

THE BOOK OF REVELATION 7 Key

The Alpha and the Omega

I. The first chapter of Revelation is really best understood as the cover letter for the seven letters to the seven churches of Asia. After the salutation from John in verse four, the salutation from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit in verses 4-6, and after the proclamation of Christ's Second Coming in verse 7, Jesus speaks in verse 8.

A. (Rev. 1:8-18 NKJV) *8 "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."*

B. How do we know this is Jesus speaking here?

C. Let's continue reading. *9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."*

D. Then John turns to see who it is that is speaking with him claiming to be the Alpha and Omega. *12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*

E. The One speaking to him is revealed as:

1. One like the Son of Man in v. 13.

2. And the One who was dead, but now lives forevermore in v.18.

3. This can be no one else besides Jesus Christ. He is the Son of Man, and He is the one who was dead and is alive forevermore.

F. The book of Revelation is not primarily about the antichrist, the Tribulation Period, the judgments, or the Millennium. It is primarily the Revelation of Jesus Christ who is the Alpha and the Omega.

G. Here He is revealed as The Alpha and The Omega, the Beginning and The End, and The First and The Last.

II. What does that mean?

A. **Alpha and Omega.** Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet. Omega is the last letter in the Greek alphabet. It is an expression denoting the whole of anything, the entire spectrum of the matter. It means from eternity to eternity... from A to Z. It is a statement that describes His preeminence in all of life, history, and human affairs from eternity past to eternity future.

B. He is called here, **The Beginning and The End.**

1. History begins with Him and will have its **end or conclusion** with Him.

2. History means "**His Story**". All of history, correctly understood, is the story of How God promised to bring a Redeemer into the world and how He raised up a covenant people through whom He could bring this Redeemer. It's about how He kept that promise and raised up a church and commissioned it to preach the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ. It is all about how the devil and the world have reacted to the plan of God. All of God's Plan of redemption for the ages revolves around Him.

3. *(Eph. 1:9,10 NKJV) 9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, 10 that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth-in Him.*

4. *(Eph. 1:9-11 Message) 9 letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, 10 a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, and everything on planet earth. 11 It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living,*

5. **Your story** is in there somewhere. Your lifetime with all of its ups and downs is in there somewhere. Your story is somewhere within the A to Z...the Alpha and the Omega.

6. In (Rev. 3:14 NKJV) He is called *the Beginning of the creation of God:*

7. The word translated Beginning means Origin. It is not saying He was the first one created. It is saying He Himself is the Origin of Creation.

8. (John 1:3 NKJV) *3All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

9. (Col. 1:16 NKJV) *16For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.*

10. And He will bring this present age to its end, its conclusion and set up His literal, visible reign on this earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. (Rev. 1:7 NKJV) *7Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

11. Secular education is an attempt by man to interpret life and world history apart from the One called the Alpha and Omega...the Beginning and the End.

12. The whole time I was in public school and secular university, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the Ending was never even mentioned much less given His rightful place in the curriculum.

C. He is called the First and The Last

1. Jesus ought to be the first one we think of in the morning, and the last one we think of at night every day.

2. In (1 Cor. 15:45, 47 NKJV) we see that He is the last Adam, the end of the Adamic inheritance He is also the Second Man, the beginning and federal head of a new race called the new creation. ⁴⁵ *And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being."* ⁴⁷ *The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven.*

D. What place should the Alpha and the Omega hold in our lives? The problem is that we live in culture that thinks it can live separately from Him and is trying to ignore Him as fast as possible. The mindset of secular society crowds our thinking everyday...the idea that a Christ less life can be a fulfilling life.

1. But Christ is our life (Col 3:1-4 NKJV) *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ [who is] our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.*