

The “I AM” Statements of the Book of The Revelation Part 1

Rev. 1:8; 1:17-18; 21:6; (22:13)

“I AM” (Greek ego eimi together) is used five times in the Book of The Revelation. We will be looking at three of these “I am” passages tonight.

First, Jesus declares **“I am the Alpha and the Omega (the Beginning and the End); the One who was, the One who is, and the One coming; the Almighty”** (Rev. 1:7-8). The second coming of Jesus Christ is proclaimed in verse 7; then Jesus proclaims these great “I am” statements in verse 8. The “I AM” statements seem to be Jesus’ way of proclaiming the certainty of His second coming. Here the “Lord God” gives three descriptions of Himself which express three of His characteristics:

- a) He proclaims Himself as the Alpha and the Omega; thereby, declaring His Omniscience. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet; Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. The word “alphabet” comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha and beta. There are 24 letters in the Greek alphabet; when arranged in almost endless combinations, they convey all knowledge expressed in the Greek language. He is saying, I am the supreme, sovereign alphabet in which is contained all knowledge. There is no information, no knowledge, no truth, no understanding, and no wisdom outside of what I know. Jesus, as God, knows the end from the beginning as well as the beginning and the end. He has never learned, overlooked, or forgotten anything. He knows what could have happened, what has happened, and what will happen (Rom. 11:33). As the Alpha and the Omega, He is the beginning and the End of all knowledge and all things (Psalm 139:1-6). Alpha and Omega also implies completeness. When expressed together they emphasize the entirety of all things. It is similar to our English expression, “Everything from A to Z.” In a sense, this title includes all of the many names and titles of Jesus in the Bible.
- b) He proclaims Himself as the One who was, the One who is, and the One coming; thereby, declaring His Omnipresence. This description covers all of time (past, present, and future) and extends beyond time (Psalm 90:1-2). He is everywhere at all times, has always been, and will always be. His presence is not bounded or limited by time or by space. There is no place you can be that God is not there (Prov. 15:3; Jer. 23:23-24).
- c) He proclaims Himself as the Almighty; thereby, declaring His Omnipotence. Jesus, as God, is able to do whatever He determines to do (limited only by that which is absurd to and/or contradictory to His own nature). For example, Jesus/God can not and will not deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13), sin (Heb. 4:15; 1 John 3:5), or fail His creation (Lam. 3:22-26). Jesus was, is, and forever will be all powerful with irresistible power (Rev. 4:8; 19:6). Having all knowledge (Omniscience) and being everywhere always (Omnipresence), would not do much good if Jesus wasn’t all powerful (Omnipotent). Information and

observation are insufficient without the ability to Sovereignly allow, control, or direct everything that has or will happen.

Second, Jesus declares “I am the First and the Last” and “the Living One” (1:17-18). By declaring Himself as the First and the Last, He is claiming to be God. This is the title God declared Himself to be in Isaiah (Isa. 41:4; 44:6; and 48:12). He is the beginning and the end of all things; He is eternal; existing from eternity to eternity. Since both the attributes and the essence of deity are eternal; the nature of Jesus is eternal. His preexistence to creation makes Him first, and His future reign forever and ever makes Him last.

The “I am” goes on to say that He is the “Living One” (1:18). Throughout Scripture, God is described as the Living One (Psalm 42:2; Matt. 16:16; I Thess. 1:9-10; I Tim. 4:10); so, Jesus is again declaring His deity. He is declaring Himself to be the eternally living God who was before all false gods and will remain after all false gods. He is not a dead idol; He is not made out of stone, wood, or metal. He is the eternal, living Son of God; who gloriously gives everlasting life to all who believe the glorious gospel concerning His death, burial, and resurrection for the sin and sins of mankind. Let’s read Rev. 1:18 again. He died, was buried, and rose again; He is alive to give us life. AMEN!

Third, Jesus declares Himself again to be the “Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End” (Rev. 21:6). Jesus again declaring His deity and Omniscience. John emphasizes at both the start and end of the Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ these great “I am” truths that are interrelated. Then, in the last chapter of the Book of The Revelation (also the last chapter in the Bible), He further says, **“I (am) the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last” (Rev. 22:13).** Here Greek word “eimi” is not used, but the truth is still reiterated. Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. What a summary statement!

Next week, we will look at two other passages that declare additional “I AM” statements in the Book of The Revelation.