

## I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA – REV. 1:1-8

### THE I AM'S OF JESUS #9

Today we finish up this series by looking at an “I AM” claim that takes place outside of the Gospel of John. This claim will take place in another book that John wrote – The Revelation. It is here that Jesus speaks to the fullest manifestation of His Deity. The other “I AM” statements were made while Jesus was in the human body before the cross; this statement will take place in Heaven in His glorified body. While people can doubt the Deity of Christ in His earthly claims, there can be no doubt as to this claim. Jesus is making this claim as the resurrected and ascended Christ from His throne in Heaven. This claim occurs in Rev. 1:8 -. We begin our study with:

1. **The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Rev. 1:1-2** -. Many see this book of Revelation as primarily a book about prophecy. It is that, but its main theme is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ”. The word “Revelation” means to “uncover that which was veiled”. The idea is to remove the veil of darkness and ignorance. In this book, Jesus will be revealed in such a way as to clearly show who He is – the eternal God. The use of the word “shortly” means “quickly” and is from God’s perspective on time. It has been nearly 2000 years since John wrote this book; a long time for man but nothing for God. Much of this book is yet future.
2. **The blessedness of reading Revelation – vs. 3** -. Most people today see Revelation as some kind of a mystical book with many interpretations and no real understanding. That is not what we get from this verse. John tells us that we will be “blessed” by “reading” and hearing (heeding) the “words of this prophecy”. You can only be blessed and you can only heed something that you understand. This book is meant to be understood. Unsaved people will not understand it nor will Christians who take it out of context or who have a false private interpretation. This book is about future literal events. It is not something that took place in the past (preterist view) or a book of allegories.
3. **John reveals the Trinity – vs. 4-5**. In the upcoming verses, John will reveal to us the Trinity. In verse 4, we will see the Father and the Holy Spirit, while in verse 5 we will see some wonderful truths about the Lord Jesus Christ. All 3 members of the Triune Godhead are seen giving John this Revelation – vs. 4-5 -.

4. **The reality for believers – vs. 6 -**. This verse tells us that Jesus has “made us kings and priests unto God”. The making is already done. Every believer is a king and a priest. We are kings in the sense that we are part of the royal family and will one day rule and reign with Christ. We are to be priests in this life which means that we are to be engaged in the holy service of God. Most Christians know nothing of these realities. Many Christians live for this life and never find encouragement in what the future holds. In this life, many Christians are bogged down and distracted with the cares of this life that they never undertake the office of priest by which Christ has made us all.
  
5. **4 aspects of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ – vs. 7 -**. This verse details 4 aspects of the Return of Christ. All of these aspects are based on a previous Scripture – Christ will come in the clouds – **Dan. 7:13**; every eye shall see Him – **Matt. 24:30**; they that pierced Him will see Him – **Zech. 12:10** and those that pierced Him (the Jews) will “wail” or mourn over Him at His coming – **Zech. 12:10-11**. These are all future events that will occur when the Lord returns.
  
6. **I AM Alpha and Omega – vs. 8 -**. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. It has the idea of the entirety of a matter. Here Jesus is claiming His eternity, which is another aspect of His Deity. The Lord is sum of all things from the beginning to the ending. God created all things and will end all things that require an ending. It is interesting that Jesus does not say that He is “the” Alpha and Omega. The word “the” stands out among others. Jesus “is” Alpha and Omega; no one else is claiming that. The last words of this verse are “the Almighty”. JW’s will argue that Jesus is a lesser god and that the Father is the Almighty God. Clearly the JW’s are wrong about this as they are about many other things. Jesus is the Almighty God.