

The EXPERT on LIFE?

Revelation 1:8-18
East Berlin Community Church
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Introduction

- Three Qualities of a Good Discussion Leader
- Big topic: LIFE and HISTORY
- Who is qualified to lead the discussion on LIFE? Who is the EXPERT?

The EXPERT on LIFE?

A. General Background

1. Book of Revelation
 - a. Much disagreement as to how this book is to be interpreted.
 - b. Central figure: Jesus Christ—Revelation 1:1, 5-7
2. Jesus' bold claim: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End"*
3. John's Situation
 - a. John exiled on the island of Patmos for faithfully preaching.
 - b. John was *"in the Spirit"*
 - c. Received the revelation on the *"Lord's Day"*

B. Specific Observations: The Expert revealed.

1. The **Visual**: John saw the ascended, exalted Christ...
 - a. As our High Priest—Hebrews 4:14-16
 - b. As God almighty—Daniel 10:5-6
 - c. As the Sovereign over the Church—Revelation 1:20
 - d. As wielding the Sword—Hebrews 4:12-13
 - e. As displaying the glory of God—Matthew 17:1-2
(John's reaction: *"fall at his feet as dead"*)
2. The **Verbal**: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last"*
 - a. As the *"Alpha"*, Jesus claims to be the origin of LIFE.
 - 1) Jesus Christ as Creator—John 1:1-4; Col. 1:15-17
 - 2) Examination of modern theories of the origin of life
 - 3) Far easier to believe that *"someone produce everything"* than *"nothing produces everything"*
 - b. As the *"dash"* between Alpha and Omega, Jesus claims to sovereign Lord over everything in life.
 - 1) He sustains the physical universe—Col. 1:17
 - 2) He controls the affairs of government, the course of human history.
 - c. As the *"Omega"*, Jesus claims to have the final word!
 - 1) For natural world: *"Behold, I make all things new"*.
 - 2) For you and I?
 - a) For believers at the judgment seat of Christ—Rev. 22
 - (1) Hopefully: *"Well done"*
 - (2) Remedy: Jesus as *Alpha and Omega* of your life
 - b) For non-believers—Matthew 25:41
Remedy: *"Drink freely from the fountain of life"*