

HALLOWED BE THY NAME

#14 – “ALPHA AND OMEGA: The First and the Last” May 1, 2005

^{5b}To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. ⁷“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” *Revelation 1:5b-8 TNIV*

¹²“Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what they have done. ¹³I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. *Revelation 22:12-13*

Introduction: Studying together the Biblical names of God has allowed us to know and understand Him better, helping us to truly love Him for who he is rather than who we would have him to be. Above all, we have learned that we cannot merely ascribe known quantities to God. Instead, we must allow God’s nature and character to define our own existence. His attributes are the very definitions of love, justice, mercy, grace, holiness, and every other absolute truth that defines His creation. This is the idea that is captured in one of the last names of God to be found in Scripture, *Alpha and Omega*, “The First and the Last.”

I. What’s in the Names ALPHA AND OMEGA?

- A. ALPHA AND OMEGA is the name God chose for Himself in His Revelation to the Apostle John, who was in exile on the Island of Patmos.
- B. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the language of the New Testament.
- C. ALPHA AND OMEGA, then, is the name that tells us that God is the beginning and end of everything.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. *Isaiah 44:6*

II. ALPHA AND OMEGA is The First and the Last!

- A. God existed before the beginning of time and space and created the universe out of nothing (Latin *exnihilo*).
In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
Genesis 1:1
- B. In fact, God exists eternally, both before and after our temporal world.

In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will

all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end. *Hebrews 1:10-12*

- C. God is not only the beginning, but also the end—the final destination—of all things.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-3

III. Jesus Christ is ALPHA AND OMEGA in the Flesh

- A. Jesus is the creative force of God that became incarnate, and all things were made through him.

In the beginning was the Word [Jesus], and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life . . . *John 1:1-4a*

- B. All things were created for Jesus’ sake, and all things are sustained by his power in love.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

Colossians 1:15-17

- C. Jesus, the creative force of God, came to creation as a man to reconcile the world to God, now the church’s mission.

He [Jesus] is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross. *Colossians 1:18-20*

- D. Jesus himself is the one who will come to bring time and space to a cataclysmic end.

Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man [Jesus] is coming at an unexpected hour. *Words of Jesus in Matthew 24:44*

Conclusion: ALPHA AND OMEGA is the beginning and the end of everything that defines our earthly existence. As such, He is the author and finisher of life and faith, and all things are sustained in Him. It is only because of His love that Jesus has not yet come to bring our world to a cataclysmic end. Time is nothing to Him, but we mean everything to him. Thus, our call to action is found in 2 Peter 3:8-10 (pp. Mmm of your pew Bible).