

JESUS the Alpha and the Omega Rev. 1:8-18; 21:6; 22:13

The Majestic Title of Jesus who created us and who will complete us

Introduction:

—Bill Turner

1. Alpha and Omega is found 4x in NT — all 4 in the book of Revelation
2. ALPHA is the 1st letter of the ancient Greek alphabet—OMEGA is the last
3. Alpha and Omega may be the most majestic title of all of Jesus names & titles

I. JESUS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA

What does this mean? —Let's examine 5 inter-connected truths of this majestic title

A. ETERNAL SELF-EXISTENCE (Revelation 1:8, 11)

1. **Alpha was the 1st letter of the ancient Greek alphabet, and Omega the last.**
 - a) G. K. Beale writes that “a merism states polar opposites in order to highlight everything between the opposites.”
 - b) As the Alpha and the Omega, God is in control of everything in between.
 - c) *‘The Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last’*
2. **The Eternal Nature of God means that He exists outside time and creation because God created time and creation.**
 - a) Peter states in 2 Peter 3:8, “with the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.”
 - b) This is His Eternal Nature: “who is and who was and who is to come” (Rev. 1:8).
3. **His Eternal Self-Existence Means He Has No Beginning or End within Himself — He is the Beginning and the End of Everything Outside Himself**

AUGUSTINE was baptized in 386 a.d. and studied scripture the rest of his life, and his thinking and writing had a profound impact on Christianity.

Theology is the study of God—But today most don't realize the Theological Roots of Science...

Augustine was thinking how Before Today was Yesterday, and before Yesterday, the Day Before...

Does Sequential Time—this series of Yesterdays, like Dominoes Falling, go back infinitely in time?

And if so How could God have Created the Universe if it always existed?

If Not there had to be a Beginning, But What was God doing before that?

Augustine reached a Profound Answer: —God Created Time Along with the Universe

In Other Words—Before the Universe there was no time!

With the Beginning of the Universe came the Beginning of Sequential Time.

And God Therefore is Outside of Time—and not bound by time—God is Eternal

Eternal Does Not Mean “goes on forever”—it Means “outside of time.”

Without a telescope, without a computer, with just his Bible and his mind, he discovered what scientists only recently confirmed in last 100 years, but Augustine discovered this centuries before they did!

¹ Dinesh D'Souza, 'What's So Great About Christianity?' The Theological Roots of Science p.87

TODAY Modern Science has confirmed that the Universe Had a Beginning—

and that Time Began when the Universe Began!

Robert Jastrow, at the Goddard Institute at NASA described it this way:

“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance, he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.” — Robert Jastrow, God and the Astronomers

B. COMPLETENESS (Revelation 22:12–13)

- 1. Alpha is the first letter of ancient Greek alphabet and omega the last letter,**
 - a) So the phrase alpha to omega indicates eternal completeness...
 - b) From Beginning to End - like we might say ‘from A-Z’
- 2. Clement of Alexandria described this aspect of Jesus:**
 - a) ‘The Son is neither simply one thing as one thing, nor many things as parts, but one thing as all things, whence also he is all things. For he is the circle of all powers rolled and united into one unity. Wherefore the Word is called alpha and omega.’²
- 3. This a visual way of saying there is nothing lacking in Jesus Christ.**
 - a) He has all power, all wisdom, all knowledge, all holiness, all goodness.
 - b) Nothing that man can possess is anything but fragmentary;
 - c) Jesus Christ is complete with the completeness of God.

If You Have Christ—You Are Complete! (Colossians 2:8–10)

C. CONTINUITY (Revelation 1:8)

- 1. “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.”**

2. There is Continuity of Completeness Because of the Eternal Nature of God

“For He is the circle of all powers rolled and united into one unity. Wherefore the Word is called the Alpha and the Omega, of whom alone the end becomes beginning, and ends again at the original beginning without any break. Wherefore also to believe in Him, and by Him, is to become a unit, being indissolubly united in Him; and to disbelieve is to be separated, disjoined, divided.”

(Clement of Alexandria, Misc. 4.25)

3. A Perfect Continuity that Paul Describes...

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen. (11:36)

4. Alpha and Omega, Beginning and End, First and Last (Rev 1:11 NKJ)

D. ETERNAL AUTHOR / SOURCE AND FINISHER / PERFECTER

- 1. Greek words for beginning and end means first and last...**
but also mean author/source and perfecter/completer (Rev. 21:6)

The word *beginning* is *archē* and the word for *end* is *telos*; and each of these words is capable of a double meaning.

² Clement of Alexandria, Misc. 4.25

Archē can mean *beginning* in point of time and *telos* can mean *end* in point of time; and these meanings are certainly involved, for John calls Jesus the first and the last. This symbolises the truth that the Son was before the world began and will be when the world is ended. He has neither beginning nor end in any human sense of the term.

But *archē* can also mean *beginning* in the sense of *source* or *origin*, and *telos* can mean *end* in the sense of *goal* and *consummation*. This then means to say that Jesus Christ is the source and origin from whom life began and the goal and end to which all life moves. He is the creator of life and he is the one in whom life is consummated and perfected. This is exactly what Paul said when he spoke of Jesus as the one from whom, and through whom, and to whom are all things (Rom. 11:36).³

2. So Jesus is the Author and Finisher of our Faith...

Who Gives the Water of Life Freely to Those Who Thirst (**Revelation 21:6**)

E. AUTHORITY

1. Alpha and Omega also signifies Divine Authority (**Revelation 22:12–13**)
 - a) Jesus said all authority has been given unto me in heaven and on earth (Mt 28:18)
2. Notice this Authority of Christ described in heaven (**Revelation 11:15–19**)
3. The Authority to Judge > Authority to Reward > Authority to Rule!

II. THE IMPLICATIONS FOR US

A. WE OFTEN DO NOT TAKE OUR FAITH TO IT'S LOGICAL CONCLUSIONS

1. The Sadducees should've known the scriptures but they did not believe in an after-life, or the resurrection...
 - a) So They created a Scenario question to trap Jesus into Denying the Resurrection
 - b) It was a mocking question about if a woman married a man and he died, then his brother and he died and then his other brother and he died...
 - c) Whose wife would she be in the resurrection?
2. Notice How Jesus Answers this question: (**Matthew 22:29–33**)
3. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living!
 - a) God Created All Things—including Time and Space
 - b) God is not bound by Time—He Created Time
 - c) God is Eternal Spirit and He created You in His Image with a Spirit

"We are not human beings having a spiritual experience, we are spiritual beings having human experience." —Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

B. THE CREATOR OF TIME AND SPACE ENTERED TIME AND SPACE

1. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and last, beginning and end
2. He created the world — and the world did not know Him
3. But the Creator of Time and Space — Entered Time and Space...

To Be the Perfect and Complete Atoning Sacrifice for Sin
4. In His prayer before His crucifixion, Jesus prayed: (**John 17:1–5**)

³ William Barclay, 'Jesus as they Saw Him' p.381

- a) "And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was." (John 17:5)

C. JESUS IS THE ALPHA & OMEGA, FIRST & LAST, BEGINNING & END: HE CREATED US & HE WILL COMPLETE US

1. JESUS IS THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER OF OUR FAITH

SO THAT WE ARE COMPLETE IN HIM (Colossians 2:8–10)

- a) Through Jesus—we have ALL things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Pet 1:2–4)
- b) All the Promises of God > All the Spiritual Blessing
- c) Access to Prayer > Even the Forgiveness of Sins is All Given Through Jesus

2. Your life is not a mistake—it has a beautiful purpose in Christ!

- a) History is not just meaningless random events—it has a purpose that God designed to bring to completion.
- b) **(Romans 8:28)** He will work all things for Good...
(not all things WILL be good—all things FOR good)
- c) For those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose

3. What is His Purpose? (8:29) To Be Like Christ!

CONCLUSION:

- 1. You've Already Tried Everything Else!**
- 2. Why not Try Jesus?**

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. (Revelation 21:6)