



**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
For time and for eternity, Jesus is all we need

POEM FOR THE WEEK:
Alpha, Omega—our God we proclaim, Eternal, unchanging, always the same; He's the beginning and He is the end, He is our Savior, our Lord, and our Friend. —Fitzhugh

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
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.
(Rev 1:8 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Mar 25, 2003)

Series: Creation & Salvation

UNIT: The Savior is Born

NEXT WEEK

The Promise of a Savior

(Luke 1:26-38)

Alpha and Omega Rev 22:12-21

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson reminds us how Jesus is the **Alpha and Omega**. The **study's aim** is to understand more about the eternal nature of Jesus Christ from His names and to think about the return of Jesus, the Alpha and Omega. The **study's application** is to worship Jesus Christ as the Eternal One and as the One who is coming soon.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

As the book of Revelation comes to a close, the angel's message to the Apostle John (22:8-11) is punctuated by the words of Jesus Christ in verses 12-13. Whether the angel was quoting Jesus or Jesus Himself spoke at this point is not entirely clear, but the words clearly belong to Jesus. The expression "Alpha and Omega" is used as a self-designation both at the beginning of Revelation (1:8, 11) and at the end of the book (21:6; 22:13). In our text (Rev. 22:13), Alpha and Omega is a description of the One who is coming "quickly" (vs. 12), a clear reference to Christ. There is some debate about whether the descriptions in Revelation 1:8 and 21:6 refer to God the Father or Jesus Christ. As God the Son, however, Christ possesses all the attributes of God, so both Father and Son can be described as the Alpha and Omega. The book of Revelation, like the rest of the New Testament, was originally written in the Greek language. Alpha and Omega are, respectively, the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The words that follow clarify the significance of their use here. For Jesus to describe Himself as "Alpha and Omega" is to declare that He is "the beginning and the end, the first and the last." "Alpha and Omega" thus is a title of Christ, and like all titles it has meaning. In fact, it seems to convey several related ideas. First, the title speaks of His eternity. He is the "beginning and the end." He is "before all things, and nothing survives Him" (Morris, The Revelation of St. John, Eerdmans). In other words, He has no beginning or ending; He is eternal. This attribute is further emphasized in Revelation when He is described as the One who is, was, and is to come (1:4; 4:8). Second, the title means that Christ, like God the Father, is "sovereign over history, in control not only of the past but of the future" (Osborne, Revelation, Baker). Because He is eternal, He is also sovereign; and because He is sovereign, we are assured that the Holy One ultimately will bring all things into conformity with His perfect will. Finally, the title stresses Christ's deity. Jesus Christ is God in the flesh. We know God the Father through God the Son, the One who has fully revealed the Father (John 1:18; 14:9). Those who claim to follow God but reject the deity of Christ are following a false god. How horrible it would be if the One who is eternal and sovereign over all things were not the God of the Bible! In gratitude for the truth, we acknowledge our eternal, sovereign Lord as the One revealed in Jesus Christ. He is the Holy One, righteous, just, pure, gracious, loving, merciful, and unchanging. He is our Lord, the sovereign God. He is worthy of our trust and complete commitment, and He will in due time establish a "new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Pet. 3:13). In Christ there is joy, blessing, hope, and peace. And we also have the abiding assurance that there is a purpose to everything, for the One who purposed everything is the eternal, sovereign God, the Alpha and Omega.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Declaration of Sovereignty (Rev 22:12-16)

Sovereign over rewards (12-13)

Rewards that Jesus will bring with Him at Second Coming (Isa 40:10)

Rewards for good quality works (1 Cor 3:11-15)

Rewards like the crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4)

Rewards for righteousness (Matt 10:41-42)

Sovereign over judgments (14-15)

Judgments at the judgment seat of Christ (2 Cor 5:10)

Judgments that man is destined to face (Heb 9:27)

Judgments that begin within the family of God (1 Peter 4:17-18)

Judgments that through God's love, we don't have to fear (1 John 4:16-18)

Sovereign over the Church (16)

Sovereign over the Church because God keeps us blameless until that day (1 Cor 1:8)

Sovereign over the Church because God cleansed us so we will be ready (Eph 5:25-28)

Sovereign over the Church because God sanctified us (1 Thess 5:23)

Sovereign over the Church because we belong to God (1 Cor 15:21-23)

Sovereign over the Church because God is coming to bring salvation (Heb 9:26-28)

Sovereign over the Church because our citizenship is in heaven (Phil 3:20-21)

Declaration of Responsibility (Rev 22:17-19)

Responsibility of responding to call (17)

Responding to call by spending time with God (John 1:38-39)

Responding to call by seeking to be near God (Isa 55:6)

Responding to call by seeking fellowship with God (1 John 1:3-7)

Responding to call by getting to know Jesus (John 17:3)

Responding to call by knowing it is irrevocable (Rom 11:29)

Responding to call by knowing God's calls are faithful (1 Thess 5:23-24)

Responsibility to honor God's Word (18-19)

Honor God's Word because it is useful to equip for every good work (2 Tim 3:16-17)

Honor God's Word because it is trustworthy and true (2 Peter 3:5-7)

Honor God's Word because it is living and enduring (1 Peter 1:23)

Honor God's Word because it revives the soul (Ps 19:7)

Honor God's Word because it provides a rebirth by God (James 1:18)

Declaration of Promises (Rev 22:20-21)

Promise to come soon (20)

Promise to come soon for those who keep God's Word (Rev 22:7)

Promise to come soon because salvation is nearer than we may believe (Rom 13:11)

Promise to come soon because the Lord is near (Phil 4:5)

Promise to come soon because Jesus will not be delayed (Heb 10:37)

Promise of grace (21)

Promise of Grace through the grace of one man - Jesus (Rom 5:15)

Promise of Grace because there is always enough grace to cover sin (Rom 5:20-21)

Promise of Grace because it is a gift from God (Rom 11:5-6)

Promise of Grace because of God's love (2 Thess 2:16)

Promise of Grace because God wants all men to be saved (1 Tim 2:3-4)