

Making HStory MY Story

DETOUR TO UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD

Not only does every human society tell stories, each one has a BIG story. A BIG story answers the BIG questions of life:

- How did we get here?
- Why are we here?
- Where do we end up?
- How are we supposed to live in the meantime?
- What's wrong with the world?

The BIG story of Jesus Christ is the BIG story of the Bible. He made that story of the foundation of his life. He is the climax of that story. He is also its main character. If we claim to be his followers, it only makes sense that we make HStory our story, by learning it, loving it and living it.

So, what is HStory?

HStory is the Story of an Enormous Detour

- The story of the Bible exists because the road to God's goal for us has become impassable to us. Something broke and put us on an alternate route.

God's Goal for HStory is a Glorious Goal (Rev. 21-22)

- God's goal for HStory is to populate the new earth with people who live in unbroken fellowship with him and with each other.

The Road to that Goal is Total Trust (Gen. 1:16-17; Heb. 11:6)

- Trust is the essential ingredient for every relationship, including our relationship with God. The way we show that we trust God is by obeying his Word.

That Road has Become Impassable to Us (Gen. 3:1-7; Rom. 3:10-11)

- Behind every sinful act is a fundamental distrust of God and his Word. Rather than doing what's right and trusting God to take care of us, beginning with our first parents we have all relied on our own instincts and intuitions. We have all done our own stuff in our own ways.

HStory is all about God taking Us on a Long Detour Designed to Win Our Trust

- Rather than abandoning us for breaking trust with him, in seven acts HStory tells how God has reached out to humankind time and time again in order to reveal his trustworthiness and win back our trust. (See the chart on the other side.)

If there's one thing that HStory makes clear, it's God's relentless pursuit of humankind. Even though we have broken trust and turned our backs on him over and over again, he has kept reaching out to us in order to draw us back into fellowship with himself.

What God has done throughout HStory, he does for each one of us. He pursues us. He acts in our lives. He gives us good gifts. Through Jesus Christ he promises salvation. He calls us to trust him totally. Through his Spirit he even offers to change our hearts so that we are able to trust him. All we have to do is pray the prayer of Mark 9:24, *"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*

DIG A LITTLE DEEPER: Take some time this week to read the first two and the last two chapters of the Bible. As you read look for parallels between the opening and closing chapters of HStory.

MAKING HStory MY Story

The BIG Story of the Bible in Seven Acts

- Our lives become meaningful only when they are seen as part of a bigger story. God our Creator invites us to be part of “HStory” as it is told in the Bible.
- God’s goal for HStory is to populate the new heaven and earth with people who live in direct and unbroken fellowship with Him.
- The key ingredient for that kind of fellowship is trust freely given. As long as our first parents heeded God’s call to trust him they continued in unbroken fellowship with him.
- Because they broke trust, however, and because we have all followed their example, HStory takes us on a detour that reveals God’s trustworthiness and teaches us what it takes to trust Him totally and live in unending fellowship with Him.
- In seven Acts the Bible tells how God has sought to win the trust of human beings throughout HStory. Each act includes an act of God, a gift from God and a covenant that includes a promise and a call to trust.

