

The Alpha and the Omega

We are going to be considering our Lord Jesus as the Alpha and the Omega. What a huge, majestic subject! It does not get much bigger does it? The Lord Jesus is our Alpha and Omega.

Revelation 1:4-8: “John to the seven churches that are in Asia: grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

‘I am the Alpha and the Omega,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.’”

It is Done

Revelation 21:1-6a: “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.’ And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’ And He said, ‘Write, for these words are faithful and true.’ Then He said to me, ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.’”

Take note: "It is done!" says the Alpha and the Omega.

Revelation 22:13: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The Lord Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega; He is the Almighty Alpha and Omega. And the Alpha and Omega the Almighty brings us to the very end, and He says as the Alpha and Omega, the Almighty, "It is done." He is going to bring the church all the way through, and it will be completed. All that He has purposed He will do. That is simple.

The Lord as the Alpha and Omega is so huge; it is absolutely tremendous in scope. I said, "Lord, how can I share on this?" I was just reading through and meditating on chapter 1, but as an introduction I want to look at verse 17a. When the apostle John saw the Lord as the Alphas and Omega he said, "When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, 'Do not be afraid.'"

John 13:23, 25, it says, "There was reclining on Jesus' bosom one of His disciples whom Jesus loved...He, leaning back thus on Jesus' bosom, said to Him, 'Lord, who is it?'"

This is the one who now upon seeing something of the Lord, something so big and majestic and mighty, fell on the ground as though dead. Even being in the Spirit, he fell out as dead before the Lord. What is the difference? He is the same man who laid his head on the Lord's bosom, but now upon seeing the Lord in all of His majesty and power as the Alpha and the Omega, he falls to His feet like a dead man.

I have been meditating on this, and I do not have very many answers, but it does seem that if we see the Lord as the Alpha and Omega the first place you will be is at His feet. The place of worship and service to Him is at His feet. Both places are okay; it is great to lay your head on the Lord's bosom to be close and have an intimacy with Him. However, if we get a

glimpse of our glorious almighty God, there is a reverence that comes over us, and we are in awe of who our Lord and Savior is. He is big; He is amazing. He is our God; He is the Alpha and the Omega. John laid his head on the Lord and spoke to the Lord in those two verses. Here he is laid out dead, and the Lord puts His right hand on him and says, “Go ahead and do what I want you to do.” That is the intimacy of the Lord even as the Alpha and Omega. He reaches out His hand and says, “John, it is okay; do not be afraid.”

This is just an introduction as we see the Lord as the Alpha and Omega. May we worship Him. What a picture of love and of grace it is.

I believe that the Spirit of God, the Lord Jesus does want us to see this morning who the Alpha and Omega is. There are only three places in Scripture where the Lord is called the Alpha and Omega. It is here in Revelation at the very beginning and at the very end, three places.

In Revelation 1:8 it says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, “who is and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 21:6 says, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”

Revelation 22: “I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.”

We see three aspects of the Alpha and Omega—the One who was, who is, and is to come, the beginner and the ender, the first and the last. Those three things help us to understand who is this Alpha and Omega.

I looked up a lot of commentaries to try to understand this, and I would like to read some of the things that I found.

Among the Jewish rabbis at this time it was common to use the first and the last letters of the Hebrew alphabet to denote the whole of anything. They say the Aleph—Tav. They would say from A to Z which means the whole thing, everything in between. It does not mean He is

just the first and the last; it means eternity. So it is the equivalent of saying that He was at the commencement of time, and He will be at its close. Our Lord Jesus is the eternal Alpha and Omega. He is clothed with Omnipotence and will continue to exist through all the ages to come as He had existed in all ages past. This is our Lord, the Alpha and Omega. He is eternally present; He is eternally past, and eternally future. This is the Alpha and Omega; He is eternally uncreated. He transmutes time, and He was before time. Indeed He is actually outside of time, but He entered into time.

Psalm 90:2: "Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."

Psalm 93:2: "Your throne is established from of old, You are from everlasting."

So our Lord Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, from everlasting to everlasting. He is outside of time, and He is the Creator. He began all things; He is the first and the last.

Hebrews 1:10: "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; and they all will become old like a garment, and like a mantle You will roll them up; like a garment they will also be changed. But you are the same, and Your years will not come to an end."

Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

Our Lord Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He is the Alpha and Omega.

This was given to the church just before they would enter into great persecution, and it was given to encourage the church. The Lord is saying to the church, "I am the Alpha and Omega." And God is saying here that He is the Author and Creator of all things, and what He proposes, what

He purposes, what He declares, and what He promises He will do. He will bring to a grand conclusion all that He has purposed and promised. He is standing before the church and declaring, “I am the Alpha and the Omega.” He is saying that to the church, and He is saying that to us as well: “I am your Alpha and Omega.” What a wonderful thing!

The Almighty Alpha and Omega

In Revelation 1 we have the first declaration: “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” and He adds one phrase: “I am the Almighty Alpha and Omega.” Almighty means Ruler of all, to hold sway over all things. It is used ten times in the New Testament, nine times in Revelation and only once in II Corinthians. So in this book that was written to the church, He says nine times, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, I am the Almighty.” The Lord wanted His church to understand and to know that He is the Almighty God, and He holds sway over everything. Again, what an amazing word this is—Almighty. I think one way to understand it better is to go through the Scriptures in Revelation and look at every place the word Almighty is used and see what surrounds it so that we can begin to understand the scope of who this Almighty God is. This is our God, the One who loves us. We are His people, and He is our God. So this is our Almighty God that we are going to look at today.

Revelation 1:8: “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Almighty.” So the Almighty God is the Alpha and Omega. This is the Lord God Himself who is speaking making that declaration.

In Revelation 4:8 we see four living creatures are making the same declaration. “And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, ‘Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come.’”

So our Lord Jesus is continually being praised, unceasingly being praised as the Almighty God, thrice Holy Almighty God.

In Revelation 11:15-17 the twenty-four elders are declaring the Lord as the Almighty God. “Then the seventh angel sounded; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, ‘The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever.’ And the twenty-four elders, who sit on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying, ‘We give you thanks, O Lord God, the Almighty, who are and who were, because You have taken Your great power and have begun to reign.’”

So we see that the Almighty has great power and that He reigns forever. This is our Almighty God.

Revelation 16:7 is the altar speaking. Did you know that the altar speaks? “And I heard the altar saying, ‘Yes, O Lord God, the Almighty, true and righteous are Your judgments.’”

The Almighty has true and righteous judgments. What He judges is true and righteous.

In Revelation 16:14b John says, “... to gather them together for the war of the great day of God, the Almighty.” Our God the Almighty is a God of war as well.

Revelation 19:5-6: “And a voice came from the throne, saying, ‘Give praise to our God, all you His bond-servants, you who fear Him, the small and the great.’ Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying ‘Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns.’”

So our Almighty God reigns.

Revelation 19:15-16: “From His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may strike down the nations, and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty. And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF Lords.’”

So this is our Almighty God. He wears a robe that has King of kings and Lord of lords on it, and His wrath is terrible. This is Almighty God. Remember we are developing a picture of who this Almighty God is.

Revelation 21:22: "I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb are its temple."

Brothers and sisters, as we have read through this Book and have seen the Almighty God, there can be no doubt about the Almighty Alpha and Omega's ability to execute and to do all that He says He is going to do. Throughout this whole Book, we see that the Almighty God can and will accomplish everything He says He is going to do. He is Ruler of the nations; everything He has planned for the nations He is going to do. He is Head over the church, and everything He has for us He is going to do without fail because He is the Alpha and the Omega. It is such a simple point but often forgotten. He is able to make His words good, for He is able to do that. The enemy will constantly attack this and whisper to you, "This is not going to happen. He is not in control; He is not the King of all. The world is crazy, the pandemic is hitting, and who knows what else is going to hit. It is all out of control."

Brothers and sisters, our God, the One we serve and love, is the Alpha and the Omega, the Almighty. As such, what He started, He will complete all the way to the end. As Alpha and Omega He is Head of all eternity. He knows the beginning from the end; He is there at the beginning, at the end, and in the middle at the same time. How can it be? He is the ever, eternal One. He is the all-powerful One. He is the Almighty. We need to let that sink into our hearts so that we do not become fearful and afraid. We must know that our God is the Alpha and the Omega.

This is wonderfully brought out in chapter 21:6a: "Then He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega.'"

He who wrought the finished work on the cross is operating and continues to work through the ages from the throne. His work will be completed; His work will be consummated; His work will be concluded.

The Lord's prayer says, "Thy will be done." Brothers and sisters, His will will be done.

If you leave with nothing else, I hope you leave with this thought: His will *will* be done because He is the Alpha and the Omega. What a wonderful thing! What does this word, "It is done" remind you of? "It is finished!" (see John 19:30). There is quite a few similarities in the surrounding part of this verse and the cross. Jesus said on the cross, "I thirst" (see John 19:28). "I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost" (see Revelation 21:6). Didn't He suffer pain and agony on the cross? And we just read that He will wipe away all tears and sorrow and pain. All suffering will be gone. When it is done, all that is going to be put away.

The cross and the throne is like two mountain tops. In between the Almighty God is accomplishing and fulfilling everything that was finished on the cross. He is completing in our lives and in the life of the church everything until it is finished. And at the very end, the same Lord who said, it is done on the cross will say once again as the Alpha and the Omega, "It is done." It is completed. All the way He is the Almighty God, and that should really thrill our hearts. Everything that we have been reading about in Ephesians is going to be done now and in the future. All of His love and grace and mercy are lavished on us as the Almighty God.

In the last three verses of Ephesians chapter 1, there is an amazing description! The Almighty God, the omnipotent, all powerful God is our Lord and Savior, and everything He said about the church and the summing up of all things in Christ will be accomplished. It will be accomplished. I believe we need to stand on the Alpha and Omega's promises to us, that what He says will be done. There is a stubbornest about faith that no matter what you see, you can declare what God has declared. And what He has declared is based upon who He is; He is eternal, He is the Alpha and Omega. What a wonderful thing!

Isaiah 44:6-8: "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts. I am the first and I am the last, and there is no God besides Me. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, from the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming and the events that are going to take place." The Lord said, "Who is like Me? There is no one like Me. Do not tremble and do not be afraid; have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, or is there any other Rock? I know of none."

It is as if the Lord God, the Alpha and Omega surveyed all of the universe and said, "There is nobody like Me. I have looked." But there are many voices in the world that will rise up and contradict this and say, "No, there are a lot of gods." No, there is not! We have a major religion in the world today that kills and burns, and says, "Their god is whatever." There is no God like our Lord Jesus. He is the Alpha and Omega. You can look, but there is none.

I love Isaiah 46:9-11b: "Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure...truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it."

What a wonderful God is our Alpha and Omega! What He says is going to happen; what He has planned is going to be brought forth. Your life and my life are in the control of the Alpha and Omega. Satan cannot thwart our Lord. The kingdom of this world will not thwart our Lord Jesus. His church will be built; His kingdom will come; His will *will* be done. Brothers and sisters, let's stand on that. In your personal thoughts, in your time with the Lord, when you are afraid and fearful, stand on the fact that our God who loves us and cares about us is the Almighty God.

Let's pray:

Lord, we just love to proclaim and declare what You have declared. We say, Lord, You are the only God; there is none like unto You. We sing a song, "There is none like You, O Lord, among the gods. There is none like unto You." I pray that deep within our hearts and spirits we would be able to stand upon this wonderful fact, this amazing truth that our Lord Jesus, the Savior of the world, is the Alpha and Omega. Lord, we love You, and we thank You for this. I pray that there would be reverence in our heart, in our attitude, and in our thoughts toward You. Lord, You are like no other person. No other god is like You. I pray that in the days to come, we will really be able to worship You as the Almighty God. Bless the Lord. Amen.