

Bible Study - Lesson 6

Celebrating an Ending for a New Beginning

Ending are Required for New Beginning's

Revelation 1:8 New Living Translation (NLT)

⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.”

I wrote on Face Book this past Sunday after church:

“Since earlier this year, when my Pastor Michael A. Smith & First Lady [Felecia Pearson Smith](#) announced their retirement, I've been in a state of flux. Coming from a place of church hurt/church abuse growing up I have found a true God fearing, God loving, supportive, place of worship in [Community Church of God](#) and my Pastor/First Lady, and now they were leaving. I actually was considering becoming one of these internet, wondering Christians who have no church home as I feared the past repeating itself. I have been overcome with fear and worry over these past month's. However, today God spoke to me, to my fears and anxieties through the Word preached by Rev. Cheryl Smith Benefield and relieved some of this anxieties. I'm still not sure about accepting some new and random Pastor, (will he be controlling?; kind?; will he be accepting particularly of me and my past?, etc???) I don't know the answers to these questions but I am comforted by the fact that God is in control and I know that it is not his will for me to not fellowship with the Brethren in person. Anyway, I will not give up now as God has brought me too far to leave me. Like life's cycle, birth, years on earth, death, rise with Christ, I move forward in hope, exiting the womb, exiting this phase of life, moving on towards eternity! Thank you Lord, Thank you Rev. Cheryl Smith Benefield, for answered prayer today!

Revelation 22:13

Verse Concepts

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

Revelation 21:6-7

Then He said to me, "It is done **I am** the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. "He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son.

Revelation 1:17-18

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; **I am** the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

Isaiah 44:6

Verse Concepts

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: the first and **I am** the last, And there is no God besides Me.

Isaiah 48:12

Verse Concepts

"Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; **I am** He, I am the first, I am also the last.

Three Points

- 1) **I am the one who is** (Emphasis on "Is") God is telling us that in the midst of this transition we're going through He "IS" still God and still in control. Notice that "IS" is present tense, the now, the transition period.
- 2) "who always was" (Emphasis on was) God is the one who brought us to this point. Notice that "was" is past tense. God started us on this journey with Pastor Emeritus, then Pastor Mike.

3) “**and who is still to come**” : “Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.” As we move on with our new Pastor, Sheppard, know that God is “still” with us. Just as God finished the work of creation in Genesis, and Christ finished the work of redemption on the cross, the Holy Spirit will finish the entire plan of salvation by inviting the redeemed into a new creation.

Biblical Endings for New Beginnings

1) Moses gave and taught the Israelites God’s laws but it ended before they could enter the promise land.

2) The Covenant that Moses made with God (the Old Testament) ended when Jesus came (**Hebrews 8:13** ¹³By calling this covenant "new," he has made **the** first one obsolete...”)

3) When Jesus’ life in human form ended the Bible tells us that “the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom”, thus entering us into the age of the Holy Spirit “dwelling” permanently within us. “This is **the covenant** I will make with the people... declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor, or say to one another, 'Know the Lord,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the Lord.