

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Rev. 1:8

The Beginning & The End

Four times in the New Testament, always in the book of Revelation, Jesus Christ identifies Himself as the *"Alpha and the Omega."* We are not left to wonder what He means. He explains that this means He is *"the Beginning and the End."*

This is a much different picture than the Jesus we see riding triumphantly into Jerusalem on the foal of a donkey. There He is pictured as the Christ, the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecy and expectation. But He is also humble, serving, desiring the adoration and worship of those who seem to have power over Him.

This graphic image of Jesus reminds us of His humble invitation to mankind: *"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light"* (Matt. 11:28-30). So here we see Jesus as the *"Meek & Lowly,"* desiring to be accepted, believed and enjoyed.

The Omni- God!

But now in Revelation we see Jesus, the glorified Son of God, powerful, almighty, and everlasting! He says He is the One *"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* There will be no meek invitation but a summons to come before the exalted Son of God and either obey or suffer the dire consequences!

Revelation 1:11

We see this description of Jesus again in Revelation 1:11 when He addresses the seven churches in Asia. He demands honor, reverence and obedience as He instructs them regarding what He sees -- the good, the bad, and what can be done about it.

This Almighty God that John sees is described as *"One like the Son of Man"* but whose brilliant radiance emanates His purity and perfection. His eyes are like a flame of fire, able to pierce even to the dividing of soul and spirit, and joint and marrow (Heb. 4:12). His feet are like fine brass, able to tread the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God (cf. Rev. 19:15). His powerful voice overwhelms all other voices, as His omniscience speaks the commands of Him Who is God!

When John saw Jesus in this radiant glory, he fell at His feet like a dead man! We should fear Jesus Christ if He is not our Lord and Savior now.

Revelation 21:6

A **third time** we hear from the Alpha and Omega. Here He promises *"I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."* All things are ready! Come to the feast while you may! The eternal scheme of redemption has not only been foreordained and foretold, but now **fulfilled!** Eternal life is the precious gift given to the humble, submissive, obedient children of God! *"He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son"* (v. 7).

But true to His form as Almighty God, He solemnly warns that the **disobedient** *"...shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death"* (v. 8).

Revelation 22:13

One final time we hear from the Alpha and the Omega: *"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city."* **Reject Jesus, and there is no more sacrifice for sins!**