As a Volunteer

Violin Solo

“Abraham’s Gate” at Tel Dan
“Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan (Ge. 13:11). He did not ask God what His will was for him. Neither did he consider his kind benefactor, Abraham, the man of whom he was taking advantage. However, the time would come when Lot would bitterly rue his choice.

Now Chedorlaomer was the Napolean of his age. Years before Abraham and Lot had entered Canaan, Chedorlaomer, from his capital city, Susa, beyond the Tigris, had subdued the towns along the Jordan Valley. They were paying tribute to him when Lot took up his residence towards Sodom. After twelve years, however, they revolted.

Chedorlaomer, in order to punish the rebellious cities, combined his forces with three friendly rulers in the Euphrates Valley, and after smiting many peoples (Ge. 14:5-7), captured and sacked the wealthy towns of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeborim. He then began his homeward march north along the Jordan River with the rich booty, vast host of captives, and “Lot, Abram’s brother’s son, who dwelt in Sodom, and his goods” (Ge. 14:12).

“When Abram heard” (Ge. 14:14) in Hebron, 23 miles south of Jerusalem, that Lot had been taken captive, he set out on a military expedition, an unexpected conquest, but one congruent with the graces of a Christian.

God supplied divine help and military genius, rewarding Abraham’s faith. Abraham used the tactics of all the great generals—celerity of movement, suddenness of attack, skillful division of forces, and outflanking and out marching the enemy.

Using the adult children of his own servants, he pursued the enemy as far as Dan, divided his men into companies, fell upon the enemy by night from different sides, and chased them in headlong panic as far as the ancient city of Damascus.

That is why this gate is called “Abraham’s Gate”—because Abraham may have used it during this rescue of his nephew, Lot.

The well-preserved Canaanite gateway is an extraordinary find, dating from the 18th century B.C., and having three arches, possibly the earliest evidence of the use of an arch ever uncovered by archeologists.

Abraham was completely successful in his campaign. He defeated the foe and recaptured the prisoners and spoil; and it doesn’t appear that Abraham or his allies lost a man.

As a soldier of the Gospel of Christ, each Christian faces the power of hell and those who oppose the Gospel of Christ. That includes wrestling, not simply with stupidity, barbarism, or intellectual acumen of flesh and blood, but with the spiritual hosts of wickedness, which are in the heavenly places (Da. 10). However, we also share Christ’s conquest over these principalities and powers!
As a Volunteer

W. S. Brown

Charles H. Gabriel, 1856-1932
Arr. by Glenda Macomber

A call for loyal soldiers
Comes to one and all;
Soldiers for the conflict,
Will you heed the call!

Will you answer quickly,
With a ready cheer,
Will you be enlisted
As a volunteer?

A volunteer for Jesus,
A soldier true!
Others have enlisted,
Why not you?

Jesus is the Captain,
We will never fear;
Will you be enlisted
As a volunteer?

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Yes, Jesus calls for soldiers Who are filled with pow'r,
Soldiers who will serve Him every day and hour,
He will not forsake you, He is ever near,
Will you be enlisted As a volunteer?
A volunteer for Jesus, A soldier true!
Others have enlisted, Why not you?
Jesus is the Captain, We will never fear,
Will you be enlisted As a volunteer?