

REVELATION 08 – CHRIST AS ALPHA-OMEGA OR FIRST-LAST

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Revelation 1:8

PROLOGUE: HE COMES: *IN THE CLOUDS?*

- Clouds {νεφέλη, nephele} associated with God throughout Bible
 - Father at Mount Horeb {Clouds, Lightning, Earthquakes: **Holiness**} (Ex 19:9, 16-20; 20:18-21)
 - Christ at His Ascension: Quietly as holiness satisfied (Ac 1:9-11)
 - Clouds validate Christ's Return as genuine: God's power **all** see (Mt 24:29-30; Mk 13:21-23)
- Unfortunately, clouds mythologized in Christianity, as in paganism; i.e., apotheosis of Geo Washington; Capitol Building
 - Revelation mythologized robbing it of reality and imminency {Christian Rapture}
 - Arose from ignorance; not understanding processes {Only recently discovered}
 - *Eisegetical* attempt to keep Bible relevant; opposite effect: Honors Satan, not the Son



PROLOGUE: REVELATION'S *REVEALING...* GOD INTERACTING IN CREATION

- Lost {Satan and Man} ignorantly believe God does not work through His Creation; they rely on *natural processes* which they deify; i.e., *Nature* (2Pe 3:3-4)
 - Peter specifically ties their rejection of these phenomenon to deliberate unbelief which today we call Evolutionary Scientism; or ignorance masquerading as wisdom
- As Father interjects into Creation, He overwhelms Earth's GEC producing: Clouds, Lightings, Earthquakes; even as He does in Heaven (Ex 19:16-20; Col 1:15-17)
 - Christ *physically* leaving Earth required spiritual energy; hence, clouds (Ac 1:9-11)
 - Christ *physically* returning will require spiritual energy; hence, clouds (Da 7:13; Re 1:7)
- Revelation reveals Christ using both *natural processes* and miraculous as He separates Tares from the Wheat: Not Eisegetical Mysticism! (Mt 13:24-30; 25:31-46)

ALPHA-OMEGA: UNIQUE TO JOHN

- Concept of Christ being *Alpha-Omega* is unique to John but not to the Bible;
- Isaiah used the term *First-Last* in reference to the Lord { יהוה, yhwah }:
 - Creator of Man; God's Image (Ge 1:26-28; Is 41:4)
 - Creator of ALL Creation (Is 48:12-13)
 - Lord, Christ, sent Israel as His to teach others: No other God – No other salvation (Is 43:10-12; Mt 28:18-20; Ac 4:8-12)
- Correlates with John's and Paul's writings: Jesus Christ-Messiah {Anointed}:
 - John – Jesus **is** Creator; He is Savior (Ge 1:6-3; Jn 1:1-18)
 - Paul – Jesus is Creator of ALL including angels and heaven (Col 1:15-20)

EMPHASIZES METAPHOR OF: THE POTTER

- *Potter* Metaphor emphasizes Lord-Christ as *Alpha-Omega* or *First-Last* who does with the *Clay* {Creation and People} as He desires; He desired to die (Ep 1:3-14)
- Lord challenges *False Jews* with teaching **they** are the potters and God is the clay; i.e., created by them: Indeed, their view of God as an idol created by them is also true for Christendom religionists {Why God hates Idolatry} (Is 29:15-16)
- *True Jews* acknowledge their total dependent on the Lord: He is the Potter; they-we are the Clay (Is 64:8; Ro 9:19-24)
- Jeramiah expands this metaphor to include ALL rulers of nations (Je 18:1-10)
- Zechariah prophesized Messiah's slave wages, 30 silver pieces, to be thrown to the Potter; i.e., the Father, (First Born) acknowledges Him as Potter; Priests declared Him unclean: Death (Ex 13:12-13; Nu 3:44-51; Ze 11:12-13; 1Co 15:22-28)

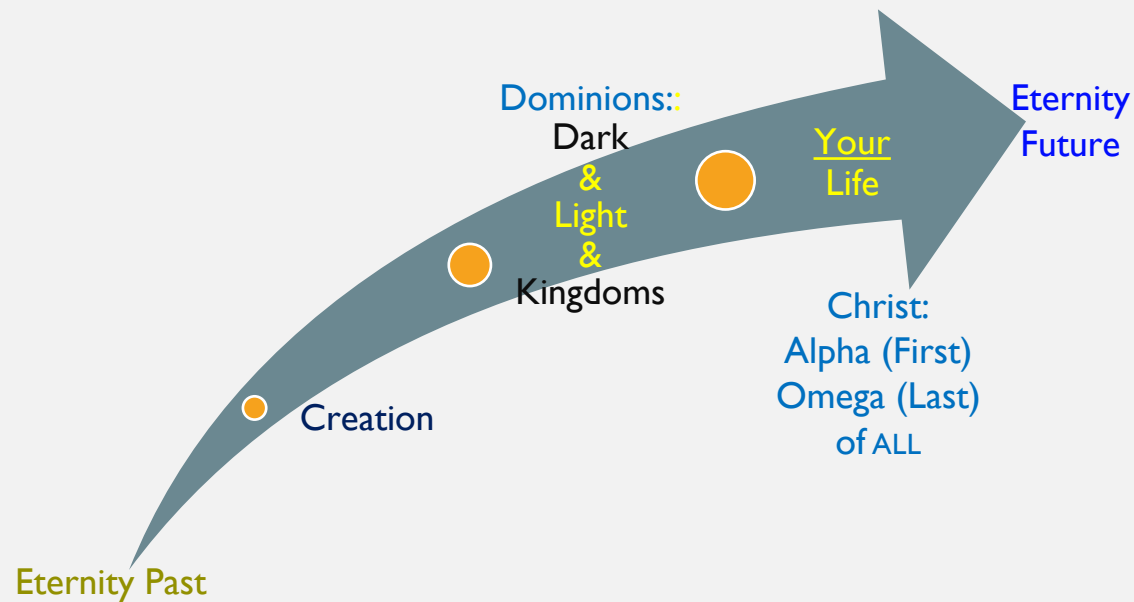
ALPHA-OMEGA: HE IS-WAS-TO COME

- John masterfully ties the end of the Prologue back to its beginning via the phrase: “...who is and who was and who is to come...”
 - Congruent Duality emphasizing Christ as Lord of Creation, including Man, and as Savior Who offers sinful people the only salvation possible: *Revealed* in Revelations
- Christ as Alpha-Omega is Lord over ALL dominions {κράτος, *kratos*}, al(l)mighty {παντοκράτωρ, *pantokratōr*}, as written in Isaiah-Jeremiah
 - Satan and Earthly governments are *allowed* to give them time to repent (Ro 13:1-7; 9:14-24)
 - Satan *allowed* Dark Dominion in the world emphasizing *Salvation's Light*; sinners reject (Ge 1:3-5; Jn 12:31-32; 16:7-11; 2Co 4:3-4; 2Th 2:3-12)
 - Christ transfers Saved from Darkness {Satan} to Light {Himself} via His *Hola Offering* (Ge 28:10-15; Col 1:13-14)

ALPHA-OMEGA: *FIRST FRUIT OF NEW COVENANT*

- Christ the *First Fruit* of New Covenant Salvation, adopted Sons of God; purpose of Creation; fulfills Satan's *promise*: To be as God(s) {Not through knowing but through First Born's Sacrifice} (Ge 3:5; 2Co 5:17; Ep 1:3-10)
 - His role of *First Fruit* emphasized by Paul (1Co 15:20-24)
 - We have the *first fruit* of our Promised salvation: Indwelling Spirit (Ro 8:22-23)
 - We are *living messages* of Christ to all who encounter us (Mt 28:18-20; 2Co 3:1-3)
- Revelation depicts meaning of this term: Alpha-Omega
 - Opens the Revealing (Re 1:8)
 - Closes the Revealing, *twice*, emphasizing absolute closure of salvation's offer: **Now** is the time, or *this Day*, of Salvation (He 3:7-13; 4:1-11; Re 21:6; 22:12-13)

ALPHA-OMEGA: EVERYTHING



- Creation did not determine its beginning nor its end
- Satan-Man dominions *believe* they have Control but enslaved to Sin {Darkness}
 - Christ determines who rules: Ex: Cyrus
- You do not choose your birth, nor your death: Your choice is Light (Ac 9:1-19)
- Lord Christ *did* choose His Death, for you on the Stauros (Nu 21:4-9; Jn 10:14-18; 19:29-30)

PREAMBLE END OF THE BEGINNING

- Preamble ends on the high note of glorifying Christ who is the author (Beginning) and Finisher (End) of Faith; i.e., Salvation (He 12:2-3)
 - John begins with Christ as High Priest {Melchizedek} and ends with Spirit and *Bride* calling people into Eternity Future with them: “Come...” (Mt 11:28-30)
- Church Letters emphasize failure of people to remain faithful **except** in meekness, via Spirit, on Him (Mt 5:2-12; Ro 11:24)
- Body of Revelation balances Failures of the Lost with their ultimate Second Death with Salvation of the Saved culminating in their Second Life
- Christ, Alpha-Omega, is the focus of every word of Revelation; and the Bible