

## **'I Am the Alpha and Omega'**

This is how Jesus 'signs off' the last book of the Bible, in Revelation 22v13, identifying himself as Jesus in v 16. He amplifies the terse first and last letters of the Greek alphabet to show what he's meaning – 'the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End'.

But in the introduction to the book, we see it's a letter from the Father *and* the Son:

Chapter 1:

v1 'The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him.....'

v4 'From Him who was and is and is to come.....*and* from Jesus Christ'

v8 The Lord God Almighty speaks – 'I am Alpha and Omega, who was and is and is to come....'

v17 Jesus speaks – 'I am the First and the Last, and the Living One...'

And in chapter 21 v5-7, The Father speaks again:

'I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.....I will be his God – he will be My son. (Talking about the believing person)'

So it's a title that both the Father and Son readily use to describe Who they are, and how we can best perceive them.

If there is a Beginning, then we need look no further than them.

If there is Being now, then they are its source.

And just as surely, God will be the final conclusion of everything.

Without God, NOTHING is.

Beginnings: (Greek word *arche* – English 'archetype' = the original)

Genesis 1v1 –'In the beginning God..... created.....'

John 1 v1-3 –' In the beginning was the 'Word (the expression/ communication of God) and that 'Word' was with God – and *was* God – and without Him there was NOTHING! And then he came into the world.....' (and his name was Jesus!)

1 John 1v1 – 'What was from the beginning – what *we've* seen – *our* hands have handled Him! – the Eternal Life who was with the Father – that's what we're sharing with you! We're talking about shared life with the Father and the Son!'

Firsts: (Greek word *proton* – English 'prototype' = first model)

Genesis 1v26 –'Let US make Man in Our image' say the Father and Son and Spirit. Everything comes from God, the First One, the 'Prototype'.

But though this was a miraculous and Divine Beginning for mankind - it brought into being people with the *potential* for God-likeness – it needed

their moral choice to bring that about. 'You *may* eat the tree of life!' And we know what they chose instead.....!

(It had to be that way, for God Himself only remains His pure and lovely self by a continual moral choice of Good and a refusing of Evil (Genesis 3v22, John 8v29, Matt 3v17, 17v5, ) and God-like men must exercise the same daily choice to please Him. Without the faculty of moral choice, we could only have been 'good-looking' robots! Not His friends, or children, or lovers.)

We needed .....**A New Beginning**

A 'spiritual' man to supersede the 'natural' man.

The Creator enters the creation He has made, to become its 'Firstborn'! He finishes the old order, by paying the penalty for its failure through rebellious moral choices (= sin). The 'first Adam' and his descendants are 'dead and buried' by the cross and grave of Jesus, the 'new man' from heaven! (This is all too much for us to understand – we just gulp and say a shocked 'Thankyou') Read Paul's take on the whole story in his letter to the Colossian Greeks (chapter 1v15-22)

And try his description using similar metaphors in 1 Corinthians 15 v45-49. You'll need to read them many times – these are expressions from a lifetime of walking in tune with God.

Also look at the 'beginnings' the apostle John refers to many times in his first 2 letters. He's thinking the same way – all our 'beginnings' have to come from Him – but then they're safe, and can be relied on to take us right to the end with Him.

Finally, read Jesus' closing words to the churches in Revelation 22v12-17. He has reintroduced our right to 'eat the tree of life'! These words are to carry us 'through the dark', with Him who is the 'Morning star', into the dawning of the eternal day which the God who is 'the Last, and the End', will usher in before very long.

'Look – I'm coming soon'!