

## REFLECTIONS FROM REVELATION: Episode 4: **Alpha and Omega | Rev 1:8 (John MacArthur)**

*“In a very real sense, scripture ends where it began. What was interrupted in Genesis 3 is renewed and completed in Revelation 19-22.” John MacArthur*

### **Alpha and Omega:**

**Rev 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.”**

*“In describing his eternal nature, God declares that he is the Alpha and Omega. That is the Greek for A and Z— The first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. God is the totality. He is the beginning and the ending. It all started with God and it all ends with God. He is, he was, he is to come. He is eternal.” - Chuck Smith*

*“This phrase of Alpha and Omega is used of both God the Father and God the Son (**Rev 1:8; 21:6; 22:13**).”  
“God in Christ comprises everything, all that goes between the Alpha and the Omega, as well as the beginning, the first and the last. This expresses God’s fullness, comprehensiveness, and all-inclusiveness. He is the source of all things and will bring all things to their pointed end.” John MacArthur*

- Revelation shows us the end of the age, God’s conclusion
- God is not only the beginning (Alpha) but the Omega and finisher of all things
- Beautiful doctrines come into place throughout the book of Revelation as He fulfills His word and prophecy

### **John MacArthur extols Revelation as one of the greatest books ever written, as illustrated by these features:**

- Hope. It vastly expands one’s understanding of heaven (**Ch 4-5**)
- Christian apologetics. It verifies the second coming and kingdom prophecies of the Old Testament (**Ch 6-20**)
- Character of God. It focuses on the sovereignty, power, holiness, and righteousness of God (**Ch 1-22**)
- Christ. It enhances Christ’s beauty (**Ch 1**)
- Reward. It promises blessing for obedience (**1:3; 22:7**)
- Evangelism. It reminds one of the ultimate judgment on those who refuse to believe (**Ch 6-20**)
- Church growth. It sets forth Christ’s standards for the church (**Ch 2-3**)
- Worship. It reveals how perfect worship is to be conducted in heaven (**Ch 4-5**).

*“The Bible would be incomplete were it not for Revelation. Man’s ruin is complete in earlier parts of scripture, man’s redemption is perfect in revelation. And Revelation would be just as incomprehensible without Genesis” Donald Barnhouse*

*“Without the last book in the Bible other parts of scripture would lose much of its significance, it is the complement of the book of Genesis.” Donald Barnhouse*

- Right from the start of this book, God declares that He is the Beginning and the End
- He is the AUTHOR (founder) AND PERFECTOR (finisher) OF OUR FAITH (Heb 12:2)
- He is the one writing History and it is commonly known as His Story...  
**Isa 46:10** ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’

*“Revelation, then, outlines God’s program for human history. What began ages ago in the first creation will ultimately be complete in the new creation.” -Warren Weirsbe*

- In Revelation we see so many promises completed and God has the final victory
- He is the Omega. He will finish His work in us and make all things new. **Phil 1:6**

*“The 26 letters in the English alphabet, arranged in almost endless combinations, can hold and can be all knowledge. Christ is a supreme, sovereign alphabet; there is nothing outside his knowledge, so there will be no unknown factors that can sabotage his second coming.” John MacArthur*

## **Almighty God does not change. Heb 13:8**

- We should worship Him today knowing He is the Omega, the finisher and promise keeper
- This type of framework will help us see that Jesus is God and we can trust that He is working

## **God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

*“The three tenses of the verb ‘to be’ are called into play — I was, I am, I shall be. A part of each of these three words is put together to form the name Jehovah.” Donald Barnhouse*

- God is trying to describe Himself to us in **Rev 1** so we would respond in awe and worship of Him
- Remember John’s response to this was to fall down and worship

*“The **Almighty God** occurs eight times in revelation, underscoring that God’s power is supreme over all cataclysmic events it records (**4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:15; 21:22**). He exercises sovereign control over every person, object, and events; and not one molecule in the universe is outside that dominion.” John MacArthur*

- God’s faithfulness as Alpha should give us confidence in Him as Omega.
- The end and the beginning and all that is between is in His Hands as well.

*“Alpha and Omega, the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, Mark God as one who has both creation and re-creation in his hands. However, it would be a terrible misunderstanding if we were to assume that God cares nothing about what comes between the A and the Z of the universe. This is why He reminds us that He is a God not only of the past and the future but the present as well. As Almighty God the Lord exercise control over all time.” Chuck Swindoll*

## **John MacArthur draws the 10 connection between Genesis (the beginning) and Revelation (the ending)**

showing this correlation of God as the beginning and ending...a God of the beginning (the Alpha) and a God of the ending (the Omega) in human history:

1. Genesis portrays man’s beginning in a gorgeous paradise (**Gen 1:2**)  
Revelation pictures the wonderful paradise of eternity future (**Rev 21:22**)
2. Genesis reveals Satan for the first time (**Gen 3:1-5**)  
Revelation indicates his final doom (**Rev 20:10**)
3. Genesis unveils Satan’s initial attempt at undermining God (**Gen 3:1-5**)  
Revelation declares that Satan will be cursed (**Rev 22:18,19**) and have no place in the new Jerusalem (**Rev 22:15**)
4. Genesis records man’s first disobedience of God (**Gen 3:6-7**)  
Revelation envisions a future time when there will be perfect obedience (**Rev 21 and 22**)
5. Genesis introduces the curse (**Gen 3:15-19**)  
Revelation anticipates when the curse will be lifted (**Rev 22:3**)
6. Genesis warns that Satan’s head would be bruised (**Gen 3:15**)  
Revelation verifies that this was fulfilled (**Rev 19:20-20:3**)
7. Genesis tells how man lost the privilege of eating from the tree of life (**Gen 3:22-24**)  
Revelation promises that man will once again eat of this tree (**Rev 22:2**)
8. Genesis recounts the tragedy of sin (**Gen 3 and 4**)  
Revelation looks to a time when there will be no sorrow (**Rev 21:4**)
9. Genesis chronicles the first murderer, polygamist, and rebel (**Gen 4**)  
Revelation points to a place where all residents will live in perfect righteousness (**Rev 21 and 22**)

10. Genesis reports the first death (**Gen 4:8**)

Revelation says that in the future there will be no dying (**Rev 21:4**)

*“So here, Genesis and Revelation are the two clasps of the divine word which link together and enclose between them in ‘perfection and beauty’ and harmony the whole of scripture in which God has been pleased to reveal His eternal purpose.” Donald Barnhouse*

Christ’s final promise in scripture is found in **Revelation 22:20**, “Surely I am coming quickly.” To which the apostle John and all Christians afterward have responded “Amen”. Even so, Come, Lord Jesus!”

**As we read this book let’s also cry out AMEN which means I agree, let it be so!  
Our God is the Alpha and the Omega!**