

The Alpha & Omega of Apostasy

I want to draw your attention to a well-known text in Revelation. Actually, while I am at it, I will show you all four of them. Here they are, read carefully:

Revelation 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 21:6 And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

Revelation 22:13 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Now the reason I am drawing your attention to these texts is a little different than we usually associate them. Only recently a fact was drawn to my attention by another faithful sister, that led me to the conclusion that many Adventists, yes Historic ones as well, seem to have missed some important information, that God wanted us to have, regarding the apostasy that surrounds us today.

We are all well acquainted with the expression, 'The Alpha' and 'The Omega'. But somehow it seems we have missed a clue here. The general concept is that way back at the turn of the twentieth century, an isolated event occurred called 'The Alpha Apostasy', and that was all taken care of, and the denomination sailed on after that in perfect order, heading for the heavenly shores.

But we also heard that there was to be an "OMEGA". And so for years the idea has prevailed that sometime in the future there will come a terrible apostasy, and that will be the 'Omega'. But in the mean time all was well and nothing to worry about.

In this we are very much like the mainline Protestant world, that has their 'seven year tribulation' under some terrible antichrist figure pushed off somewhere into the future. They are missing their clues badly, and will be doomed to a very rude awakening.

Are we also 'missing our clues'?

When we read the above texts, do we have in our minds that Christ as the Alpha is a completely different person than Christ as the Omega? Is Jesus telling us here that He is two completely separate persons?

"Of course not!" you say, "That would be silly!" We see Jesus here as clearly saying that He is a continuum – he was there in the past, He is here in the Present and He will still be around in the future. He is One Being and He is involved with us from beginning to ending and everything in between as well.

Any one who would put forth the idea that the 'Alpha Christ' was back then, but He is gone now and we have to look somewhere into the distant future for the 'Omega Christ' to come, would surely be a very mixed up individual.

So why when we read the references that tell us that the 'Alpha' of spiritualism was started and there would be an 'Omega' – why do we see this as two separate and unrelated events with a long, undetermined space in between when nothing bad is happening? I am sure that if the Lord wanted us to see it that way, he would have used entirely different words to describe the two events.

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To use the term Alpha and Omega is to refer to a continuum, a process that was then beginning and would go on and on, until the end it would finally reach – caused the Lord's messenger to tremble for our people!

I want to show you another way in which the terms 'Alpha' and 'Omega' are used:

"The Alpha and Omega of Scripture.--[Revelation 22:13-17 quoted.] Here we have the Alpha of Genesis and the Omega of Revelation. The blessing is promised to all those who keep the commandments of God, and who cooperate with Him in the proclamation of the third angel's message" (RH June 8, 1897).

Now, when we use this, is it being inferred that there is only Genesis over there and then down here we have Revelation and nothing in between? Of course not; the whole Bible is in between. She is referring to a complete whole that begins with Genesis and ends with Revelation.

Now I would ask you to read a few of these well known references to the Alpha and Omega of apostasy. I would ask you to rearrange your thinking into harmony with the other inspired statements using the terms Alpha and Omega. Then re-read them and please substitute the term Starting and Finish, or Beginning and End and see if you get the picture.

"Living Temple contains the Alpha of these theories. The Omega would follow in a little while. I tremble for our people. These beautiful representations are similar to the temptation that the enemy brought to Adam and Eve in Eden." {1SAT 341.3}

"Be not deceived; many will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. We have now before us the alpha of this danger. The omega will be of a most startling nature." {1SM 197.4}

"In the book Living Temple there is presented the alpha of deadly heresies. The omega will follow, and will be received by those who are not willing to heed the warning God has given." {1SM 200.1}

"When I first left the State of Maine, it was to go through Vermont and Massachusetts, to bear a testimony against these sentiments. Living Temple contains the alpha of these theories. I knew that the omega would follow in a little while; and I trembled for our people. I knew that I must warn our brethren and sisters not to enter into controversy over the presence and personality of God. The statements made in Living Temple in regard to this point are incorrect. The scripture used to substantiate the doctrine there set forth, is scripture misapplied." {1SM 203.2}

What is being conveyed to us here is that a process was beginning, a terrible process of corruption of true doctrine with the sentiments of spiritualism. It was entering amongst God's people at that period, but it wasn't going to end there. It was going to continue. The misapplication of scripture would be part of it.

They were to confront it and resist it, but it would continue to be a threat, changing faces and forms but eating away at the foundations until a final climax would be reached; A climax that caused the messenger to tremble.

Having the idea similar to the mainline churches, that all our concerns for the safety of the church are either in the past or in the hazy future, has allowed us to be too much off our guard. God was warning us that a process was beginning back then, a process that would continue and destroy us if we did not stay alert and watch; if we were not quick to discern spiritism in its subtle guises.

Notice in one of the above references that she refers to the deceptive beauty of these subtle errors. Have you heard any 'beautiful, sentimental' ideas going around lately? It is a process, brothers and sisters, an ongoing process. It is high time we stopped looking to the distant future for something to

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happen that is already all around us in full force. It is time we apply the eye-salve of the Spirit of Prophecy and take a look at what we are up to our necks in right now!

Friends, many of us point to the mid 1950s as the time when the church turned her helm and new theology was born. No my friends, there has been a lengthy process going on long before that to prepare the way.

Something prepared the way for a long time before this could take place. What was it? Satan's plans are not simple; they are convoluted and subtle. Generation after generation he sows his seeds and waits for the crop.

When you actually look into history and see the subtle ground-work he has been laying in his plan to deceive 'the very elect', especially since 1798 when he saw the prophecy fulfilled that marked the end of the 1260 years and knew that the Great Advent Awakening that led to the end of the 2300 days was shaping up. It is scary and truly does make one tremble. I have placed on the internet a very rare book written by a man who was once himself an infidel and sought in every way to discredit the Word of the Living God. Then the Word got to him and he was converted and spent the rest of his days teaching and writing to show others the way.

Earle Albert Rowell, who fell asleep in Jesus in the early part of the twentieth century, is well known for his wonderful book David Dare. However in 1917 he put out a book called "The Bible in the Critic's Den". In this book he gives a wonderful rundown on the roots of "New Theology". I bet most of you thought that "New Theology" was new to the last few decades? No way; here we are shown its very roots, way back then.

Did you ever notice the many warnings Sister White penned for us in those early years of the 1900s, urging us to beware of 'science falsely so called', and worldly education and encouraging all to 'take the Bible just as it reads' and to put our trust in it? God did not send these urgent messages just to pass His time; we needed them because the devil had turned loose a barrage against us that was different than ever before in the history of the church.

Nearly always before, the attacks had come from without the church, (even the Alpha was resisted by leadership.) but now by subtly introducing the 'learned theologians' into the very ranks of the remnant, through the push for accreditation and striving to meet the world's educational standards, which we were warned not to do, the battle was brought into our very schools and pulpits.

Many of the things we hear weekly from the pulpits of our denomination today, had its roots in the movement that was underway big time in 1917 called 'Higher Criticism'. Too many of God's people today humbly bow before these learned theologians because we feel that surely, the things they speak must be based upon very good, sound and solid evidence, and who are we to contradict such learned men. Remember that was how the Jews in the time of Jesus felt also. And thousands, yea millions were lost because of it.

But did the Priests and Rulers of Jesus' day have solid scientific evidence for rejecting Jesus?? No way! The only reason was ignorance and greed coupled with the love to be acclaimed by the people.

Did the founders of the 'Higher Criticism' that gave us our 'New Theology' and has permeated its roots of spiritualism into our very rank and file; did they have solid scientific evidence for their spoutings? I urge all to read this masterpiece and learn just what sinking sands and shifting quagmire all this 'wonderful New Theology' is really built upon.

It is interesting that even he did not at this time recognize that the movement by Wescott and Hort to promote their New Greek text based on the corrupt Alexandrian Mss. was actually a branch of the same

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crooked tree he was exposing. It was only later that this became apparent to the faithful, and exposed by other watchmen, after this brother was laid to rest.

I was blessed to obtain a crumbling copy of 'The Critic's Den' from 1917 and scanned it in for your benefit. My hope is the same as the author, that it will strengthen your faith in the Living Word of God! We have not followed cunningly devised fables!

Cast off the roots and branches of 'Christian Skepticism' and return, oh return to the old paths, the safe way of faith and obedience.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6:16.

Is my 'theory' backed up by the SOP? Indeed it is, please note the following:

"I was forbidden to talk with Dr. Kellogg on this subject, because it is not a subject to be talked about. And I was instructed that certain sentiments in Living Temple were the Alpha of a long list of deceptive theories." {1SAT 343.4}

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