

Genesis 14:8-12

וַיֵּצֵא מֶלֶךְ-סֹדֶם וּמֶלֶךְ עֶמְרָה וּמֶלֶךְ אַדְמָה וּמֶלֶךְ [צְבוִיִּים] וּמֶלֶךְ בֵּלַע
הוּא־צֶעֶר וַיַּעֲרְכוּ אֹתָם מִלְחָמָה בְּעֵמֶק הַשְּׂדִיִּים: 9 אֵת כְּדֹרְלַעְמֹר
מֶלֶךְ עֵילָם וְתִדְעַל מֶלֶךְ גּוֹיִם וְאַמְרָפֶל מֶלֶךְ שִׁנְעָר וְאַרְיוֹךְ מֶלֶךְ אֶלְסָר
אַרְבָּעָה מְלָכִים אֶת־הַחֲמִשָּׁה: 10 וְעֵמֶק הַשְּׂדִיִּים בְּאֶרֶת בְּאֶרֶת חֲמָר
וַיִּנְסוּ מֶלֶךְ-סֹדֶם וְעֶמְרָה וַיִּפְּלוּ־שָׁמָּה וְהַנְּשֹׂאִים הָרָה נָסוּ: 11 וַיִּקְחוּ
אֶת־כָּל־רֶכֶשׁ סֹדֶם וְעֶמְרָה וְאֶת־כָּל־אֲכָלָם וַיִּלְכוּ: 12 וַיִּקְחוּ אֶת־לוֹט
וְאֶת־רֶכְשׁוֹ בֶן־אָחִי אַבְרָם וַיִּלְכוּ וְהוּא יֹשֵׁב בְּסֹדֶם:

Vocabulary

Verse 8

סֹדֶם name: “Sodom”
עֶמְרָה name (of place): “Gomorrah”
אַדְמָה name (of place): “Admah”
צְבוִיִּים name (of place): “Zeboiim”
בֵּלַע name (of place): “Bela”
צֶעֶר name (of place): “Zoar”
שְׂדִיִּים name (of place): “Siddim”

Syntax & Miscellaneous

- Qere: צְבוִיִּים.
- The verbless clause, הוּא־צֶעֶר, is a renaming of the city Bala (“that is Zoar”). The feminine pronoun is used because the referent is a city (cities in Hebrew are feminine; much like ships in English are feminine [e.g. The U.S.S. Ronald Regan is a large vessel; she is an aircraft carrier]).

Verse 9

כְּדֹרְלַעְמֹר name (of person): “Chedorlaomer”
עֵילָם name (of place): “Elam”
תִּדְעַל name (of person): “Tidal”
גּוֹיִם name (of place): “Goiim”
אַמְרָפֶל name (of person): “Amraphel”
שִׁנְעָר name (of place): “Shinar”
אַרְיוֹךְ name (of person): “Arioch”
אֶלְסָר name (of place): “Ellasar”

Verse 10

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עמק noun: “valley, vale”

שדים name (of place): “Siddim”

באר noun: “pit” (BDB, 91)

חמר noun: “asphalt” (BDB, 330)

Verse 11

רבוש *plene* noun: “property” (BDB, 940)

אכל noun: “food” (BDB, 38)

Verse 12

רבוש “property” (BDB, 940)

Syntax & Misc.

Verse 9

- The direct object marker is used as the preposition “against.”
- Remember Shinar is an archaic appellation for Assyria (cf. Genesis 10:10, 11:2; Joshua 7:21; Daniel 1:2; Zechariah 5:11).

Verse 10

- The repetition of the term, באר, is used hyperbolically to mean an overwhelming amount (GKC 123 e)
- The participle, וְהַנִּשְׁאָרִים, is a substantive (i.e. functions as a noun, “those surviving”)

Verse 12

- The final (periphrastic) clause, וְהוּא יָשֵׁב בְּסֹדֶם, is a good example of a disjunction waw indicating a “parenthetical” comment.