

SERIES TITLE: CHOICES

PART 1: CERTAINTY OR UNCERTAINTY

TEXT: GENESIS 12

INTRODUCTION.

As we continue studying through Genesis, we are introduced to a major character in the Old Testament, Abraham. After ten generations of silence, God speaks and gives incredible promises to this man. The choices that Abram makes are instructive for us. By his example we can learn what it means to live by faith. We can also discover how the wrong choices impact God's will for our lives.

DISCUSSION.

In making a decision, which extreme do you identify with most and why?

- I immediately have a "gut feeling" about what I should do and decide quickly.
- I analyze as long as possible, and choose to do nothing unless I have enough facts.

EXAMINATION.

- Vv.1-3 What do you make of these promises that are unconditional and universal?
- Why would God promise Abram a great name, when that was the motivation God opposed at the Tower of Babel? (11:4)
- Vv.4-9 What is the significance of Abram building altars at Shechem and in the hill country?
- Vv.10-20 Is a severe famine sufficient reason for Abram to leave for Egypt? Why or why not?
- What is wrong with Abram's strategy for protecting his wife?

APPLICATION.

- How confident are you that God has a purpose for your life, and upon what do you base that confidence?
- Consider the statement: God is always calling you toward his purpose. What examples of this can you give?

- Clearly, Abram is of enormous importance in biblical history. Is it ridiculous to believe that God cares just as much about the details of your life? Why or why not?
- Can you give an example of when you made a choice while reasoning that “the end justified the means”?
- “Anytime your new tomorrow includes some dishonesty, lack of trust, lapse of ethics, betrayal of relationship, or denial of faith, that is not the purpose of God.” How do you react to that statement and can you defend or deny it biblically?
- When you fail to live by faith and trust the promise of God, how do you come back from that?
- Fact: What is a key truth that you understood from this passage?
- React: What did you feel?
- Act: What are you going to do?