

## Jesus: The Alpha and the Omega

Rev 1:8

### **Introduction:**

- A. Notice in the text that Jesus refers to Himself as the Alpha and the Omega. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and omega is the last letter. The meaning of these two letters together is to show that Jesus is divine.
- B. Isaiah 44:6
- C. Jesus identifies Himself as the God of Israel, Yahweh, in these verses. What else do these verses say about the identity of Jesus?

**DISCUSSION:** Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega is . . .

### I. **The Revelator** (1-3)

- A. God gave the revelation to Jesus Christ (v.1).
- B. Jesus gave the revelation to John the apostle (v.2).
- C. We have the revelation to read now - Jude 3; Eph 3:4-5
- D. Consider this process as given in John - Jn 14:26; 16:13
- E. This means that the words of the apostles and prophets are the words of Jesus

### II. **The Uniter** (4-8)

- A. The greeting is from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit (v4).
  - 1. Him who was, is, and is to come - the Father.
  - 2. The Seven Spirits before His throne - the Holy Spirit.
  - 3. Jesus Christ - the Son.
- B. The work of Jesus Christ (v.5-6).
  - 1. He is the faithful witness.
  - 2. He is the firstborn from the dead.
  - 3. He is the ruler over the kings of the earth.
  - 4. He loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.
  - 5. He has made us to be a kingdom and priests to His God and Father - Rev 5:10
  - 6. To Him is the glory and dominion forever.
- C. The future of Jesus Christ (v.7)
  - 1. He is coming with the clouds - Matt 26:64
  - 2. Every eye will see Him.
  - 3. They who pierced Him will see Him.
  - 4. Every tribe of the earth will mourn because of Him.
- D. The identity of Jesus Christ (v.8).
  - 1. He is the Alpha and the Omega.
  - 2. He is the beginning and the end.
  - 3. He is the one who is, was, and is to come.
  - 4. He is the Almighty.
- E. All these truths focus on the central truth that Jesus is the Uniter.
  - 1. He unites God and man in His person - Heb 4:14
  - 2. He unites the rulers of the earth under His kingship - Rev 17:14
  - 3. He unites those who are washed in His blood - Eph.2:13

4. He can do this because His identity is God.

### III. *The Motivator* (9-16)

- A. John was on the island of Patmos for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- B. He was “in the Spirit” on the Lord’s day and heard a loud voice.
- C. The voice was Jesus’ voice. He said . . .
  1. “Write in a book what you see.”
  2. “Send it to the seven churches.”
- D. John turned around and saw a vision.
  1. Seven golden lampstands.
  2. In the middle, one like the Son of Man clothed with a garment.
  3. His hair was white like white wool and snow.
  4. His eyes were like a flame of fire.
  5. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace.
  6. His voice was as the sound of many waters.
  7. He had seven stars in His right hand.
  8. He had a sword coming out of His mouth.
  9. His face was like the shining sun.
- E. Jesus is the motivator.
  1. He writes to us through His apostles to give us instruction - Acts 2:42
  2. His appearance awes us - Heb 12:28-29
  3. His presence encourages us - 2 Cor 1:3-4
  4. This imagery is designed to motivate us to do Christ’s will.

### IV. *The Initiator* (17-20)

- A. John’s response.
  1. He fell at His feet as dead.
  2. He listened.
- B. Jesus said:
  1. “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last.”
  2. “[I am] the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore.”
  3. “I have the keys of death and of Hades.”
  4. “Write these things that . . .
    - a. You Have seen.
    - b. Which are.
    - c. Will take place after this.
  5. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.
  6. The seven lampstands are the seven churches.
- C. Jesus starts the conversation regarding our need to change.
  1. He is the standard of perfection for mankind - Col 1:18
  2. He has the keys of Hades and Death because he has overcome them - Matt 16:19.
  3. We can get started because he has these keys.
  4. Here he is beginning the conversation with the seven churches of Asia.
  5. He expected them to change/repent and be faithful to him.
  6. Rev 3:19

***Conclusion:***

A. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega.

1. He is the Revelator – he gives us the words we need.
  2. He is the Uniter – he brings us together with God and one another.
  3. He is the Motivator – he encourages us to change.
  4. He is the Initiator – he begins the process of change.
2. Invitation