



Out of ancient times

There have been paths out of time periods. Some are in the Bible while others are in our history. Places where we turn a page. I wonder if we get stuck too easily? Did Jesus come at a time when the religious rulers were stuck in tradition? About 350 years later, the religious rulers met because Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit were being taken out of context. About 700 more years after that, the church split in two. In my mind, these events are new paths and split paths.

In chapter 12 of Genesis, I feel we have the beginning of a new path. To me, the first 11 chapters are ancient times. There is a ton of storylines that we have with so little data. It's just too long ago. Around chapter 12, people were beginning to write on stone cruciform tablets. They began in the Ur of the Chaldees. This area is where the Bible takes a sharp turn or new path. A man named Abram is called on by an unknown God to go from his land.

The path is set. Abram leaves with his brother's son, Lot. This path is the very beginning of the tribe of Israel. We have a community of people around the earth in the first 11 chapters. Now God settles on one family, one man. This path leads him to make choices. It's interesting really. Adam and Eve choose. Cain chooses to kill. Noah accepts his calling to build an ark. From Abram on in there are choices. Jacob chooses. Isaac chooses. Joseph chooses. Moses makes choices. Further on Solomon

becomes wisdom and choice. All the Kings of Israel make choices good and bad. Finally, in the desert Jesus is tempted with choices.

Even Lot's wife chooses to look back or not. Abram (now Abraham) asks God to choose the righteous in Sodom and Gomorrah. David chooses to stay behind from battle and commit adultery. God offers him choices of punishment. The path from the ancients is a long one. God initiates it with the call of Abram. The path is Gods yet he lets humans choose along the way.

They call it free will. From Adam and Eve till now we have free will to choose. This path has consequences along the way. Abrahams choice to sleep with Hagar has caused the Middle east conflict thousands of years later. The first King (Saul) chose not to kill all the Agagites. Years later an Agagite tries to wipe out the Jews. This path was pivotal in making a path for Jesus to come. What has the division we have made in religion done to our future? Has our choices been right paths?