

“I AM Alpha and Omega”

Revelation 1:8; 21:1-6; 22:12-13

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- Functions of a good discussion leader
- Discussion called “LIFE” and the accumulation called “HISTORY”
- Who is qualified to be the discussion leader of LIFE?

I AM “Alpha and Omega”

A. As the “Alpha and Omega”, Jesus Christ claims to be the only true God.

1. Revealed in the book of Revelation

- Revelation 1:8-- *“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.”*
- Revelation 21:6-- *“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 22:13-- *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.”*

2. “Alpha and Omega”, the first and last letter in the Greek alphabet

3. The “First and the Last” of Isaiah 44:6-8

- Isaiah 44:6-8-- *“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, let them show these to them. Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’ ”*

B.. As “Alpha” or the first or beginning, Jesus Christ starts this discussion we call, “Life!”

1. Jesus Christ claims to be the creator of this world and life itself.

- Isaiah 48:12-13-- *“Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last. Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, and My right hand has stretched out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand up together.”*
- Genesis 1:1-- *“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.”*
- John 1:3-4-- *“All things were made by him (Christ), and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”*
- Colossians 1:16-- *“For by him (Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones or dominions or principalities or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him!”*

2. Modern day challenges to Christ as the creator.

1. Evolution of intelligent life is highly improbable.
2. Evolution of even the simplest form of life is utterly impossible due to “irreducible complexity”.
3. Man willfully refuses to acknowledge the existence of a personal creator.

3. On a personal level, God’s involvement in our own beginning of life.

- Psalm 139:13-16-- *“ For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother’s womb.*

I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."

C. As the "Alpha and Omega" , Jesus Christ is the continual discussion leader or the "sustainer" of life.

1. Jesus Christ controls or guides the discussion called "life".

- Colossians 1:17 -- --"And He (Christ) is before all things, and by Him all things consist"
- Hebrews 1:3-- "Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power!"

2. Evidence of intelligent control in our physical universe

3. Jesus Christ's control over all aspects of life-- physical, political, and personal.

4. On a personal level, Jesus Christ sustains us throughout life.

- Psalm 23:2-6-- "*He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever."*
- 2 Corinthians 12:9-- "*My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness"*

D. As the "Omega", Jesus Christ will bring this discussion of life to a close and will provide the summation at the end.

- Ephesians 1:10-- "*That in the dispensation of the fullness of time he might gather in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; even in him.*

1. His "Final Words" for the Physical creation.

- Revelation 21:1-6-- "*Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 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."*

2. His "Final Words" for you and I. How will he sum up your life?

a. For believers in Christ before His judgment seat.

- Revelation 22:12-13-- "*And behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last."*

b. For unbelievers before the Great White Throne judgment

- Matthew 25:41-- "*Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels."*

3. **Unbelievers can change Jesus' summation by accepting His invitation of "living water".**

- Revelation 21:6-- *"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."*
- Isaiah 55:1-3-- *"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you!"*
- John 4:13-14-- *"Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*