

The Alpha and the Omega

By Scott Moller

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End."
(Revelation 22:13, NIV)

How does God prove His existence to mankind? It is not as easy as it sounds. Mankind is not easily convinced. For example, God's creation declares His glory. *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands"* (Psalm 19:1). Yet man goes to great lengths to provide an alternative explanation for the existence of God's creation. In denying God as the Creator, man often denies the very existence of God Himself – even though Paul declares, *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse"* (Romans 1:20).

So what other way might God reveal Himself to mankind? One way would be for God to reveal future events to us. As much as we try to predict it, mankind is unable to know the future for certain. But God declares that He knows the beginning from the end and that He is able to reveal it to us: *"But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries"* (Daniel 2:28a).

God lays this challenge at the feet of all false gods in Isaiah: *"Tell us, you, idols, what is going to happen. Tell us what the former things were, so that we may consider them and know their final outcome. Or declare the things to come, tell us what the future holds, so we may know that you are gods. Do something, whether good or bad, so that we will be dismayed and filled with fear"* (Isaiah 21-22). According to God, if idols could tell the future, then we would know that they are gods. But not even satan, in all his power, knows the future.

Only God alone can foretell the future. *"I am the first and I am the last, apart from Me there is no God. Who is like Me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and lay out before Me what has happened since I established My ancient people, and what is yet to come – yes, let them foretell what will come. Do not tremble, do not be afraid. Did I not proclaim this and foretell it long ago? You are My witnesses. Is there any God beside Me? No, there is no other Rock, I know not one"* (Isaiah 44:6b-8). God's prophetic word of the future is witness to His very existence. It is proof that He is God. As a direct result, Biblical prophecy comes under more attack by critics than any other part of Scripture.

Jesus also foretold future events so that His disciples would believe that He was God: *"I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am who I am"* (John 13:19). Another reason Jesus shared some future events with His disciples was so that they might believe His word, thereby encouraging their faith: *"I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe"* (John 14:29).

I encourage you to grow in your understanding of God's prophecies, both those that have already been fulfilled and those yet to be fulfilled. It will enrich your understanding and appreciation of Him as God, the First and the Last. Your faith in God will increase as you gain trust in God's future plans as we look forward with excitement to the fulfillment of God's many glorious promises yet to come.