

## Two scholarly views on the sources and structure of Genesis 14:

### **CLAUS WESTERMANN (1990)**

1. 14:1-11: an annalistic report from outside Israel attesting to the battle and its outcome: "vv. 1-11 obviously smack of the scribe's desk; the clumsy way in which the lists have been worked in betrays this"
2. 14:12-24 (less vv. 18-20): a "liberation narrative" from the period of judges: "Replace Abraham with Gideon and the story could take its place unaltered in the book of Judges."
3. 14:18-20: a cultic blessing scene, probably from time of David [note: more recent scholars argue for the time of Persia or Greece, many centuries after David]

### **GORDON WENHAM (2014)**

14:1-16: three battle scenes following "regular convention in Hebrew narrative of telling a story in three scenes"

14:17-24: three-way confrontation between Abram, king of Sodom and Melchizedek

note also various uses of key words integrated from the battle scenes into the discussion at the end: "it is a well-integrated piece despite its unique character"

against vv. 1-11 as addition: "Unlike Mesopotamian annals, which use the first person, this is a third-person account. The brevity of the opening verses may be dictated by dramatic considerations as much as any other ..."

"The story, would, however, lose much of its punch were the introductory verses omitted. ... Furthermore, the phraseology of Abram's speech in vv. 22-24 seems to use terminology drawn from vv. 1-11 as well as vv. 12-16"