

## **“He IS”**

11-22-15

The world news, the national news, even the local news all have the same message, everything is out of control! If this is true, than as we're quickly facing the end of one year and the beginning of another, we may face it with fear, or doubts about the future, but in the midst of it all, the Word of God rings out with this message, *“I am Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End, First and Last, He which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty”*. In a world out of control, God is one voice that speaks loud and clear. Today, we must listen to the message, of our Almighty, Triune God, Who is in control!!

Open to Revelation 1. John begins this revelation calling on his Triune God. Verse 4 and part of 5, *“John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.”* You and I are loved by an everlasting God. He has been present since the very beginning of time, and will be with us beyond our earthly end.

**The Father. The Creator.** He's the source of all grace and peace. When He created all things He put it all together for our good as His children. He is the God of the present, past, and the future and is called the One who is and who was and who is to come. This reminds us that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The world might seem out of control and be going through drastic change, but God never changes! This is why He can always be the source of grace and peace!

**The Son. The Savior.** The book of Revelation points to Jesus Christ. He's introduced in verse 5 with three impressive titles. He's the one who's been a faithful and true witness to the world. Jesus is also titled the First Born of the Dead. He's the first to receive a resurrection body which is immortal. He was the first to rise from the dead. Christ is the first and others follow Christ in His resurrection from the dead. He's the ruler of the kings of the earth. There is no power as great as His. He is superior over everything!

**The Holy Spirit. The Sustainer.** Here He is designated by the seven Spirits before the Throne. It indicates the sevenfold fullness of the works of the Spirit. God's provided life. The Son's provided salvation. And the Spirit provides constant presence in our lives each and every day! He's our sustainer from birth until eternal life with our Triune God in heaven!

Listen to Hebrews 2:4, *“while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”* You and I receive the gifts of the Spirit which allows us to be God's witnesses to the world that others may see the majesty of Jesus Christ!

**Jesus the Redeemer.** Look at the second half of verse 5 and verse 6, *“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

We're loved unconditionally thanks to Jesus our King. We're set free thanks to what He did by conquering the powers of sin, death and evil on the cross. We're subjects of His kingdom, which is an eternal kingdom, and begins now in this life. We're made priests. We're the priesthood of all believers—we have direct access to God at all times, thanks to the saving work of Jesus our King through His crucifixion and resurrection. This, says John, is what it means to discover our identity in and through Christ.

**Jesus' Promised Return.** Verse 7, *"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen."* As Christ went into the clouds at His Ascension, He will come again in the clouds of Heaven. Christ hasn't gone to heaven to stay there, but to prepare a place for us and so His Spirit could come and prepare us for this place.

He left physically and He will return physically. His return will be inescapably evident to the whole world. The good will see Him. The wicked will see Him. Those who killed Him will see Him. Some will see Him and shout praise and glory! But others will run to the rocks and mountains and want them to fall on them that they might be hidden from the Lamb for none will be able to stand before Him.

People of the earth will mourn over Him. This will be a sad, sad time for so many who will finally be brought to the full realization of who Jesus is and how they have stood against Him and His cause. They will mourn their not reading or listening to His Word because it's too late for them to change sides! That's why it is so important for us to be actively involved in sharing Him with the people around us NOW!

**The Beginning and the End.** Verse 8, *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."* Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. It signifies the beginning and the end. He who brought everything into existence will bring it all to conclusion. He Who is, and who was, and who is to come. This title for the Father is also the title for His Co-equal Son.

He is the great I AM who is the same through all existence. He was before all time and brought everything into existence. He's in control even now as the nations and their demons' rage. Luther said this about verse 8, *"We are not the ones who can preserve the church, nor were our forefathers able to do so. Nor will our successors have this power. No, it was, it is, and will be He who says, "I am with you always, to the very close of the age." As it says in Hebrews 13:8, 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever,' and in Revelation 1:8, "He who is and who was and who is to come."*

Behold He's coming! Let's not question His Greatness or Power. Let's come now to Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His precious spilled blood!

Let's rejoice for we are a kingdom and priests for the ultimate, absolute King! To Him be the glory for ever and ever! AMEN!