypt. This teaches Derech Eretz that a person should not change hosts. Another interpretation: on the return trip, he paid back his “Hakofos” [debts].
8. **Rashi 14,1:** Amraphel. He is Nimrod who said to Avram, “Fall into the fiery furnace.”
9. **Bereishis 10,9:** He [Nimrod] was a mighty hunter before Hashem...
10. **Bereishis 13,8:** So Avram said to Lot: “Please let there be no strife between me and you, and between my herdsmen and your herdsmen, because we are men who are brothers.”
11. **Rashi:** Relatives. The Aggadic message says that their faces looked similar.