



Matthew 19:29-30 *“And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or fields, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and will inherit eternal life. 30 But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”*

I like several angles of Jesus as the Alpha and Omega. It’s a simple statement to say Jesus was there at the beginning of creation and He will be there at the end. Yet, there is so much more to His statement. First of all, Jesus is hinting all through the gospels of the first and last. Let’s look at a few. Matthew 20 tells the parable of the workers. Some were hired early and some later on in the day. At the end of the day the master paid them all the same. Another story has Jesus helping a man (in John 5) who was cripple. He had not been able to be healed in the healing pool for 38 years. All that time was spent wishing and waiting. Then Jesus arrived and the man was healed. I could go on and on adding the blind man and the woman at the well. Its people waiting for someone to save them.

So, what does that have to do with Jesus being the first and last. Remember Jesus telling the woman at the well that He was everlasting water. She would thirst no more. In the beginning she thirsted for water, for a proper husband, and the Jewish savior. The blind man wanted to see but was blind since birth. A woman was bleeding for years. A man was cripple for a very long time. All of them had been looking and waiting since the beginning for an end to their troubles. Jesus was the end to their troubles. The gospels are full of examples of beginnings and endings.

Finally, there is another great message with these stories. Those who have been maligned, ignored, unloved, and given less will inherit the earth.

Matthew 5:3-5 *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. 5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”*

Jesus is telling the people that some work hard and some work less. Some are cripple and some are beautiful. Yet, those who love God and are waiting will (in the end) inherit the earth. In some ways we are the alpha and omega. In the beginning was Adam and Eve. In the end the saints will be taken up in the air with Jesus. John 1 states that Jesus was there in the beginning. Revelation says the lamb of God will be there in the end.

Revelation 21:6 *“And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.”*

There is that everlasting water reference to the lady at the well. Look at Isaiah 44:1-3 *“But now listen, Jacob, my servant, Israel, whom I have chosen. 2 This is what the Lord says—he who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, Jacob, my servant, Jeshurun whom I have chosen. 3 For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.”* There it is again; the Spirit being poured out like everlasting water. Who benefits? The children of God.

Then we have Jesus. Colossians 1:15 says *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.”* In Revelation 1:8 he pronounces *“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,”* says the Lord, *“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

How about Psalm 89:27 *“I also shall make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.”* The Bible points to one who was there in the beginning. This same person will be there in the end. In Greek culture the term Alpha and Omega symbolizes completeness. It’s the beginning and end of their alphabet. It’s meant to symbolize beginning and end. The Bible writers got the message from God. They knew who the Christ would be.

A final thought. The religious rulers knew exactly what Jesus was saying to them. This Alpha and Omega term was attributed to God as you see in the prophets and psalms. They got it. In Luke 4, Jesus entered the synagogue and was handed the Bible scroll to read. He quoted from Isaiah 58. It’s by no mistake that he did. Jesus was willing to proclaim through the (intent) of the scriptures that he was God. The eternal and everlasting God. The alpha and Omega. In the synagogue that day was his proclamation the God was here. The time had come.

Luke 4:17- 20 *“and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. 21 He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”*