

# I AM the Αλφα and the Ωμέγα

## Revelation 1:8,11 and 17

*“These are the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, and denote properly the first and the last. So, in Rev 22:13, where the two expressions are united, “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.” So, in Rev 1:17, the speaker says of himself, “I am the first and the last.” **Among the Jewish rabbis it was common to use the first and the last letters of the Hebrew alphabet to denote the whole of anything, from beginning to end.** Thus, it is said, “Adam transgressed the whole law, from ‘Aleph (א) to Taw (ת).” “Abraham kept the whole law, from ‘Aleph (א) to Taw (ת).” **The language here is what would properly denote “eternity” in the being to whom it is applied, and could be used in reference to no one but the true God.** It means that **he is the beginning and the end of all things**; that he was at the commencement, and will be at the close; and **it is thus equivalent to saying that he has always existed, and that he will always exist.** Compare Isa 41:4, “I the Lord, the first, and with the last”; Isa 44:6, “I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God”; Isa 48:12, “I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.” There can be no doubt that the language here would be naturally understood as implying divinity, and it could be properly applied to no one but the true God. The obvious interpretation here would be to apply this to the Lord Jesus; for:*

*(a) It is he who is spoken of in the verses preceding, and*

*(b) There can be no doubt that the same language is applied to him in Rev 1:11.”*

– Taken from Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible

*“(to Alpha kai to O). The first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, each with its own neuter (grammatical gender) article. **This description of the eternity of God recurs in Rev 21:6 with the added explanation hē archē kai to telos (the Beginning and the End) and of Christ in Rev 22:13 with the still further explanation ho prōtos kai ho eschatos (the First and the Last).** This last phrase appears also in Rev 1:17; Rev 2:8 without to Alpha kai to O. The change of speaker here is unannounced, as in Rev 16:15; Rev 18:20. Only here and Rev 21:5. is God introduced as the speaker. **The eternity of God guarantees the prophecy just made.**”*

- Taken from Robertson's Word Pictures