

Names of God from the Bible

34 – Alpha and Omega: The Beginning and the End

All God's Names are eternal names – so He is still Alpha and Omega for us today.

Reading: Revelation 1:12-18

The writer of Ecclesiastes concludes his treatise with, *“Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body. Now all has been heard: here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of every human being. For God will bring every deed into judgement, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or bad”* (TNIV).

God is the great Initiator, as we see from the Book of Genesis. He is the great Finisher, the great Completer, as we see from John's Gospel where Jesus shouts from the cross in awesome triumph, *“It is finished!”* God is also the great Re-creator, as we see from Christ's bodily resurrection from the grave and John's Revelation where God uttered the doom-shattering cry from the Throne: *“I am making everything new.”*

John's revelation seems totally unique. He had been imprisoned, humiliated, isolated from family, friends and supporters, and marooned, in all intents and purposes, on a tiny Greek island just off the coast of modern day Turkey, probably awaiting death.

Into that scene of frustration, loneliness and apprehension God appeared. Similar to Isaiah, at a time of possibly John's lowest ebb, God intervened and revealed some of His glory. While Isaiah was overwhelmed by God's holiness, John was taken on a journey of earth-shattering dimension and significance.

John's revelation came out of a time of worship. *“He was in the spirit on the Lord's day.”* He heard a loud voice as piercing as a trumpet blast. When he turned around to see who was speaking to him, what he saw was almost beyond description.

Yes, John saw standing there someone who looked like a human being and yet far more like the Son of Man whom he had seen transfigured upon the mountain on that unforgettable day.

Someone like the Ancient of Days that Daniel saw, Someone like the Lord Almighty that Isaiah saw, mixed with the picture of the Commander of the Lord's vast armies that Joshua saw prior to the commencement of the Military Campaign for Jericho.

A clarifying vision of ultimate Authority, invincible power, and eternal and everlasting existence. No wonder John fell down on his knees, as if dead, when he saw Jesus looking like that.

Neither Rome nor any other human super-power can compare with the God of the Universe, they pale into finite insignificance in comparison.

God has always been (existing), God is (whether people acknowledge the fact or not) and God always will be. Earthly kingdoms and earthly governments come and go – our God does not change. His power does not diminish. His authority does not wane. His plans and purposes will always finally succeed and be accomplished. He doesn't need our approval or help. He is still the Great I AM.

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Jesus said to John, *“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”*

Please let those fear defeating, circumstances correcting, bereavement relieving and hopelessness dispelling words sink deep into your heart and mind today. Jesus wants you to know that just as they were true and real for John, back there on Patmos, they are equally true and real for you today. No matter what challenges you face personally or we face collectively in our Christian minority society, God is still the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. Jesus is and will always have the final word!

What does that name mean for us today

The fact that this title is attributed to both God the Father and Jesus Christ the Son provides irrefutable evidence of Jesus' complete deity. Jesus is the final word, the final and complete expression of God. Jesus is the truth and all He said is true. He is still the only Saviour of humanity. He is the only answer to our needs and the needs of this world – the world He created and sustains by His power and authority.

Prayer

Father, thank You that Your names are eternal names. Thank You for being the Alpha and Omega for eternity. Please help me to remember that You are not only an unchanging God, You are my Saviour and the only Saviour for this world, for both now and eternity. Amen.

Additional Readings

- Hebrews 1:1-13
- Revelation 21:1-8
- Revelation 22:12-21

Questions

1. What does the name Alpha and Omega mean to you?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name for you today?