

I am the Alpha & Omega

Revelation 1

Intro:

- We have looked at the Lord God carefully:
 - His names reveal His Heart
 - His Heart reveals His Plan
 - Intimacy, protection, provision, guidance...
- The Message of Christ is God wants us near Him
 - Jesus ministered to the lost and lonely
 - Touched, healed, preached, did His Father's will
 - In Revelation, we get more of what is to come...

I. John and the Churches

- Times of testing, persecution, false doctrine...
 - Not much different from today...
 - John on Patmos – to the 7 churches of Asia
 - Grace – the favor of God; Peace – the nearness?
- Jesus Christ (5) [Ps 89:20-29]
 - Faithful witness
 - First-born for the dead
 - Ruler of the kings of the earth?
 - Lover and releaser through His Blood

II. John and the Ministry

- Jesus came to MAKE US something...
 - Not to teach us what He knew, but to make us...
 - A kingdom – where He rules all things
 - Priests to God & Father – access to Him always
 - Doxology of praise.. Where is this today?
- Jesus is coming...
 - The return we yearn for... clouds of Shekinah
 - Every eye, those who pierced Him – rejected
 - The earth will mourn for their loss... so late...

III. John and the Lord

- The scripture breaks open with a cry from God
 - I AM the ALPHA and the OMEGA (22:13)
 - The expression of the eternity of God – timeless!
 - God is in the first and last second of time...
 - He is the one who knows and sees all in between
 - Vs 17 – first and last; Isa 44:6; 48:12
 - The living ONE, alive forevermore!
 - Keys of death and Hades (grave) – authority symbol
 - What should this inspire in us?

Focus:

- God has sent Jesus to connect with us NOW
 - The seven Churches – symbolic
- Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, first and last
 - This tells of His timelessness and power
 - What kind of care can Jesus accomplish in this?
- Ask yourself:
 - If this is true, how should my life be ordered?
 - If He is coming, will I be excited when He comes?
 - If He is the Living One, am I living in HIM?