

People and places in Genesis 14

NAME	EXPLANATION
King Amraphal	Unknown
Shinar	See Gen 10.10; 11.2, referring to the region of Babylon by this name
King Arioch	Unknown
Ellasar	Guessed to be Assyria, but other options possible
King Chedorlaomer	"made up of an authentic Elamite term (kudor, 'son') and an Akkadian divine name (La-gamal, 'the unsparing'), but no king of this name is attested" (G.Wenham 308)
Elam	"a powerful state in the Middle East in the early 2nd mill" (G.Wenham 308)
King Tidal	Attested as a Hittite king
Goiim	Means "nations," and thus, is not a specific/real place
King Bera	From root meaning "evil," and thus, likely a pejorative nickname
Sodom	Where Lot resides
King Birsha	Unknown
Gomorrah	Always paired with Sodom
King Shinab	Unknown
Admah	Mentioned at Gen 10.19; also, Deut 29.23 with Sodom, Gomorrah and Zeboiim
Zeboiim	Meaning "deer" or "gazelles"
King Bela	Unknown
Zoar	Also linking back to Gen 13.10 and Lot's choice
Valley of Siddim	Possibly a city submerged under the Dead Sea
Rephaim	See Deut 2.10-12, where they are described as "giants"
Ashteroth-karnaim	Originally two separate cities; the first is the name of the primary female deity in the region
Zuzim	Only here; unknown
Ham	Recalling Gen 9.20
Emim	See Deut 2.12
Shaveh-kiriathaim	A Moabite city near Hebron; see Isa 13.19; Num 32.37
Horites	See Deut 2.12; Gen 36.20ff
Seir	Meaning "hairy," and associated with Esau/Edom, Gen 32.3
El-paran	South of Judah, a.k.a., Elath (Deut 2.8) or Eloth (1 Kg 9.26)
En-mishpat	Meaning, "eye/spring of justice"
Kadesh	An important oasis to the south of Canaan; see Num 13.26; 20.22; 34.4
Amalekites	A nomadic people, important to the reign of King Saul, 1 Sam 15.2-8; also, Exodus 17.8; Num 13.29; Deut 25.17
Amorites	Frequently mentioned; perhaps a generic term for various indigenous peoples
Hazazon-tamar	Meaning, "Gravel dump with palms" (!); 2 Chron 20.2 as Ein-Gedi
Mamre, Eshcol and Aner	Three brothers who are "lords of covenant" with Abram
Dan	Traditional northern boundary of Israel, but anachronistic here; see Judg 18.27-29
Hobah	Unknown
Damascus	Linking with Gen 15.2; not elsewhere in torah
Valley of Shaveh	Meaning, "level"
King Melchizedek	Meaning, "my god/lord is justice/salvation"; see Psalm 110.4; Hebrews 5-7
Salem	Sometimes associated with Jerusalem, but no evidence to support it; see Psalm 76.3