

Session 03 Jesus as the Alpha and Omega (Rev. 1:11; 22:13)

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. The revelation of Jesus and the Father as the Alpha and Omega is one of the most significant truths in the book of Revelation. However, it is also one of the most challenging to grasp.
- B. Jesus twice described Himself as the Alpha and the Omega, in the first and last chapters of Revelation, to emphasize His sovereignty over all the events in the book.
- ¹¹Saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last...” (Rev. 1:11)*
- ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega...the First and the Last. (Rev. 22:13)*
- C. The Father only made two statements in the entire book of Revelation. In both, He reveals Himself as the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. He also mentions them in the first and last chapters of Revelation to emphasize His sovereignty over all the coming events.
- ⁸I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End... (Rev. 1:8)*
- ⁶I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End... (Rev. 21:6)*
- D. **Alpha and Omega**: The Greek alphabet starts with *alpha* and ends with *omega*. John’s readers were primarily Greeks, who understood that the name Alpha and Omega indicated completeness, meaning the first and last letters and all the letters in between (Jesus is the A to Z of life).
- E. This title emphasizes Jesus’ sovereignty (power over all), transcendence (infinitely superior to all), self-existence (eternal nature), and self-sufficiency (needing nothing from His creation). In other words, He is the uncreated God who is before all things and is the source of all goodness. As transcendent, He stands outside and is independent of His creation that He sustains and rules. He has perfect leadership because of His omnipotence (all power), omniscience (all knowledge), and omnipresence (all-present) and His ***absolute completeness*** in love, wisdom, and power in God’s plan and mankind’s destiny. He exhausts all the vocabulary of excellence and glory.
- F. As the Alpha and Omega, Jesus has the power, wisdom, and love to oversee all the events described in the book of Revelation. This vision of Jesus (Rev. 1) is in the context of the end-time prophecy that Jesus is about to give John. The Lord sat as King in the crisis of the flood.
- ¹⁰The LORD sat enthroned at the Flood, and the LORD sits as King forever. (Ps. 29:10)*
- G. I do not believe that God’s titles of the *Alpha* and *Omega* are exactly synonymous with His titles of *the Beginning* and *the End*. It seems that the Greek words *alpha* and *omega* refer to God from the viewpoint of the Greeks’ linear approach to knowledge and history, with an emphasis on reason or on knowing the “why” behind the “what” of creation, etc. In contrast, the titles of *the Beginning* and *the End* speak of God from the Hebrew mindset’s more circular approach to history and knowledge, with an emphasis on God’s power and His sovereign choices.

II. ALPHA AND OMEGA: JESUS IS GOD

- A. “Jesus the Alpha” refers to His eternal preexistence and sufficiency. Jesus’ preexistence is emphasized in Scripture (Jn. 1:15, 18, 30; 3:13; 6:33, 42, 50, 62; 7:29; 8:23, 42; Eph. 1:3-5; 1 Pet. 1:20). Jesus never had a beginning. There was never a time when Jesus did not exist.
- B. Jesus is self-existent and self-sufficient. He has no origin and no needs. When we think of anything that has origin or need then we are not thinking of God. He is helped by none. He owes nothing to the world that He made, but all created beings are dependent on Him every second.
²⁴God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth...²⁵Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life. (Acts 17:24-25)
- C. Jesus holds some of the same titles as the Father, emphasizing His deity and preexistence. Jesus possesses divine glory from all eternity. The Father and Son are coequal and coexisting as God.
⁵O Father, glorify Me...with the glory which I had with You before the world was. (Jn. 17:5)
¹⁵All things that the Father has are Mine. (Jn. 16:15)
- D. Jesus has all the fullness of the Godhead and, thus, shares all God’s attributes.
⁹For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily... (Col. 2:9)
¹⁵He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God... (Col. 1:15)
³...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person... (Heb. 1:3)

III. ALPHA: THE SOURCE OF ALL THINGS

- A. “Jesus the Alpha” is the first cause or source of all things. Jesus is the Alpha of creation, redemption, and history. Jesus is identified as the Creator who spoke and said, “Let there be light” in Genesis 1 (Ps. 33:6; Jn. 1:3; Eph. 3:9; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:2-3; Jas. 1:18).
¹⁶By Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth. (Col. 1:16)
- B. Jesus sustains, upholds—holds together—the created order by speaking His word.
³...who [Jesus]...upholding all things by the word of His power... (Heb. 1:3)
- C. As the Alpha, Jesus has first place of authority over all things, including all things in our life. When Jesus becomes our Alpha, a new world opens up and a new fullness is within our reach.
¹⁸He is the head of the body...that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)

IV. OMEGA: THE PURPOSE OF ALL THINGS

- A. “Jesus the Omega” is the ultimate purpose, goal, and reason for all things. All creation finds the fullness of its meaning in Jesus. He brings the purpose of each believer and of all creation to completion or fullness by His perfect love, wisdom, and power (1 Thes. 5:24).

¹⁶All things were created through Him and for Him. (Col. 1:16)

⁶He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Christ... (Phil. 1:6)

- B. Jesus has an inheritance in His people (Eph. 1:18). We are to enjoy receiving our inheritance in God, but we must also be greatly focused on God receiving His inheritance in us. The Spirit is establishing the first commandment in first place in the Church. It is the first priority that God seeks to develop in our lives. Loving God is an end in itself and is the highest lifestyle possible.

- C. Jesus sees, determines, and therefore declares the end from the beginning. He is never surprised by an unexpected development. God works from a “blueprint” that He established long before the beginning of time (Eph. 3:9). He is involved in every stage of history.

⁹To make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ... (Eph. 3:9)

V. THE ALPHA AND OMEGA IN ISAIAH 40

- A. The truth of Jesus as the Alpha and Omega is seen clearly in Isaiah 40 where as the Creator, He possesses all power and wisdom to accomplish His eternal purposes in manifesting love and righteousness. Isaiah outlines seven promises related to Jesus’ coming to reign over the earth forever and to remove all the enemies of His people (Isa. 40:10-11). He declares that God has the wisdom (Isa. 40:12-14) and power (Isa. 40:15-17) to accomplish all of His glorious promises. Isaiah ends by telling us practically how to respond to God’s sovereignty (Isa. 40:27-31).

- B. Isaiah describes the vast range of God’s wisdom (v. 12-14), which reaches from the vastness of the heavens to intricate details in the dust. He misses nothing in His sovereign wisdom. Jesus can evaluate and discern everything (v. 12) in ruling the nations and solving all that seeks to oppose His leadership. His understanding is unsearchable (v. 28).

¹²Who has...measured heaven with a span and calculated the dust of the earth...? (Isa. 40:12)

- C. Isaiah describes the vastness of God’s power (v. 15-17). He can easily overpower all opposition because He possesses power over all earthly (v. 18-24) and heavenly forces (v. 25-26).

¹⁵Behold, the nations are as a drop in a bucket...¹⁷All nations before Him are as nothing, and they are counted by Him less than nothing...²³He brings the princes to nothing; He makes the judges of the earth useless. ²⁴Scarcely shall they be planted...when He will also blow on them, and they will wither...²⁶Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things [stars], who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing. (Isa. 40:15-26)

- D. Isaiah tells us how to respond to God's sovereignty (Isa. 40:27-31).
²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob...? "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my just claim is passed over by my God"?...²⁸The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the weak...³⁰Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall, ³¹but those who wait on the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles... (Isa. 40:27-31)
- E. Thus, our confession is based on the truth found in Romans 8:28 and Revelation 19:6. Jesus expresses Himself as the Alpha and Omega in the way He leads our personal life and destiny.
²⁸We know that all things work together for good to those who love God... (Rom. 8:28)
⁶A great multitude...saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" (Rev. 19:6)

VI. THE MAJESTY OF JESUS

- A. I recommend *The Evidential Power of Beauty* by Thomas Dubay. I took information (not direct quotes) from chapters 7-9, which focus on the vastness (macro) of Jesus' power as well as the infinitesimal (micro). Both aspects of Jesus' creative genius contain messages from Him.
Macro-marvels (chapter 7): enormous universe on a cosmic scale, difficult to believe
Mid-marvels (chapter 8): are accessible to our five senses in plant and animal life
Micro-marvels (chapter 9): tiny universe of cells with subatomic particles and DNA, etc.
- B. **Sun:** It is nearly a million miles in diameter. The earth is 8,000 miles in diameter. It would take almost one million earths to fill the space the sun occupies. The sun's corona (outermost region) reaches 2 million degrees. The energy it releases can be compared to 100 billion hydrogen bombs exploding every second. The sun burns up about 4 million tons of its own matter every second. At this rate, the sun can continue for another 6 billion years. A light-year is the distance light travels (186,000 miles per second) in one year.
- C. **Universe:** There are over 100 million galaxies in the known universe. The diameter of the known universe is about 15 billion light-years. The Milky Way galaxy is small, with a diameter of about 100,000 light-years and over 100 billion stars. The largest known galaxy is the Abell 2029. It is a cluster of thousands of galaxies with more than 100 trillion stars.
- D. **Plants and animals:** Scientists estimate that there are 10 million+ species of plants and animals, including 25,000+ species of orchids, 60 species of eagles, 50 kinds of kangaroos, 200 species of turtles, and 3 million species of insects. An elephant has 40,000+ muscles in its trunk alone.
- E. **Cells:** There is great complexity in living cells (each is like a tiny city). The tiniest bacterial cells are made up of 100,000 million atoms. A single cell contains more information than all thirty volumes of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. Even the simple bacterial cells are exceedingly complicated. Each person has about 100 trillion living cells. A single drop of water can contain up to 15 million bacteria, and a single tree branch can consist of trillions of cells.