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Bible House of Grace.**



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

The First and the Last.

the

Alpha and Omega

Revelation 1 (The entire Chapter).

(2013).

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal Plans, Purposes and Promises,
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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The First and the Last, the Alpha and Omega.

INTRODUCTION: the words, "I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last" in verse eleven have been used to support the theory Jesus is God. In this study we will travel through each verse for the following two reasons, firstly it presents a glorious vision of the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ and secondly, to discover the context of what John was saying prior to the words, "I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last."

Revelation 1:1-3 ----- ¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: ²Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. ³Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

God the Father gave His Son Jesus a revelation of things that will come to pass to show the faithful who belong to his Kingdom. Jesus sent his angel to a godly man named John on the Isle of Patmos to record on scrolls for future generations the revelation God gave to Jesus. Those who read this prophecy and endeavour to live a life that honours God and brings a good testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ are promised a blessing.

The blessings that the reader will receive upon reading the words of this prophecy refer to the knowledge and insights concerning the following glorious events: -

- The final world events prior to Christ's glorious return.
- Christ's return in glory and the resurrection of the faithful to eternal glory.
- The heavenly New Jerusalem descending to earth.
- Christ returning for his bride.
- The faithful ruling and reigning with Christ as kings and priests to God.
- The faithful forming the global government with Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords to bring Gods Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace to earth.
- Eternity in all its glory descending to earth.
- God Himself descending to earth to dwell with the faithful.

Added to these blessings we are told that all who have not denied Jesus name and have kept his works and endured in the faith until the end will inherit the following promises.

Jesus will: -

- Allow them to eat of the tree of life in the paradise of God (Rev. 2:7).
- Not allow them to be hurt by the second death (Rev. 2:11).
- Give them a new name (Rev. 2:17).
- Give them authority over the nations (Rev. 2:26).
- Grant to them the authority to rule the nations with him (Rev. 2:27).
- Give them the morning star (Rev. 2:28).
- Cloth them in white garments (Rev. 3:5).

- Never blot their name out of the Book of Life (Rev. 3:5).
- Confess their name before his Father and before his angels (Rev. 3:5).
- Set before them an open door, which no one is able to shut (Rev. 3:8).
- Exalt them so everyone will learn that Jesus has loved them (Rev. 3:9).
- Keep them from the hour coming to try all who dwell on the earth (Rev. 3:10).
- Make them a pillar in the temple of his God (Rev. 3:12).
- Write on them the name of his God, and his own new name (Rev. 3:12).
- Invite them to sit with him on his throne as he sat down with his Father on his throne (Rev. 3:21).

Which Is and Which Was and Which is to Come.

Revelation 1:4-7 ----- ⁴John to the seven churches which are in Asia Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is and which was and which is to come and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; ⁵And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him and they also which pierced him and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him Even so, Amen.

John addresses this letter to the seven churches which are in Asia (but by extension the promised blessings apply to every faithful brother and sister in Christ of all generations). The words, "Who is and who was and who is to come," is not referring to the Lord Jesus Christ (as some believe), we know this because John introduces Jesus after making the statement, "Who is and who was and who is to come."

These words are referring to God the Father the immortal, invisible, eternal God Almighty the creator of all things and source of all life who will ultimately be All in All when eternity comes to earth in all its glorious fullness and royal majestic glory and God's eternal plan for the earth, the world, the universe and mankind's eternal salvation that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the world began is complete in all its eternal and perfect fullness.

Who is ----- Carries the idea of being present.

Who was ----- Carries the idea of past.

Who is to come ----- Carries the idea of future.

Was and is and to come --- Carries the idea of eternally existing in all ages.

John begins this greeting with his focus set upon God Almighty by saying grace and peace to all the faithful from God the Father who is always existing in the present and who was always existing in the past and who is to come in the future and grace and peace from the seven Spirits which are before God the Fathers throne.

Then in verses five: John shifts his focus from God the Father to His Son by saying, "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first resurrected from the dead to eternal life, and who is the prince of the kings of the earth, to Jesus who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

Then in verse six: John shifts his focus back to the Father by saying that Jesus has made the faithful priests to God his Father and that it is to his heavenly Father all glory and dominion belong for ever and ever. Amen.

Then in verse seven: John shifts his focus back onto the Lord Jesus Christ by telling us that Jesus will come in clouds and every eye will see him even those who pierced him (the Jews) all nations of the earth (in contrast to Israel only).

To gain greater understanding and insight into verse eight it will help to firstly look at the global glory of the word Amen.

From Strong's Concordance the word Amen means verily and firm. At the beginning of a discourse it means surely and truly and at the end of a discourse it means so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled. Amen was a custom, which passed over from the synagogues to the Christian assemblies, that when he who had read or offered up solemn prayer to God, the others responded by saying Amen, and thus made the substance of what was uttered their own.

The word Amen is a most remarkable word it was translated directly from the Hebrew into the Greek of the New Testament, then into Latin and then into English and many other languages, so that Amen is practically a universal word worldwide. Amen has been called the best known word in human speech, it is directly related and almost identical to the Hebrew word for believe (aman) or faithful, thus, Amen not only came to mean sure and truly, but also came to be an expression of absolute trust and confidence.

At the end of a discourse Amen means, so it is, so be it, may it be fulfilled it signifies the end of that discourse or subject. At the end of a paragraph it tells the reader this is the end of the previous subject now the story will bring a new subject into focus. Amen means so be it, Amen is the same as a full stop, Amen ends the subject being spoken about, it is final.

Therefore: when the reader comes into verse eight it is a new subject. Actually it is not so much that it is a new subject in this case since John has just reverted back to the earlier subject in the previous verses refocussing on God the Father. John now brings his previous subject back into focus. He finishes verse seven with amen meaning so be it and may it be fulfilled and after ending his statement John then shifts the focus from Christ back onto God the Father.

The Alpha and Omega.

Revelation 1:8 ----- ⁸I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord which is and which was and which is to come the Almighty.

John again gives God the Father the title: "Which is and which was and which is to come" (see the notes following v4). It is very clear in verse four that this title belongs to God the Father, the immortal, invisible, eternal God Almighty the creator of all things and source of all life and not to the Lord Jesus Christ. It is God the Father who is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last.

Revelation 1:9-11 ----- ⁹I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Though all Bible versions have words Alpha Omega in verse eight the the King James Bible and the New King James Bible are the only Bibles that have included the words the Alpha and the Omega in verse eleven. The following four major Bibles have omitted the words Alpha and Omega in verse eleven.

American Standard Bible.

- Saying, "What thou seest, write in a book and send it to the seven churches: unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamum, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea" (Rev. 1:11).

New American Standard Bible.

- Saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea" (Rev. 1:11).

New International Bible.

- Which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea" (Rev. 1:11).

New Revised Standard Bible.

- Saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea" (Rev. 1:11).

These four major Bible versions have not included the words, Alpha and Omega in verse eleven because it is the title of God the Father and not the title of the voice of one like the Son of man. Verse four and verse eight clearly show that the title the Alpha and Omega belongs to God the Father the Almighty.

John sees One like the Son of Man.

Revelation 1:12-16 --- ¹²And I (John) turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; ¹³And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. ¹⁴His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; ¹⁵And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. ¹⁶And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

John now has a vision of one like unto the Son of man which of course is the title of the resurrected glorified immortal and eternal Lord Jesus Christ. John had been with Jesus when he was alive on earth this is most likely why he gives Jesus the title, "One like the Son of man."

It is almost certain that John recognised the One like the Son of man as Jesus, but since he looked nothing like he did while he walked on earth as a human mortal man John naturally refers to him as One who looked like Jesus.

- The seven golden candlesticks: refer to the seven churches (v20).
- Clothed with golden girdle: carries the idea he was fully clothed with righteousness and the royal majesty and glory of God his heavenly Father.
- His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow: carries the idea that his entire body was without blemish and full of the perfect holiness and righteousness of God.
- His eyes were as a flame of fire: carry the idea he is able to pierce even the hardest of hearts, nothing can be hidden from him, no secret thought, hidden action or motive of the heart can be kept secret from the eyes of the Lord.
- His feet like were like fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace: carries the idea that he is able to judge with perfect judgment and will not let the guilty, the wicked and the corrupt go free.
- His voice as the sound of many waters: refers to every faithful brother and sister in Christ of every generation who has testified to the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and have been and still are his faithful witness.
- In his right hand seven stars: refer to the angels of the seven churches (v20).

- Out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword: refers to the message of the cross, the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and his words.
- His countenance was as the sun shines in his strength: carries the idea that the immortal and eternal glory of Christ is breathtakingly glorious.

I am the First and the Last.

Revelation 1:17 ----- ¹⁷And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last.

The glory of Christ was so breathtakingly glorious and stunningly awesome that John (a most godly and faithful man) after seeing the vision was so humbled and awed he fell at the Lord's feet as a dead man. The Lord reaches down and comforts John telling him he has nothing to fear.

First and Last from Strong's Concordance.

First: carries the idea of being first in time, rank, influence or honour (i.e., the chief or principal one).

Last: carries the idea of the extreme, last in time or in place, the uttermost part or the end (of the earth).

The expression, "The first and last" in this context is referring to Christ it carries the meaning that Jesus is the first and only one of his kind begotten or born of God the Father, he is the beginning and end of God's plan of salvation and the New Covenant of Grace.

In Christ is the entire beginning and end of God's eternal foreordained plan of eternal salvation for mankind that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the world began. It means that there will never be another Saviour or another plan of salvation.

The words, "The first and last" means that in Christ is God's entire foreordained plan that He purposed from the beginning it means that all things together concerning God's eternal plans for the earth, the world, the universe and mankind's eternal salvation are brought together in Christ.

The cleansing power of Jesus blood not only flows over all the faithful of the New Testament, but also flows back over all the faithful of the Old Testament so that all who have been faithful to God and His promised Messiah the Christ are made clean in the blood of Christ and saved by faith in him.

Jesus is the only Saviour God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before the foundations of the world who would be the Saviour of mankind, there is no other nor will there be any other. It is in this sense that Jesus is the first and the last. He is the only Saviour and redeemer from the beginning of time to the end of time.

I am He that Lives and was Dead.

Revelation 1:18-20 --- ¹⁸I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. ¹⁹Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; ²⁰The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Jesus is still the focus, he tells John that he is the one that was alive, and then was dead, but was then made alive again. This of course refers to Jesus time on earth, his death and his resurrection to eternal glory.

Though God the Father the Almighty immortal, invisible, eternal God the creator of all things is the source of all life He has given Jesus authority over all flesh to give eternal life (John 17:2).

Concerning eternal life Jesus himself said: -

- This is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ (John 17:3).
- Whoever believes in me has eternal life (John 3:15-16).
- God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (John 3:15-16).
- Labour for the food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you. For on him God the Father has set his seal (John 6:27).
- For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:40).
- Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day (John 6:54).
- I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand (John 6:28).

John wrote: -

- Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him (John 3:36).

Jesus has the keys of eternal life and of death in that whoever confesses the Son has the Father also and no one has the Father who denies the Son (1 John 2:23). It is only through faith in the Son of God the Lord Jesus Christ that a sinner can be reconciled to God the Father and given life eternal.

NOTICE: the book of Revelation is not only about things future, but contains things which John has seen during his lifetime, things that were happening while John was on the Island of Patmos having this most incredible and glorious vision and things that will come to pass in the future (v19).

A Final Note.

Though this letter is directed toward the seven churches that existed during the time of John the warnings, encouragements, promise, blessings and messages, principals and prophecies they contain by extension apply to all churches and all believers of all generations.

For further information see the title: -

- The Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:7-8).
- In Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) (ON WEBSITE MENU).

End.