

Blessings to you and your families during these days of trial and uncertainty. Even though we are not gathering as a church, we still need to gather around our Lord's Word. Use these daily devotions and readings in your homes, either as individuals or with your families. If you have children, let them read.

Times of Uncertainty – Abraham

When the Lord calls, I guess you go. Abraham had a normal life in northern Mesopotamia, each day living and going about his business. Then the Lord called him to pack up all his belongings, his whole household, and go to an unknown land. Abraham didn't even know where he was going, all he knew was that he was going because the Lord told him to. He left his home, his job, his extended family. He would leave everything he knew behind.

It was a very uncertain time. Where would he live? How would he provide for his family? In what country would he now live and become a citizen? What would his new neighbors be like? Would he be safe? There were a lot of uncertainties.

The one certain thing Abraham had was the promise of his God. God had promised Abraham that he would make him into a great nation and from his descendants the promised Savior would one day come. Abraham went forward in trust and faith. He eventually settled in the land of Canaan and began making a new home.

Then times of uncertainty struck again. There was a severe famine in the land that forced Abraham to pack everything up and go to Egypt in search of food. Times were hard and called for drastic measures. There in Egypt, Abraham became afraid because of uncertainty. He was now in Egypt. He had no rights. He had no protections. He had no guaranteed safeties. Because of Abraham's fear and uncertainty, his faith wavered. Fearing for his own life, he let his wife Sarah be taken into Pharaoh's court. He pawned his wife off so that his life would be spared and he would be treated well.

As many people in our nation face quarantine, some face shelter in place, and all of us are facing social distancing because of the coronavirus, sometimes we want to ask, "How long is this going to last? When will it end? When will the Lord put a stop to it all?" Times of uncertainty can cause us to waver in our faith. The threat of this virus will eventually come to an end. This virus will not be the end of the world, only the Lord's final day of judgment will end this world. Only the Lord can end this immediate threat, only he has the power.

After Sarah was taken by the Pharaoh, Abraham did not know what to do. He did not know how to get out of the great mess he had caused. Because of his fear, Sarah was now captive and there was now the immediate threat that God's promise would not be fulfilled. But God intervened and put a stop to it, only he could. By the Lord's actions Sarah was returned, Abraham left Egypt richer than when he first arrived, and God's promise of making Abraham into a great nation was still intact. God stepped in and made everything alright.

Despite what we see and hear in the world, our faith allows us to know God will make everything alright. We have our God's love. We have our Savior's forgiveness. We have our God's promise that we are his children and heirs of eternal life.

Read Genesis 12 today as your Scripture reading.

Pastor Guse