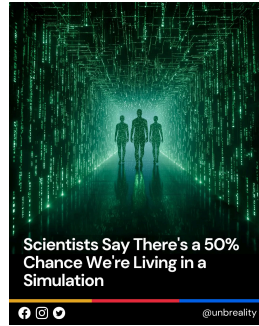


When Covenants Collide

Learning to understand the Bible is a lot like learning how to swim: you never know how well you're doing until you jump into the deep end. Anybody can appreciate John 3:16, but when you wade into the deeper waters of Scripture, it's easy to feel like you're drowning. So it is with the middle section of Hebrews (chapters 5-10), which holds some of the most complex concepts in the Bible. Join us Sundays in October at The Story as we take a deep dive in search of profound truths about Jesus, the Gospel, and the shortfalls of human religion.

October 26, 2025 - Part 4 - No Going Back



Simulation Theory: the hypothesis that what we perceive as reality, including our universe, is an artificial simulation created by a more advanced being or civilization

What does *Simulation Theory* have in common with the worldview put forth by the author of *Hebrews*?

According to *Hebrews*, what kinds of things do people hold dear that are just *copies* of something greater?

How are attachments like alcoholism, drug addiction, and sex addiction just *copies* of good, heavenly things?

Ephesians 5:18 - Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. *Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*

"The young man who rings the bell at the brothel is unconsciously looking for God." - Bruce Marshall

Hebrews 9:22-26 - ...the Law requires that nearly everything be cleansed with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness. It was necessary, then, for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these sacrifices, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God's presence. Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.

The Sacrifice of Jesus Means:

1. _____ for _____

What does it mean that "without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness"? Why is blood necessary?

What does the Greek word *EPHÁPAX* mean? How many times does it appear in *Hebrews*?

What does it mean to you that Jesus' sacrifice was *ephápax* - once for all?

Hebrews 10:1-5, 9-10, 14 - The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming - not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said... "Here I am, I have come to do your will..." and by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all... For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.

The Sacrifice of Jesus Means:

2. You can't _____ into Heaven
or _____ into Hell

If Jesus' sacrifice means forgiveness of sins *all at once* (*ephápax*), how is it possible for some to be condemned?

Hebrews 10:15-18 - The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: "This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds." Then he adds: "Their sins and lawless acts I will remember no more." And where these have been forgiven, sacrifice for sin is no longer necessary.

The Sacrifice of Jesus Means:

3. There is _____!

What "copies" and old habits are you tempted to go back to instead of putting all your trust in Jesus? When you face temptation, what are your best weapons to fight back against it?



Serve Day at The Story

Sign up to join us on Saturday, November 15 for a special serve day at the church! This service opportunity is open to all ages. We will be completing projects to refresh areas, including our group rooms & LiftOff (3rd-5th) classroom. Register on: **thestory.church/events**



Play Your Part 2026

Every fall, we ask everyone who calls The Story "home" to share what they plan to give financially in the year ahead, which helps us know how to best steward your generosity. Visit **thestory.church/pyp** to share your 2026 commitment!



Thanksgiving Meal for RoseMary's Place

On Tuesday, 11/18 at 6:30pm, we're preparing and serving a meal for 100+ homeless individuals with RoseMary's Place – a recently opened housing complex run by Magnificat House in Midtown. Visit **thestory.church/serve** to sign up to provide dishes or to volunteer!