

Jesus the First and the Last

Revelation 22:13 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*I am the Alpha and the Omega, **the first and the last**, the beginning and the end.”*

Isaiah 44:6 New American Standard Bible (NASB)

*“This is what the Lord says, He who is the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of armies: **I am the first and I am the last**, And there is no God besides Me.*

Introduction

Christ says, *“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father”* (John 14:7). He connects the knowledge of Him to that of God His Father. That means, without knowing Christ no one can know the true Father in Heaven. So, I invite you once again to get to know Christ first so that you may know the Father in Heaven. Knowing Christ is Knowing God. No knowledge of Christ, No knowledge of the Father in Heaven.

Last Sunday, I talked about Christ being the Bread of Life and the Living Water. Like no one can survive without bread and water, neither shall we without Christ, both temporally and eternally. He is our Life (Zoe). Our whole existence needs Him for our ‘zoe’ life—the life eternal and the life with meaning and purpose.

Today is the second sermon on Jesus Christ. Jesus is the first and the last.

Content

In the Book of Revelation, concerning His identity, Christ declares:
“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.” (Revelation 22:13).

You might have noticed that He declares the same thing in three different ways. Sometimes, we too repeat the same thing in different ways so that the audience won’t miss the point. So, get this. Christ says, I am the Alpha and the Omega (the first and last letters of Greek alphabet). I am the first and the last. I am the beginning and the end. You got the general idea of who Jesus is.

Let me elaborate a little more.

The Alpha and the Omega

This phrase appears only three times in the entire New Testament. Who has said “I am the Alpha and the Omega?” Both God the Father (twice) and His Son Jesus Christ (once). All in the Book of Revelation: First, Revelation 1:8: “*I am the Alpha and the Omega,*” says **the Lord God**, “*who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.*” Next, Revelation 21:6: “*Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.”*” Lastly, by **Jesus Christ**: “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end*” (Revelation 22:13).

The First and the Last

Who claimed so? Once again, only two. First, the LORD our God, then, Jesus His Son. It first appears in Isaiah 44:6: “*This is what the Lord says, He who is the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of armies: ‘I am **the first and I am the last**, And there is no God besides Me.’*” Then, it was said again, by the Father God and Jesus His Son, in the Book of Revelation as I said a few minutes ago.

The point I am making is this: by using the same phrases and same sentences, Jesus clearly makes Himself equal to God. Does it surprise you? How about this? John 1:1 says: “*In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and **the Word was God.***” Here, the Word is Logos, and it refers to Jesus the Son of God incarnate, that is, God dwells in human flesh. Listen more: In Philippians 2:6, Paul the Apostle wrote regarding the godhead of Jesus: “*... who, as He already **existed in the form of God**, did not consider **equality with God** something to be grasped,..*”

Jesus Himself also testified with His own mouth: “*I and Father are One*” (John 10:30). Hearing this, the crowd picked up stones **again** to stone Him (John 10:31---He was almost stoned in John 8 as well). The same Christ also said, “***The one who has seen Me has seen the Father;***” (John 14:9).

This is why Christianity believes in the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit). No one fully understands the three divine persons in One true God. But we believe in this holy mystery of Trinity based on what Jesus testifies, according to what the Holy Spirit witnesses, and according to what the Bible says. The closest illustration of Trinity I can give is the way we are created. Three parts: spirit, soul, and body. All have unique function, yet they all dwell in one house, we call body.

This trinitarian concept is also found in the Old Testament. In Genesis Chapter 1, the first two verses: “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² And the earth was a formless and desolate emptiness, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God** was hovering over the surface of the waters” (Genesis 1:1-2).

Let’s move onto verse 26. When the LORD God was about to create Adam, this is what He said. Pay attention to the **plural** references: “Then God said, “**Let Us** make mankind in **Our** image, according to **Our** likeness;” (Genesis 1:26). Here’s another one in Genesis 3:22. It was right after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit from the tree of knowledge: ²² Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like **one of Us**, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out with his hand, and take fruit also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever.”

Here’s one more in Genesis 11: Humans wanted to reach into heaven, so they said, “Come, let’s build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top will **reach into heaven**, and let’s make a name for ourselves; ⁵ Now the Lord came down to see the city and the tower which the men had built. ⁶ And the Lord said, “Behold, they are one people, and they all have the same language. And this is what they have started to do, and now nothing which they plan to do will be impossible for them. ⁷ Come, **let Us** go down and there confuse their language, so that they will not understand one another’s speech.” ⁸ So the Lord scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth; and they stopped building the city. ⁹ Therefore it was named Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth; and from there the Lord scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth” (Genesis 11:4-9).

Jesus and the Father are One.

The First: He is the First, that means, Christ was before any creatures including human beings. He existed for eternity. He is eternal. He is immortal. That separates Him from the rest of world’s great teachers. All of them died, but Christ lives forever.

In fact, Jesus discussed this matter with the crowd one day. They were talking about Abraham (who was alive about 2,000 years before Jesus’ birth). Christ said: ⁵⁶ Your father Abraham was overjoyed that he would see My day, and he saw it and rejoiced.” ⁵⁷ So the Jews said to Him, “You are not yet fifty years old, and You have seen Abraham?” ⁵⁸ Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly I say to you, **before Abraham was born, I am.**” ⁵⁹ Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and left the temple grounds. (John 8:56-59).

The Last: Judgment. He will be the Judge on the Day of Judgment. John 5:22: “For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given **all judgment to the Son,...**” 2 Corinthians 5:10: “For we must all appear before the **judgment seat of Christ**, so that each one may receive

compensation for his deeds done through the body, in accordance with what he has done, whether good or bad.” Christ is the first and the last.

The Beginning and the End

Everything is from Christ, through Him, for Him, and on account of Him. ¹

Corinthians 8:16 says,

“yet for us there is only one God, the Father, from whom are all things, and we exist for Him; and one Lord, **Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him**” (1 Corinthians 8:16). Listen to John the Apostle: ²He was in the beginning with God. ³**All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him not even one thing came into being that has come into being** (John 1:2-3).

We humanity owe Christ our life. Our life is originated from Him. We also are created for Him, too. We exist for His pleasure. We are to worship, love, adore Him, and to glorify His name in our lives. “Man’s chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever” (Westminster Shorter Catechism). Revelation 4:11: “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and **because of Your will they existed, and were created.**” Christ is the Giver of life, the Sustainer, and the End of our life.

The Beginning and the End of Time

Christ was there before time. He will be there at the end of time. He is not in time, but out of time. He stands out of time and looks all things from the beginning of time and the end and anything between. It is like you holding a string of time in both ends and looking at the beginning and the end of time and anything between. He sees everything concurrently. Everything to Him is present. That’s why Christ’s atonement is still effective in all times, and it covers all sinners from the beginning to the end. It is still happening in His eyes. His redemption effects all things, past, present, and future. Hebrews 13:8: “Jesus is the same yesterday and today, and forever.” 1 Peter 3:18: “For Christ also suffered for sins **once for all time**, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God,...

Conclusion



Look at our stained glass here. Look at the finger signs of His right hand. Three bent fingers symbolize the Trinity and two extended fingers symbolize the two-fold nature of Jesus, human and divine. What have we learned this morning about Christ? Christ is the alpha and the omega. He is the first and the last. He is the beginning and the end. He is equal to God. He is the God in flesh. He is immortal. He is eternal. He is unchanging. He is forever faithful. He is forever the same. He is forever with us. Amen.