

**Making HIStory MY Story**

**IT'S NOT WHAT YOU KNOW, IT'S WHO YOU KNOW**

**Genesis 11-12**

One of our deepest fears, as individuals and a race, is that we pass from this planet without leaving a trace of our existence. Our fear drives us to look for permanence; and human wisdom tells us that the key to permanence is our own know-how. In contrast to that, biblical wisdom tells us that it's not what we know, but who we know that will save us from extinction.

After the flood, God's hope was that the memory of the water, the way of escape provided through Noah, his promise of mercy and his call to punish sin would turn people to him and regain their trust so that they would once again live in unbroken fellowship with him.

The things God did surely worked for some people; but it wasn't long before the entire human race had turned its back on him again. They feared that, if they did what God told them to do, they would become extinct. So rather than spreading out and filling the earth the way God had told them to (Gen. 9:1 and 7), people gathered together to build a city with a tower so that they would not be scattered and forgotten (Gen. 11:1-4). People came to believe that their permanence depended on their own know-how. *It was time for God to act again.*

Together, the four elements of Act 4 of HIStory tell us that it's not what we know that will give us true permanence, but who we know.

**GOD MAKES A MUDDLE: *Humanity's effort to find permanence results in confusion* – Genesis 11:5-9**

- Babel means two things. In the ancient language of the builders, Akkadian, it meant “gateway to God.” In the language of the Old Testament, Hebrew, it meant “confusion.” What was intended to be a gateway to glory became a gateway to confusion and chaos.

**GOD GIVES A MODEL: *God gave Abraham and Sarah to show what he does for those who trust him totally* – Genesis 12:1-5**

- With Abraham and Sarah, a major shift took place in HIStory. From this point forward, God’s actions, his gifts, his promises and his calls are all directed toward this couple and their descendants.
- The Jewish people are their biological descendants. We become adopted descendants of Abraham and Sarah and heirs of God’s promises when we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, who himself was their biological descendant.

**GOD’S PROMISE OF BLESSING: *Real permanence comes only from God* – Genesis 12:3-4**

- When we treat the promises God made to Abraham and Sarah as a math equation, they add up to one thing: permanence.

**GOD’S CALL TO LEAVE THE CULTURE OF SELF-RELIANCE: *We have a role to play* – Genesis 12:1**