

The Alpha And The Omega

Introduction. The book of Revelation is a puzzling book for most people, but it contains a majestic message. It is a revelation of Jesus Christ to the seven churches of Asia, and the first words of Christ, as recorded by John, is “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending” (v. 8; 22:13). “The alpha and the omega” are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, and are equivalent to “the first and the last” (v. 17), a name given to God first in Isaiah (44:6; 48:12), and “the beginning and the end” (21:6).

These titles emphasize that Christ is eternally and totally sovereign over history. As God, He has no beginning, nor will He have any end with respect to time, being from everlasting to everlasting. After being identified in such a wonderful way, the question can be asked, “What is the scope of Christ’s work?” As it turns out, it is quite comprehensive. Our next few minutes will explore what Jesus means to us in three areas: creation, redemption, and reward.

I. Creation

- A. Because He is eternal and all powerful, He created the world (John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2; cp. Genesis 1:26).
- B. Not only did Christ create the world, but He also sustains it for our continued existence (Colossians 1:15-17).

II. Redemption

- A. We are redeemed by the blood of Christ (1 Peter 1:18-20). That blood is so powerful that it redeemed those under the Old Covenant (Hebrews 9:15).
- B. We take hold of that redemption through baptism (Romans 6:3). This puts us “in Christ” (Galatians 3:26-27).
- C. We are new creatures in Christ, and have been given all spiritual blessings (2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 1:3).
- D. But Christ is also the beginning and end of all religious activities (2 John 9-11; Colossians 2:9-10; Matthew 7:21-23).

III. Reward

- A. Without Christ, we are without hope (Ephesians 2:12). Jesus is our hope (1 Timothy 1:1), and that hope lays before us in Heaven (Hebrews 6:18-20).
- B. At the judgment, Jesus is coming with His reward (John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 22:12-13; 2 Timothy 4:7-8).

Conclusion. Christ must be “the alpha and the omega” of our lives. His second coming will be the beginning of the end of creation as we know it (2 Peter 3:10). He is coming! Are you ready?