

# The Story Devotional Plan 2023

## Chapter 10: New Beginnings



Welcome to Chapter 10 of *"The Story"*, an exciting journey through the Bible!

Below are 21 days of Scripture to use in your time w/ God & to prep for the upcoming Sunday.

Here are some tips to get you started:

- For each passage, we encourage you to SOAP the text.
- For each day, we provide questions or statements to help you observe the text in order to apply it to your life. Ask God: "How should I apply this text to my life today?"
- Click on the following for video overviews of [Hebrews](#) and [Revelations](#).

*Let's begin!*

### LONGING FOR SOMETHING BETTER

- | READ  | REFLECT   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/11: <a href="#">Heb 1:1-4</a>     | This week we will see that in every way, Jesus brought the "better". Therefore, early on... The author wanted us to know that Jesus is "much superior" and "more excellent" (v4). How does the author establish Jesus' preeminence?         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/12: <a href="#">Heb 7:18-28</a>   | A "better hope" (v19) of a "better covenant" (v22) is introduced of which Jesus is the guarantor. According to vv18-28, what makes the new covenant the better covenant?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/13: <a href="#">Heb 8:1-13</a>    | According to vv10-12, what are the "better promises" (v6) on which the new covenant is enacted?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/14: <a href="#">Heb 9:11-14</a>   | According to these verses, what are the "much more" (v14) benefits a believer has b/c of the cross? If applicable, in what ways have you experienced the "much more" since Jesus rescued you?   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/15: <a href="#">Heb 10:32-36</a>  | How can knowing that you have a "better possession" (v34) impact how you live your life?  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/16: <a href="#">Heb 11:1-12:2</a> | All of these who lived before Jesus came to Earth were on a journey to... A "better country" (v16), a "better life" (v35). They walked by faith. How should we walk in our journey to the "something better" (v40) God has provided for us? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/17: <a href="#">Heb 12:22-24</a>  | Read <a href="#">Genesis 4:8-11</a> . How does Jesus' blood speak a "better word" (v24) to God than Abel's blood?   |

### THE NEXT TIME JESUS COMES

- | READ   | REFLECT  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/18: <a href="#">Rev 1:1-20</a> | Revelations is the only book of the Bible that specifically promises blessing to the reader and hearer (v3). Why do you think John mentions this?<br><br>If all we had of the Bible was Revelation 1, what would we know about Jesus?<br><br>Jesus is "coming soon" ( <a href="#">3:11</a> ). Therefore, to prepare for His return, Jesus had personal messages for seven churches. <b>For each day this week, read Jesus words to one of the churches and ask yourself: "How would I have responded?"</b> Today, read His message in <a href="#">Revelation 2:1-7</a> to the Church in Ephesus and ask that question. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12/19: <a href="#">Rev 4:1-11</a> | If all you knew about Heaven was from ch4, what would you know?<br><br>Why is a world where God is central the best world in which to live?<br><br>Read <a href="#">Revelation 2:8-11</a> for Jesus' message to the Church in Smyrna. If you were a member of that church, how would you have responded?   |

- 12/20: [Rev 5:1-14](#) God the Father has given the authority to judge to His Son ([John 5:22](#)) who is worthy to take the scroll and open the seals of future judgment. With judgment right around the corner, where does ch5 give great comfort to Christians?  
Read [Revelation 2:12-17](#) for Jesus' message to the Church in Pergamum.  
If you were a member of that church, how would you have responded?
- 12/21: [Rev 7:1-17](#) If all you knew about Heaven was from ch7, what would you know?  
How should knowing these things about Heaven impact how you live now?  
Read [Revelation 2:18-29](#) for Jesus' message to the Church in Thyatira.  
If you were a member of that church, how would you have responded?
- 12/22: [Rev 8:1-9:21](#) Think about what has transpired so far: From Gen 1 to Gen 3, and then evil upon evil throughout human history. Then consider all that we have seen from Revelation 1-7 and now what is about to occur in chs8-9. Why do you think there is 30 minutes of silence in 8:1?  
Read [Revelation 3:1-6](#) for Jesus' message to the Church in Sardis.  
If you were a member of that church, how would you have responded?
- 12/23: [Rev 12:1-17](#) If all you knew about Satan was from ch12, what would you know about him and his mission?  
Recall [Revelation 1:3](#) and how the reader and hearer are blessed.  
If you woke up every day thinking about Revelation, how might you be less likely deceived by Satan?  
Read [Revelation 3:7-13](#) for Jesus' message to the Church in Philadelphia.  
If you were a member of that church, how would you have responded?
- 12/24: [Rev 20:1-15](#) Satan is still deceiving (v8 & v10) and he always will be until the last half of Revelation 20. Right now you know people who are believing Satan's lies and are headed for v15. How can your voice in their lives be a stronger influence than Satan's voice?  
Read [Revelation 3:14-22](#) for Jesus' message to the Church in Laodicea.  
If you were a member of that church, how would you have responded?

## THE END OF THE BEGINNING

### READ

### REFLECT

- 12/25: [Rev 21:1-8](#) God is making all things new. If you are a Christian, God is at work in you, through you, and around you "making all things new" (v5). And one day it will be "done" (v6).  
Pray that God will use you as an agent of renewal today.
- 12/26: [Rev 21:9-27](#) How should what the church will one day look like indicate what the church should be like today?
- 12/27: [Rev 22:1-2](#) Read also [Gen 3:22-24](#). Throughout human history, God has been pointing mankind in a direction that would lead back to the tree of life. If you are a Christian, how does it feel to realize that God is working a grand narrative of which He has written you into the story?
- 12/28: [Rev 22:3-5](#) Read also [Gal 3:13](#). We sinned, were cursed, and banned from the Tree of Life. So Jesus, who is The Life, died on a tree so that we might once again have access to the Tree of Life. Jesus reversed the curse! If you are a Christian, spend time thanking God that you are no longer cursed, and that one day you will live in a world where nothing will be cursed.
- 12/29: [Rev 22:6-13](#) Jesus is "coming soon" (v7 & 12). Read [2 Peter 3:9](#). What does Jesus mean when He says "soon" and why do you think He has not returned yet?  
For a helpful short article, click [HERE](#).
- 12/30: [Rev 22:14-19](#) If you read & hear this book you'll be blessed (1:3). But it will not go well for those who change it (22:18-19). Modifying what God says will never produces good results.  
What in the Book of Revelation might be tempting to change and why would it be dangerous to do so?  
For a helpful article on v19, click [HERE](#).
- 12/31: [Rev 22:20-21](#) The book of Revelation ends with two prayers that should be prayed daily.  
Do you pray for Jesus' return? Why or why not?  
Why is the 2nd prayer the best prayer to pray until the 1st prayer is answered?