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## THE REVELATION *of* JESUS the CHRIST

8. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

We now see the true picture of Jesus, “I am the Alpha and Omega.” This points us as the gospel of John does to Christ eternity. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (also used in Rev. 21:6; 22:13). He is also described as the One who is, and who was, and who is to come (cf. 4:8; 11:17), the Almighty (pantokratōr, “the all-powerful One). It is used 10 times in the New Testament, 9 of them in Revelation (2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22).<sup>1</sup>

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The Vision

9. I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

This is John’s third mention of himself (vv. 1, 4, 9) and the first of three time that He will use the term “I John” (cf. 21:2; 22:8). It is well worth noting that in the gospel of John he simply referred to himself as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (John 19:26, 20:2; 21:7, 20) and in 2 John 1 and 3 John 1 he referenced himself as an elder. This is the first of John’s writings where he uses his actual name to identify himself. He also identify himself as a brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and the kingdom. This tribulation was not unique to John, but rather the plight of all the apostles (cf. 2 Tim. 1:8; 2:3, 9; 3:11; 4:5), they too were a part of the kingdom and partaking in the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification; not only the apostles, but all those who loved Christ appearing (2 Tim. 4:8; Jam. 1:12).

John clearly states why he was on the island of Patmos. It was due to his teaching of the word of God. John faithful preached the Word of God and imparted the true knowledge and testimony of Yeshua (Jesus). John is not simply writing a good book, but from his unique experience living with Jesus and having (as far as we know) been the last one to see Yeshua, provides a personal testimony about Him.

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<sup>1</sup> Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 929). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. Dr. Walvoord provides an excellent commentary on the book of Revelation for those seeking to glean a better understanding.

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10. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet, 11. saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

"In Spirit on the Lord's day," is most likely a reference to "the Day of the Lord" that was referenced in both the Old and New Testament (cf. Isa. 2:12; 13:6, 9; 34:8; Joel 1:15; 2:1, 11, 31; 3:14; Amos 5:18, 20; Zeph. 1:7–8, 14, 18; 2:3; Zech. 14:1; Mal. 4:5; 1 Thes. 5:2; 2 Peter 3:10). "The term "In the Spirit" could also be rendered "in [my] spirit" (cf. Rev. 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)."<sup>2</sup> In other words John was projected forward in realm not of this world, while still being in his earthly body; his body did not physically leave the earth, but his spirit did (2 Cor. 12:2, 4).

*2. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven.*

*4. was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.*

Note: the information in this book is not coming from John, he is simply the scribe in this picture. As Yeshua and His angel speaks to John and shows him what will take place, John then records it in this book. This book is literally the "Words of Jesus" concerning Himself. Notice to whom Christ addresses the book, "to the seven churches."

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A Picture of Jesus

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<sup>2</sup> Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 930). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books.

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12. Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13. and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash.

*13. "I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven one like a Son of Man was coming, and He came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. 14. "And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom that all the peoples, nations and men of every language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.*

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14. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 15. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 16. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. 17. When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18. and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19. "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 20. "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven

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golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

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