

## Hints of David in Genesis 14-15

[adapted from Bernard Gosse, "Abraham and David," JSOT 34.1 (2009) 25-31

**BACKGROUND:** after the collapse of the Davidic dynasty with the Babylonian conquest of Jerusalem, biblical writers began substituting the patriarchal covenant for the Davidic one, as in these psalm excerpts:

### Psalm 89.3-4, 38-39

3 You said, "**I have made a covenant with my chosen one, I have sworn to my servant David:**

4 'I will establish your descendants forever, and build your throne for all generations.'"

38 But now you have spurned and rejected him; you are full of wrath against your anointed.

39 **You have renounced the covenant with your servant;** you have defiled his crown in the dust.

### Psalm 105.6-10

6 **O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.**

7 He is YHWH our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

8 **He is mindful of his covenant forever,** of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations,

9 **the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac,**

10 **which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant**

GEN 14-15	DAVID STORY
14.14-16: When <b>Abram</b> heard that his nephew had been taken captive, he <b>led forth his trained men, born in his house, three hundred eighteen of them, and went in pursuit</b> as far as Dan. 15 He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of Damascus. 16 Then he <b>brought back all the goods,</b> and also brought back his nephew Lot with his goods, and the women and the people.	1 Samuel 30.8-10a, 18-19: David inquired of YHWH, "Shall I pursue this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, " <b>Pursue;</b> for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue." 9 <b>So David set out, he and the six hundred men who were with him.</b> They came to the Wadi Besor, where those stayed who were left behind. 10 But David went on with the pursuit, <b>he and four hundred men</b> 18 David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken; and David rescued his two wives. 19 Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken; <b>David brought back everything.</b>
14.15: He divided his forces against them by night, he and his servants, and routed them and pursued them to Hobah, north of <b>Damascus.</b>	2 Sam 8.6: Then David put garrisons among the Arameans of <b>Damascus;</b> and the Arameans became servants to David and brought tribute.
14.20: blessed be God Most High, who <b>has delivered [magen]</b> your enemies into your hand!	2 Sam 22.31: This God--his way is perfect; the promise of YHWH proves true; he is <b>a shield [magen]</b> for all who take refuge in him.
15.3: And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my <b>house [bayit] is to be my heir. [yoresh]"</b>	2 Sam 7.11b-12: Moreover YHWH declares to you that YHWH will make you a <b>house [bayit].</b> 12 When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your <b>offspring [yoresh]</b> after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom.