

Pastor Jimmy L. Harper, Sr., President of State Convention Apostle Walter Camp, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Dr. Sidney L. Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Pastor Tremayne Harris, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Pastor Harry Noble, President of State Congress of Education Pastor Michael Hansberry, Southern District Moderator

**Rice Memorial MBC** 

Rice Memorial Missionary Baptist Church Apostle Walter F. Camp, Presiding Senior Pastor Pastor David K. Baker III, 2<sup>nd</sup> Presiding 802 W. 15<sup>th</sup>, Little Rock, AR 72202, 501-773-6546 www.RiceMemorialBaptistChurch.org

## Alpha and Omega

Definitions in <u>bold letters</u> are from **Strong's** Exhaustive Concordance Other definitions are from **Webster's** Dictionary, 1828 Edition or Roget's Thesaurus – **November 27, 2016** 

## Revelation 22:12-21

**Introduction:** This portion of the Book of Revelation is properly the **epilogue**, or **conclusion**. The main <u>purposes</u> of the **VISION** are accomplished; the enemies of the church are quelled (crushed); the **church** is triumphant; the affairs of the world are wound up; the **redeemed** are received to their blissful, eternal abode; the wicked are cut off; the earth is purified, and the affairs of the **universe** are <u>fixed</u> on their **permanent foundation**. (Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/revelation-22.html)

**Revelation 22:10,** And he saith unto me, <u>Seal NOT</u> the sayings of the <u>prophecy</u> of this book: for the <u>TIME</u> is at hand (near).

**NOTE:** Seal not up the words of the prophecy of this book ... "The contents of John's prophecy have a TWOFOLD perspective.<sup>[50]</sup> "Some of the events foretold are to occur many centuries in the **future**";<sup>[51]</sup> but parts of Revelation <u>deal with events</u> that **confront John's generation.** The savage sea-beast is about to turn upon the helpless Christians. In a Roman courtroom, at the headsman's block, or in the brutal arena, the saints are about to be called upon to face their own Calvary; and the **courage** to face such a **trial** would be immeasurably aided by the **knowledge** of the **FINAL VICTORY** which in God's good time would **CROWN** the efforts of the FAITHFUL. This was what sent Paul himself to the block shouting the immortal words of 2 Timothy 4:8.

2 timothy 4:6-8, For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have FINISHED my course, I have KEPT the FAITH: Henceforth there is laid up for me a CROWN (a <u>chaplet</u> [garland or <u>wreath</u> to be worn on the head]) of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall GIVE ME at that day: and ...unto ALL them also that LOVE his appearing.

For the TIME is at hand ... "The impending coming here is NOT the **parousia** (last day), but the **BEGINNING of the persecutions.**" (Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/revelation-22.html)

**Revelation 22:11,** He that is **UNJUST,** let him be **UNJUST still:** and he which is **filthy,** let him be **filthy still:** and he that is **righteous,** let him be **righteous still:** and he that is **holy,** let him be **holy still.** 

**NOTE:** Revelation 22:11 has TWO parallels, the <u>righteous</u> and the <u>unrighteous</u>, the holy and the 'unclean'. The world is divided into **TWO.** Firstly those who **respond to Christ** and are declared righteous in God's sight through His offering of Himself once for all on

their behalf, with resulting **righteous behaviour** in their **lives**, and those who **REJECT HIM** and are **still unrighteous** before God, and thus **behave unrighteously**.

And **secondly** those who are acceptable to God and can come into His presence, and those who are defiled and cannot approach Him. All their righteousnesses are as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6).

...John is not, of course, telling men to be satisfied with their position. He is making them aware of the **choice available.** He is saying, I have told you what is to come. Now it is up to you what you do. They must do what they choose.

(Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/pet/revelation-22.html)

**Revelation 22:12**, And, behold, I come **<u>QUICKLY</u>**; and **my reward** is with me, to **give** every man according as **HIS WORK** shall be.

**Quickly defined 5035, without DELAY** (lateness: a situation in which something does NOT happen or start at the time it was <u>meant</u> to), or (by **SURPRISE) suddenly.** 

**Thought 1.** This same phrase was used in Revelation 22:7. As we see, he meant he would come "<u>WITHOUT DELAY</u> and suddenly: <u>by SURPRISE</u>". And there are are a number of scriptures that AGREE with these TWO definitions.

Habakkuk 2:2-3, And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain (clear) upon tables, that he may <u>RUN</u> that READETH it. For the vision is yet for an appointed TIME, but at the end it shall speak, and NOT lie: though it <u>TARRY</u>,
WAIT for it; because it will SURELY COME, it will NOT <u>TARRY</u>.

Tarry defined 4102, linger [take TIME, long, far away, distant in time].
Tarry defined 309, to loiter [do something in a lazy way] be behind);
to procrastinate: be late (slack [moving slowly or sluggishly: lazily]).

**Thought 2.** He said that it won't be late: moving lazily, which means it won't take any more time than what's necessary. That means the time he's taking <u>IS</u> necessary!

Mark 13:33-37, Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know NOT WHEN the time is. For the Son of man is <u>AS</u> a man taking a **FAR journey**, who left his house, and gave **authority** to his <u>servants</u>, and to every man his **work**, and **commanded** the porter to watch. WATCH YE therefore: for ye KNOW NOT when the MASTER of the house **cometh**, at <u>even</u>, or at <u>midnight</u>, or at the <u>cockcrowing</u>, or in the <u>morning</u>: Lest **coming SUDDENLY** he find you **sleeping**. And what I say unto **YOU** I say unto **ALL**, **Watch**.

## Revelation 22:13, I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

**Thought 1.** This phrase of being the Alpha and Omega, etc. is mentioned in Revelation 1:8, 11, 21:6, and in this verse (Revelation 22:13). Revelation 1:8: seems to refer to the Father by the use of the name "Almighty" in the King James Version. However, when we define "Almighty" and look at some key scriptures, it's obvious that Jesus (Yahshua) is the "Alpha and Omega" NOT our Father Jehovah (Yahweh).

**Revelation 1:8,** I am **Alpha** and **Omega,** the **BEGINNING** and the **ending,** saith the Lord, which **is,** and which **was,** and which **is to come,** the **ALMIGHTY.** 

Almighty defined 3841, the ALL-RULING, i.e. God (as absolute and universal sovereign [Supreme {highest} in power]):--Almighty, Omnipotent.

**Thought 2.** Above is the entire definition of the word "ALMIGHTY." Normally, when we see this word, "Almighty", it's referring to the Father, Yahweh. However, the words "I am Alpha and Omega, the BEGINNING and the end" are concrete PROOF that this is NOT the Father, but our LORD Jesus. <u>FIRST</u>, this is true because our Father, Yahweh, is "<u>the Eternal</u> (WITHOUT beginning of existence)." He's also the Sovereign (Supreme [highest] in power).

**Exodus 6:2-3,** And **God** spake unto **Moses,** and said... **I am the Lord:** And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the <u>name</u> of **God Almighty**, but by <u>my **NAME**</u> **JEHOVAH** (**the Eternal** [WITHOUT beginning of existence]) was I NOT known to them.

**Thought 3.** The SECOND set of clues of PROOF are found in the scriptures that clearly point to the TRUTH that Jesus (Yahshua) IS "the <u>BEGINNING</u> of the existence" of ALL things that were CREATED, including the "new Creatures"

**Colossians 1:12-18,** Giving thanks unto the **Father,** which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the **power** of darkness, and **hath translated (carry away)** us INTO the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who <u>IS</u> the **image** (**likeness** [COPY]) of the invisible God,

the **FIRSTBORN** (first-begotten [first produced { <u>brought into BEING</u> }])) of every creature (creation): For <u>by</u> (IN) him were ALL things CREATED, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: ALL things were created <u>BY</u> (through) him, and FOR him: he is before (in FRONT of) all things, and by (IN) him all things <u>consist</u> (stand [be in a state of fixedness]). And he is the HEAD of the BODY, the church: who is the **BEGINNING**, the firstborn from the dead; that in ALL things HE might have the **PREEMINENCE** (be <u>FIRST</u> in RANK).

**Revelation 3:14,** And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen,

the faithful and true witness, the **<u>BEGINNING</u>** of the **creation** of God...

**Revelation 1:11-12, 17-18** ...I am **Alpha** and **Omega**, the first and the last... And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks...

... And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the FIRST and the LAST: I am **he** that **LIVETH**, and was **DEAD**; and, behold, I am **ALIVE** for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of **hell** and of **death**.

**Revelation 21:5-6,** And HE that <u>SAT</u> upon the **throne** said, Behold, I make <u>ALL</u> things **NEW** (new [especially in FRESHNESS]). And he said unto me, Write: for these words are TRUE and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the **BEGINNING** and the end.

**Thought 4.** All of the scriptures at which we've looked prove that Jesus (Yahshua) is the "He" that SAT upon the throne in Revelation 21:5-6. As we know, he "SITS" on a throne at the Father's right-hand side. (Heb. 1:13) So, when we look back at the definition of "Almighty", we have to CHOOSE "<u>which PART</u>" that fits Rev. 1:8. From scripture, we know Jesus is NOT "God (as absolute and universal Sovereign [Supreme

{highest} in power]). This also means Jesus is NOT all powerful.

Almighty defined 3841, the ALL-RULING, i.e. God (as absolute and universal sovereign [Supreme in power]):-- Omnipotent (all powerful).

So, by the process of elimination, the word "Almighty", in reference to Jesus means he's the "ALL-RULING", but under his Father.

**1** Corinthians 8:6, But to US there is but <u>ONE</u> God (supreme Divinity), the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and <u>ONE</u> Lord (RULER) Jesus Christ...

*Revelation 22:14,* Blessed are they that DO *HIS commandments,* that they may have *right* to the *TREE* of *LIFE,* and may *ENTER* in through the gates into the city.

**Thought 1.** Some people believe that he's referring to the commandments that are written in the Old Covenant. 1 John 3:23 clarifies the commandments of which he spoke.

**1 John 3:22-23,** And whatsoever **we ASK, we receive** of him (Yahweh), because we <u>KEEP</u> HIS commandments, and DO those things that are <u>pleasing</u> in **his sight**. And **this** is <u>HIS COMMANDMENT</u>, That we should <u>BELIEVE</u> on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and **LOVE** one another, as he (*Jesus*) gave us commandment.

**John 13:34,** A **new commandment** I give unto you, That ye **LOVE** one another; **AS** (just like) I have LOVED YOU, that ye also **LOVE** one another.

**Revelation 22:15,** For without are **dogs,** and **sorcerers (**magician [an enchanter {one who has spirits or demons at his command }]], and **whoremongers (male prostitutes),** and **murderers,** and **idolaters,** and whosoever loveth and maketh a **LIE.** 

**NOTE:** For without are dogs,.... That is, without the holy city are such **persons** who are <u>comparable</u> to DOGS for their filthiness, impudence, and voraciousness (eagerness to devour), as are persecutors, HERETICS (one whose errors are doctrinal, and usually of a malignant [bent on evil] character, tending to subvert [destroy] the TRUE FAITH), and APOSTATES (One who has forsaken the FAITH), Matthew 7:6.

**And sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters**; characters of the ANTICHRISTIAN party, who will have no place in this city, or glorious kingdom of Christ; See Gill on Revelation 21:8.

And whosoever loveth and maketh a lie; who loves both to <u>invent</u> and <u>tell lies</u>, and loves to hear them told by others; meaning more especially the **DOCTRINAL lies of ANTICHRIST**, which are spoken in hypocrisy by him, and his followers are given up to BELIEVE. (Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/revelation-22.html)

**Thought 1.** In short, ALL people who did NOT believe on (TRUST Jesus for their spiritual welfare) are included in this list. Remember, in Revelation 20:15, these were cast into the lake of FIRE since they were NOT believers whose names ARE written in the Book of Life.

**Revelation 20:14-15,** And DEATH and HELL were cast into the lake of fire. And **whosoever** was <u>NOT found</u> written in the **book of life** was CAST into the **lake of fire.** 

Luke 10:19-20, Behold, I give unto you **power (authority)** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over ALL the **power (FORCE)** of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this REJOICE NOT, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather **REJOICE**, <u>because</u> your NAMES are WRITTEN in heaven.

**Revelation 22:16**, I **Jesus (Yahshua)** have **SENT** mine ANGEL to testify (bear record)

unto you these things IN the CHURCHES. I am the **ROOT** and the **offspring** of **David**, and the **bright** and **morning star**.

**NOTE:** Mine angel - Jesus is Lord (RULER) of the angels. **Unto you** - ministers and people in the SEVEN <u>representative</u> churches, and, through you, to <u>Christians of all times</u> and places.

**Root** ... offspring of David. Appropriate here where assuring His Church of "the sure mercies of David," to Israel first, and through Israel to the Gentiles. Root of David, as Yahweh: offspring of David as man. David's Lord, yet David's son (Matthew 22:42-45).

Matthew 22:41-45, While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose SON IS HE? They say unto him, The Son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD (supreme [HIGHEST] divinity) said unto my Lord (RULER), Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord (RULER), how is he HIS SON?

**The ... morning star** - ushering in the <u>DAY of grace</u> in the beginning of this dispensation, and the everlasting day of glory at its close. (Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/jfu/revelation-22.html)

**Revelation 22:17**, And the **Spirit** and the **BRIDE** say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is **athirst** COME. And whosoever **will (choose, DESIRE),** let him take the **water** of **LIFE** freely.

**NOTE:** And the Spirit and the bride say, Come - That is, come to the Saviour; come and partake of the blessings of the gospel; COME and BE SAVED. The construction demands this interpretation, as the latter part of the verse shows. The design of this whole verse is, evidently, to show the **FREENESS** of the **offers of the gospel**; to condense in a summary manner all the invitations of mercy to mankind; and to leave on the mind at the close of the book a deep impression of the ample **provision** which has been made for the **salvation** of a **fallen race**.

**The Spirit** - The Holy Spirit. He entreats all to come. This **HE does:** 

**And the bride** - The church. See the notes at Revelation 21:2, Revelation 21:9. That is, the church invites all to come and be saved.

**Say, Come** - That is, come to the Saviour; come into the church; come to heaven. **And let him that heareth say, Come** - Whoever HEARS the gospel, let him **go** and **invite** others to come.

And let him that is athirst come – WHOEVER **DESIRES** salvation, as the weary pilgrim desires a cooling fountain to allay (dispel [cause to vanish]) his thirst, let him come as freely to the gospel as that <u>THIRSTY MAN</u> would stoop down at the fountain and drink. And whosoever will, let him take the water of LIFE freely - Revelation 21:6. Every one that is disposed to come, that has any SINCERE wish to <u>BE SAVED</u>, is assured that he may LIVE. (Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bnb/revelation-22.html)

**Revelation 22:18,** For I testify unto every man that **heareth the words** of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall **ADD unto** these things, God shall <u>ADD unto him</u> the **plagues** that are written in this BOOK...

**NOTE:** For I testify to every man,.... These are NOT the words of a scribe, who having wrote out a copy of this book, added the following adjuration to it, to deter persons from adding to it, or diminishing it; for the book is not yet finished, and both Christ and John speak after this; and to insert such a passage into the text would be a bold and daring action; nor are they even the words of John, the inspired writer of it, but of (FROM) the Lord Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, as appears from Revelation 22:16 who in a

## Page 6

most solemn manner declares to <u>every man</u>, high or low, rich or poor, of whatsoever character, or however dignified, either in a civil or ecclesiastic way,

that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book read or explained,

if any man shall **ADD** unto these things. To "ADD" to the things contained in this book, is not to deliver, or write an exposition of it, in a modest manner, with a SINCERE view to give light into it, agreeably to the analogy of FAITH; for to expound Scripture, or to preach FROM it, consistent with it, is **NOT to add unto it**, but to give the **SENSE of it**; but then may it be said to be added unto, and so this book, when it is wrested (TWIST) and PERVERTED, and a false gloss is put upon it, as the **Pharisees** did upon the law; and when **unwritten traditions** are made to be equal to it, or above it, as the same persons made the traditions of the elders, whereby they transgressed the law, and made the WORD of God of NONE EFFECT, and so broke through the precept given, Deuteronomy 4:2 as do the Papists (Catholic) in like manner; and when men pretend to visions and revelations, and make them the **rule of FAITH** and **practice**, and to confirm things that are neither in this book, nor in any other part of the word of God; and when men interpolate (ALTER or corrupt by the insertion of NEW or foreign matter) it, and set up human **fictitious** writings upon EQUAL authority with it; which shows the authenticity of this book, and of all the whole Scripture, and the perfection of it, whose canon is closed with it: the punishment of such a crime follows,

**God shall ADD unto him the plagues that are written in this book;** the things threatened to the **antichristian** (OPPOSED to the CHRISTIAN religion) **party**, Rev. 2:22 the seven last plagues in which the wrath of God is filled up, which will be inflicted on the same, Revelation 16:1, the **lake of fire** and **brimstone**, into which the beast, the false prophet, the devil, and <u>ALL WICKED</u> men will be cast, Revelation 19:20 see Proverbs 30:5. (Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/revelation-22.html)

**Revelation 22:19**, And if any man shall **take away** from the **words** of the **book** of this <u>PROPHECY</u>, God shall **take away** his part out of the **book of LIFE**, and out of the holy city, and **from** the things which are **written** in this **book**.

**NOTE:** God shall take away his part out of the book of life; by which is meant eternal (everlasting) election, which is the meaning of the phrase throughout this book, in which whoever **are written** shall certainly be saved. The worshippers of the beast, or the **antichristian** (OPPOSED to the CHRISTIAN religion) **party**, who are chiefly regarded here, are NOT written in it, Revelation 13:8...

(Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/geb/revelation-22.html)

**Revelation 13:8,** And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose **names** are <u>not written</u> in the **book of life** of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

**Revelation 22:20,** He which **testifieth** these things saith, Surely I **come** <u>**QUICKLY**</u>. Amen. Even so, come, **Lord (RULER)** Jesus.

**Quickly defined 5035, without DELAY** (lateness: a situation in which something does NOT happen or start at the time it was <u>meant</u> to), or (by SURPRISE) suddenly.

**Thought 1.** As you can see, this is exactly the <u>SAME</u> Greek word for "quickly" as in the earlier verses of this book. Once again, he restates HIS earlier WARNINGS. And John simply rejoices and speaks of his coming as he LOOKS TO it!

**Revelation 22:21,** The **GRACE** of our **Lord** (RULER) Jesus Christ be with you ALL. Amen.

**NOTE:** The **last verse** of the **Old Testament** contains a **curse**: Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse (Malachi 4:6). Fittingly, the **last words** of the **New Testament** speak of **grace**, because grace describes God's dealing with man on the basis of the **New Covenant**. (Source: https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/guz/revelation-22.html)