

The Alpha and the Omega (7th Sunday of Easter, Year C)

Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

¹² “Behold, *I am coming soon*, bringing my recompense, *to repay every one for what he has done*. ¹³ *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*” ¹⁴ Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and that they may enter the city by the gates...

¹⁶ “I Jesus have sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright morning star.” ¹⁷ *The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.”* And let him who hears say, “Come.” And let him who is thirsty come, let him who desires take the water of life without price...

²⁰ He who testifies to these things says, “*Surely I am coming soon.*” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Revelation 21:12-14, 16-17, 20)

The End of Time

1. Final Judgment: according to works (“what he has done”) (21:12)
2. Alpha and Omega: expresses the *eternal divinity* of Christ (21:13)

[God:] “*I am the Alpha and the Omega,*” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. (Rev 1:8)

[Christ:] “*I am the first and the last, the living one*” (Rev 1:17)

[God:] “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.*” (Rev 21:6)

[Christ:] “*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.*” (Rev 22:13)

3. Morning Star: name for the planet Venus, and messianic symbol (cf. Num 24:17)
4. Second Coming: “Come, Lord Jesus!” (21:20; cf. Aramaic *Maranatha!*; 1 Cor 16:22)

The Living Tradition

Bede: *By Alpha he indicates the godhead of the Word, and by Omega the humanity he assumed—a beginning without an end.* This is attested by frequent repetition in this book, either to convey at frequent intervals the divinity and humanity of the single Christ, or else to prove that the whole Trinity is of a single nature, which is expressed through the prophet: ‘*Before me there was no God formed, and after me there shall be no more*’ [Isa 43:10].” (Bed, *Commentary on Revelation*, 22:12-13)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (7th Sunday of Easter, Year C)

1. What does Christ mean when he refers to himself as the “Alpha” and “Omega”? What are the implications of this title for who Christ is?

For Further Reading

1. Bede. *Commentary on Revelation*. Translated by Faith Wallis. Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2013.
2. Peter S. Williamson. *Revelation*. Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Academic, 2015.