

DAY 28 SATURDAY

HEBREWS 9:25-10:4 UNIQUE MEANS ONLY ONE

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ Then Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

^{10:1} 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. ² If it could, 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. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴ because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

According to the dictionary, to be unique means that some person, thing or event is *without like or equal*. Any action that is the sole example of something that fits a particular need is then by definition unique. By that definition, very little, if anything, in creation is absolutely unique. We instantly think of the combination of lock and key, but even there the existence of “skeleton” and master keys render those combinations as relatively unique. Even on the molecular level, we find that in the combination of specific molecules in the building of proteins there is a built-in redundancy which again renders their uniqueness relative.

In our experience there is an exception to the relativity of uniqueness and that is God. As the Israelites were reminded in the Deuteronomy 6:4, *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one*. Our God is the sole example of the classification, true God – *there is no other* (Deuteronomy 4:35, 39).

The created order also has an example of absolute uniqueness. That example is Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for the salvation of the world (John 3:16). Jesus is the incarnation of God's *one and only Son*. Jesus was sinless and was made a sacrifice for our sins by God (2 Corinthians 5:21). Jesus also perfectly fulfilled the requirements of the covenant God made with Abram (Genesis 15: 8-21), by being fully God and fully human (Colossians 1:19; 2:9). Through his uniqueness, Jesus is the unique, once-for-always, sacrifice for our sins. He is the only mediator of our reconciliation with God. As he himself said, *“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”* (John 14:6).

In this world of options and choices, Lord Jesus confirm in my heart the exclusive claim that you have on me. Let me not be turned back from my faith in you by the cat-calls and slander of the world that denies and rebels against your uniqueness. As you voluntarily suffered for my sin, may I have the faith to suffer willingly for your Gospel. Amen.