

# **TRUSTING JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY, AS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA**

**COREY STARK**

---

## **I. KNOWING JESUS, AS OUR PRIMARY MEANS OF TRANSFORMATION**

A. There are many factors that contribute to shaping our view of God, including our family beliefs, cultural traditions and denominational preferences, but does that make our view correct (Mt. 15:6)? *“What... we think about God is the most important thing about us.”* – A.W. Tozer Why? Because we progressively become what we behold. If we could accurately view a man’s thoughts about God, we could certainly predict his spiritual future. The same is true of any church, as their beliefs about God are the most revealing.

***2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.***

B. Knowing Jesus, “as the Scriptures” declare is vital for the Church to emerge as a mature Bride (Rev. 19:7), having a **vibrant spirit** (Dan. 11:32-33; Jn. 7:38) and walking in the fullness of **divine wisdom** (Jer. 23:20; 30:24), **godly character** (Eph. 4:13; 5:27) and **supernatural power** (Mt. 16:18-19; Jn. 14:12).

***Jn. 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.***

***Dan. 11:32 The people who know their God shall be strong [vibrant in inner man Eph. 3:16-19], and carry out great exploits. 33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...***

C. Paul gave up everything, including legitimate pleasures in this life to pursue the magnificent excellence of Jesus! There is a **direct correspondence** between what we see about Jesus and how we respond to Him. *If we can see what Paul saw, then we can live like Paul lived.* The great **lack of responsiveness to Jesus** is merely a symptom of the great **lack of revelation about Him**, as revelation effortlessly begets response!

***Phil. 3:8 I count all things loss for the excellence [magnificence] of the knowledge of Christ Jesus...***

## **II. DO WE REALLY KNOW JESUS, AS THE SCRIPTURES SAY?**

A. Paul warned of a “different gospel” preaching “another Jesus” (2 Cor. 11:4). Many have adopted a **domestic Jesus** they can manage, who makes no demands on their time, money, thoughts, attitudes, words, social life and sexuality, but this is an imposter and counterfeit “Jesus” made after “man’s own image”, which is **no Jesus** at all! An unbiblical Jesus has **no power to transform** us into a biblical church!

***2 Cor. 11:4 If he... preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached... or a different gospel...***

B. Memorizing Scripture isn’t enough, as **transformation** only occurs through **encounter**. We were given the **written Word** to encounter the **Living Word** (Jn. 1:1). We encounter Jesus by studying the Scriptures with a teachable spirit and talking to Him by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 5:39; 14-16; 2 Cor. 2:9-11).

***Jn. 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.***

***Jn. 16:13 When the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... 14 He will glorify Me...***

# **TRUSTING JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY, AS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA**

**COREY STARK**

---

C. The Pharisees memorized much of Scripture, yet crucified their Messiah, who came exactly as the sacred text declared and in so doing, they ironically fulfilled what the Scriptures foretold down to the last detail!

***Acts 13:27 For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him (40-41).***

1. In fact, there were ***over 300 prophecies***, which contained hundreds of details, concerning the coming of Jesus. Mathematician Peter Stoner using the laws of mathematical probability concludes that “*the chance that any one man fulfilled [even] forty-eight prophecies to be 1 in 10<sup>157</sup>*”

2. His birth in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2; Mt. 2:1-2), line of David (Ps. 132:11; Lk. 1:32), Nazarene (Isa. 11:1; Mt. 2:23), betrayed by friend (Ps. 41:9; Jn. 13:18), for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12-13; Mt. 26:14-15), words He spoke on the cross (Ps. 22:1; Mk. 15:34), words His persecutors said (Ps. 22:8; Mt. 27:43), back scourged (Isa. 53:5; Mt. 27:26), beard plucked out and spit upon (Isa. 50:5; Mt. 26-27), pierced hands and feet (Ps. 22:16; Jn. 19:34, 37; 20:27), parting His garments (Ps. 22:18; Jn. 19:23-34), bones not broken (Ps. 34:20; Jn. 19:31-36), silent before accusers (Isa. 53:7; Mt. 27:12-14), grouped with criminal (Isa. 53:12; Lk. 23:32), buried in rich man's grave (Isa. 53:9; Mt. 27:57),

D. We must “come to Jesus” (Jn. 5:39), as He opens our understanding to comprehend the Scriptures.

***Lk. 24:25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself... 31 Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him... 32 And they said, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”***

***Lk. 24:44 He said... “all things must be fulfilled... in the Law of Moses... the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” 45 And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures.***

E. The apostle John and self-proclaimed “disciple whom Jesus loved” (Jn. 13:23; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7, 20) fell at His feet like a dead man when encountering the authentic Jesus of the Scriptures (Ezek. 1:28; Rev. 1).

***Rev. 1:12 And having turned I saw... 13 One like the Son of Man... 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid...”***

F. The final battle of natural history will be between Jesus (and those who stand with Him) and the nations of the earth who gather together against Him (Ps. 2; Rev. 11:15-19; 17:14; 19:11-21).

***Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. (Rev. 17:14)***

G. Three Responses of the Church to the Jesus of the Bible

1. ***Offense*** - The first reaction toward Jesus and His plans is offense, shrouded in fear, confusion or anger (Mt. 11:6). Jesus is offensive to the natural mind without the light of the Spirit (1 Cor. 2:14).
2. ***Understanding*** – Those who “come to Jesus” and talk to Him while “eating the scroll” (Rev. 10)
3. ***Partnership*** – The Church will partner with Jesus to release His plans, similar to Moses (Ex. 7-12).

# **TRUSTING JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY, AS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA**

COREY STARK

---

## **III. THE REVELATION OF THE GLORY OF JESUS CHRIST (REV. 1:1)**

A. The book of Revelation is the **most comprehensive** picture of who Jesus is found anywhere in Scripture. Its purpose is to **unveil** the infinite beauty and eternal majesty of Jesus, as the means of preparing God's people to **prevail** through the unique dynamics and unprecedented events of the end-times in great victory!

**Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants...**

**Eph. 4:13 till we all come to the unity... of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... 14 no longer children, tossed to and fro... (Eph. 5:27)**

B. In Revelation 1 Jesus highlights **52 distinct aspects** of His eternal majesty, strategically given in **14 titles**, **10 attributes** (inherent qualities) and **28 descriptions** (authority, appearance, apparel, articles, action, words) that were meant to **transform** John, giving him the right perspective to interpret, pray and prophesy the following events. Every word and phrase aren't random truths, but are very strategic in revealing the glory of Jesus to equip hearts to **respond to Him** in a very specific ways. We can be confidently prepared!

**Rev. 1:10 I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last..." 12 And I saw... 13 One like the Son of Man...**

C. Studying God's beauty takes time, effort and dedication. Like walking into a dark room, be patient as your eyes slowly adjust to the light. Seasoned understanding comes slowly and over time, as we consistently behold these truths with a teachable spirit and talk to Him about them (Ps. 27:4; Jn. 5:38-40; 2 Cor. 3:18). Each facet of Jesus' glory is like the **"tip of a massive iceberg of truth"** that the Holy Spirit uses to guide us into the deeper things of God (1 Cor. 2:9-12). Revelation increases by our hunger and application (Mt. 5:6).

D. The Church will partner with Jesus, having a **vibrant spirit** (Dan. 11:32; Jn. 7:38; Eph. 3:16-19), being **victorious over darkness** (Mt. 16:18) and having **authority in intercession** (Mt. 16:19) to the degree we understand the revelation of Jesus Christ, as both fully God and fully Man.

**Mt. 16:16 "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God..." 18 On this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom... whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."**

E. The Holy Spirit will guide us into **all truth** about Jesus (Jn. 14:16, 19-21, 26; 15:26; 16:12-15). There is a great battle for the truth about **who Jesus is**. Some believers will even "turn their ears away" from the truth (2 Tim. 4:4), giving heed to doctrines inspired by demons that lie about the Person of Jesus, which leads to a **great falling away** (Mt. 24:9-13; 2 Thes. 2:3; 1 Tim. 4:1-2; 2 Tim. 3:1-9; 4:3-4; 2 Pet. 2:1-3).

**1 Tim. 4:1 The Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons... 2 having their conscience seared... (2 Tim. 4:3-4)**

F. **Three offensive truths about Jesus:** 1) **His deity**, thus His sovereign right to establish **absolute standards** for which the nations are accountable to Him. Jesus is not "tolerant" and accepting of everyone's views. 2) As God, He not only possesses the wisdom and love to establish **absolute standards**, but the power to **hold people accountable** for their violation of them, thus releasing **judgment** in both time and eternity. 3) **His humanity**, as the **only way of salvation** - by grace alone, through faith alone, in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

# **TRUSTING JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY, AS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA**

**COREY STARK**

---

## **IV. JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY, AS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA**

A. The revelation of Jesus, as the “Alpha and Omega” is one of the ***most significant*** and ***most challenging*** truths in the book of Revelation. Its significance is found in the vast implications and glory of Jesus’ deity. Its challenge is in trying to grasp the eternal and infinite truths of the uncreated God with our finite minds. We must slow down and ask the Holy Spirit to escort us up this “Mount Everest” of the knowledge of God, as we gaze into the mysterious excellencies of Christ, as the “Alpha and Omega” (Jn. 14-16; 1 Cor. 2:9-11).

***1 Cor. 2:9 As it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... 12 Now we have received... the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.***

B. Jesus described Himself as the “Alpha and Omega” twice, in the first and last chapters of Revelation (Rev. 1:11; 22:13). It was the ***first self-revelation*** Jesus gave to John and the first time it was ever spoken!

***Rev. 1:11 Saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last...” (Rev. 22:13)***

C. By placing this title, like “***bookends***” at the beginning and end of Revelation, Jesus was emphasizing His ***absolute sovereignty*** over all of the unprecedented events soon to unfold throughout the book (1 Chr. 29:10-12; 1 Tim. 6:15-16). It was a ***guarantee*** from God Himself that everything contained within the book is under His total control and that His ***perfect insight***, combined with His ***unlimited power*** will ensure that every event be fulfilled down to the very last detail (2 Chr. 20:6; Job 9:12; 23:13; Ps. 33:10-11; Pr. 19:21; 21:30; Isa. 14:27; 43:13; Jer. 23:20; 34:24; Dan. 2:20-22; 4:35; Rom. 8:28-30; Eph. 1:3-12; 2 Tim. 1:9).

***1 Tim. 6:15 He is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light... to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.***

D. Jesus’ sovereignty, as the “Alpha and Omega” speaks of His ***divine right*** to exercise ***absolute authority*** over the entire created order, which He has made according to His good pleasure, for His own glory and for His own purpose (1 Chr. 29:10-12; Eph. 1:3-12; 2 Tim. 1:9; Jas. 1:18). Sovereignty doesn’t mean that God can do anything, as He cannot lie (Tit. 1:2), be tempted (Jas. 1:13) or deny Himself (2 Tim. 2:13), but rather that ***God can do anything He desires to do, whenever and wherever He desires to do it.***

***Dan. 4:35 He does according to His will in the army of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, “What have You done?”***

E. The Divine Sovereignty includes the attributes of ***omniscience*** (all-knowledge), ***omnipotence*** (all-power, both authority and ability), ***omnipresence*** (active presence everywhere, even hell Ps. 139:8), and thus, His unique possession of absolute and ***total freedom*** (Job 23:13; Ps. 115:3; 135:6; Dan. 4:35)! ***“His sovereignty requires that He be absolutely free... to do whatever He wills to do anywhere at any time to carry out His eternal purpose in every single detail without interference. Were He less than free, He must be less than sovereign.”*** - A.W. Tozer. He masterfully ***uses all things*** together for our good and His purposes (Rom. 8).

***Rom. 8:28 And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.***

# **TRUSTING JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY, AS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA**

**COREY STARK**

---

## **V. JESUS IS THE A-Z**

A. The Greek alphabet begins with “Alpha” and ends with “Omega”, just as the English alphabet begins with A and ends with Z. John’s readers were primarily Greeks, who understood the figurative phrase “Alpha and Omega” to indicate completeness and perfection, meaning the “**A to Z**” and everything in between.

B. It is quite remarkable that the God of Israel would give Himself a Gentile Greek name as an eternal title that He would retain forever! This is an obvious statement of His love, commitment and zeal to bring the Gentile nations of the earth into everlasting covenant with Him (Isa. 56:7; Mt. 24:14; Rev. 7:9-10).

*Isa. 56:7 Even them [Gentile nations] I will bring to My holy mountain, and make them joyful in My house of prayer. Their... their sacrifices will be accepted on My altar; for My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations.” (Rev. 7:9-10)*

C. As the “Alpha and Omega”, Jesus is the beginning and ending of all wisdom, love and power, enabling Him to oversee all the events in the book of Revelation, transitioning this age into the age-to-come. He possesses all wisdom so he knows the best. He possesses all love so He desires the best. He possesses all power so He can accomplish the best. If He lacked any of these three He would not be absolutely sovereign.

## **VI. JESUS IS ONE WITH THE FATHER**

A. Jesus using the title “Alpha and Omega” at the beginning and the end of Revelation (Rev. 1:11; 22:13) was meant to intentionally identify Himself with His Father, who also reveals Himself as the “Alpha and Omega” twice in the book (Rev. 1:8; 21:6). Interestingly, it was the first title that the Father used of Himself as well and likewise relates to His deity as the absolute Sovereign over all creation and human history.

*Rev. 1:8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End... (Rev. 21:6)*

B. The significance of Jesus holding some of the same titles as the Father, emphasizes His deity with the Father. Jesus has the fullness of the Godhead and, thus, shares all of God’s divine attributes and abilities (Jn. 14; 16:15; 17:5; Col 1:15, 19; 2:9; 2 Cor. 4:6; Heb. 1:3; 1 Jn. 5:7). It’s one thing for the Father to be God, but for a Man, who was born with flesh and blood, to retain the same nature and essence as the uncreated God, along with possessing all of the same eternal attributes and qualities is absolutely staggering.

*Jn. 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

*Col. 2:9 For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily... (Col. 1:19)*

C. Jesus is the exact representation (Heb. 1:3) and physical image of the invisible God (Col. 1:15). His “head and hair” are white like His Father, speaking ancient wisdom, purity of thought (Dan. 7:9; Rev. 1:14).

*Col. 1:15 He [Jesus] is the image of the invisible God...*

*Heb. 1:3 Being the brightness of His glory and the express image [exact representation] of His person...*

# ***TRUSTING JESUS' SOVEREIGNTY, AS THE ALPHA AND OMEGA***

***COREY STARK***

---

D. As the “Alpha and Omega”, Jesus is the eternal, infinite and uncreated God, coexisting and coequal with the Father in all glory, power and divine attributes (Jn. 16:15; 17:5; Heb. 1:3). He is as much God as the Father and the Spirit. Together They comprise the **Godhead**, being one indivisible God in three distinct Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Acts 17:29; Rom. 1:20; Col. 2:9; 1 Jn. 5:7).

***Jn. 16:15 All things that the Father has are Mine.***

***Jn. 17:5 O Father, glorify Me... with the glory which I had with You before the world was.***

***1 Jn. 5:7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.***

E. Like the Father and Holy Spirit, Jesus has both communicable attributes and incommunicable attributes. His communicable attributes are those qualities that may be transferred to mankind, such as love, mercy, faithfulness, etc. His incommunicable attributes are those that belong to God alone, such as being:

1. Self-existent (Aseity) – Existing because of Himself. The Uncreated God from everlasting (Ex. 3:14).
2. Self-sufficient – Perfectly existing in Himself, lacking nothing (Isa. 40:28; Acts 17:24-25).
3. Transcendent - Infinitely superior and outside of every known and unknown category (Isa. 55:8-9).
4. Infinite – God is without limitation and never-ending in relation to time, space and being (Ps. 145:3).
5. Immutable – God never changes. He can never diminish nor increase (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8; Jas. 1:17).
6. Omniscient (all-knowing) – Possesses perfect knowledge, awareness and understanding (Heb. 4:13).
7. Omnipotent (all-powerful) – Possesses all authority and ability. Nothing is impossible (Rev. 19:6).
8. Omnipresent (all-present) – Active presence everywhere at the same time, even hell (Ps. 139:7-10).

F. As the “Alpha and Omega”, Jesus is the eternal, infinite and uncreated God, who is the Sovereign Creator. As the “Alpha” Jesus is before all things, above all things (preeminent) and the source of all goodness. He stands outside of time and is independent of the created order that He effortlessly and lovingly sustains and rules. His infinite insight is fully attentive to everything that is happening everywhere at the same time, even in hell (Ps. 139:8). As the “Omega” Jesus has the last word on everything! He has the power to do whatever He pleases according to His good pleasure and works all things together for His purpose, bringing them to His desired end. Everything was made through Him and for Him (Col. 1:16-17). As a Man, Jesus continues to balance these divine attributes perfectly by the Holy Spirit (Rev. 5:6, 12) and exhausts all human vocabulary of excellence and glory in attempting to describe His eternal perfections. He is our magnificent obsession forever!

G. Understanding Jesus’ sovereignty gives us confidence when the road is unclear, timing uncertain and events are out of our control, knowing that only Jesus has the last word in our life (Dan. 3:16-18)! It gives us peace in circumstances, hope for future, faith for now and love for those around us, even our enemies.