



"I Am the Alpha and the Omega": The Revelation to John

Jim Wilsford Ph.D.

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"I Am the Alpha and the Omega" has the subtitle "The Revelation to John." This commentary and these notes by Jim Wilsford is the product of many years of studying plus the teaching these lessons to the adult Bible class at the Orangeburg (SC) church of Christ. This study departs from the traditional views of the Revelation. In main, it identifies "I am the Alpha and the Omega" as the central theme of the prophecy. The enemies of the seven churches are the pagan philosophies of the region during John's time—the Epicureans and the Stoics. Both philosophies had there seed bed in the region and fostered philosophies diametrically opposed to the mystery of God revealed in Christ Jesus. So explicit is the contrast, Epicurus had written his chief disciple that pleasure is the alpha and omega of all things. The study attempts to allow scripture to interpret the figures and symbols of the Revelation, rather than speculate about what they might mean, allowing the unfolding vision of the mystery of God to reveal itself. The study attempts to hold firmly to the eternal principle: the scriptures belong to God the Father, and the interpretation of the scriptures belong to God. This use of scriptures to interpret scriptures results in a more abundant use of scriptures than is usually the case, leaving personal commentary of the author limited when compared to the usual case. The American Standard Version was adapted for this work in order to maintain as close a representation of the Greek text as possible; however, the author did upgrade archaic expression (ye, thee, thou, -est, hast, verily, etc.) in order to achieve a more modern, exact, and literal expression of God's mystery in God's words. Jim Wilsford brings to this study 60 years of Bible study and Bible class teaching, which when coupled with his background as a teacher of literature, makes him uniquely equipped for the study where it is absolutely essential to handle "aright the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). No attempt is made to refute the many contrary views and speculation of the Revelation scriptures. False views are so profligate there is neither time nor energy enough to answer them. This work sought the truth of the scriptures and allowed the mystery of God to speak for itself. May all who read rejoice in the Lord's words: "Yes: I come quickly."

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