

Revelation 1:7-8 - The Second Coming and the Deity of Jesus Christ

Revision - outline of book, purpose of book — A revelation of Jesus Christ to comfort those Christians who were suffering, to demonstrate to them that God is in control, and that their suffering was not in vain. Our future is ultimately truly glorious.

Revelation 1:1-8 NKJV

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants— things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³ Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Last week we learned that the book of Revelation has hundreds of references to the old and New testament. Today we will start to look at some. We'll start to see how the Book of Revelation lines up with other scriptures.

The Second Coming of Christ

Revelation 1:7 NKJV

⁷ Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

This verse is referring to the second coming of Christ. The bible has so much to say about this so we will take a little time to explore what it means.

We'll start by asking the question, “When is the second coming of Christ, when does Jesus physically return to the earth.

Jesus returns to fight in the battle at the end of the 7 year tribulation period, which is commonly called the battle of armageddon. When the nations of the world come against the Jews to annihilate Israel, when it looks so bleak, so hopeless, when Jerusalem is almost completely conquered, the Lord will come back as the conquering king. We read about this in Revelation chapter 19.

Revelation 19:11-16, 19–21 NkJV

¹¹ Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. ¹² His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. ¹³ He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God.

¹⁴ And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. ¹⁵ Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS...

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. ²⁰ Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.

What's so amazing about this is who will be with Jesus when He returns. Have a look at verse 14. The armies of heaven come with Him. Who is that? It's us, the church — we who are clothed in white linen, representative of Christ's righteousness! If you don't know how to ride a horse yet, you'd better start getting riding lessons. We, like Jesus will be riding white horses as we come back to earth with Him at His second coming. Can you picture it, every believer from the church age coming back with Christ at His second coming, possibly billions of us, suspended between heaven and earth riding magnificent white steeds. Imagine how fast we will be going. Imagine what it will be like to be weightless, just kind of floating in the air. Us in our glorified bodies riding those amazing heavenly horses. What an experience that will be, but still nothing compared to witnessing Jesus defeat His and our enemies. Glory to God.

Now what about the rapture, isn't that the same as the second coming?

No, the rapture is different to the second coming. We will talk more about this in coming weeks. But for now the simple explanation is that at the rapture, which happens some time **before** the 7 year tribulation period starts, the church goes **up** to meet Jesus in the air to be with Him in Heaven, protected from the wrath of God poured out on the earth during the 7 year tribulation period (1 Thess 4:15 - 5:11). In contrast, at the second coming, the church comes back **down** with Jesus to witness and share in His victory over the antichrist and his armies **at the end of** the 7 year tribulation period (Rev 19:14).

So, at the rapture the church goes **up to heaven before the 7 year tribulation period starts**, as opposed to the second coming when we come back **down to earth at the end of the tribulation**. As I said, there are many other differences, but we'll cover them later on.

Let's have a closer look at what John has communicated to us in verse 7.

v 7 **Behold, He is coming**: Behold means to look. This is a command to *look—to check it out*. John has moved from praising Jesus in the previous verses to describing His return.

v 7 **He is coming with clouds**: When Jesus comes, He will be surrounded by **clouds**. This will be true literally, because when Jesus left this earth, He was taken up into a cloud and God said that He would return in the same way (Acts 1:9–11). That Jesus would come on or with the clouds was also predicted way back in Daniel 7:13, and then confirmed by Jesus in Matthew 26:64.

Daniel 7:13 NKJV

“I was watching in the night visions,
And behold, *One* like the Son of Man,
Coming with the clouds of heaven!
He came to the Ancient of Days,
And they brought Him near before Him.

Matthew 26:64 NLT

Jesus replied, “You have said it. And in the future you will see the Son of Man seated in the place of power at God’s right hand and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Also it could be that, like in Hebrews, the cloud of witnesses refers to those who come back with Jesus.

v 7 **And every eye will see Him**: When Jesus comes, it won’t be a secret coming. Everyone will know. At His first coming, Jesus was somewhat obscure. During His earthly ministry, He never made front-page news in Rome. But when Jesus comes again, **every eye will see Him**. The whole world will know. Jesus said about this in:

Matthew 24:26-27 NKJV

Therefore if they say to you, “Look, He is in the desert!” do not go out; or “Look, He is in the inner rooms!” do not believe it. For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

v 7 **Even [especially] they who pierced Him**: When Jesus comes, it will be a particularly meaningful and painful revelation for the Jewish people. Of course, it was not the Jews alone **who pierced Him**. But we know John had in mind the revelation of Jesus to His own people because this is an allusion or reference to the prophecy in Zechariah 12:10.

Zechariah 12:10 NKJV

And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; **then they will look on Me whom they pierced**. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

When Jesus reveals Himself to His own people, the Jews, it will not be in anger — *And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication*. By the end of the 7 year tribulation period, the Jewish nation will have turned to Jesus, trusting in Him as their Messiah (See Matthew 23:39, Romans 11:25–26). When the Jewish nation see Jesus and His **pierced** hands and feet and side, it will be a painful reminder of their *previous* rejection of Him. Again it will fulfil the prophecy of Zechariah 12:10 (see above).

Another prophecy fulfilled at this time is:

Zechariah 13:6 NKJV

And *one* will say to him, ‘What are these wounds between your arms [or hands]?’ Then he will answer, ‘*Those* with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.

When the Jews see Jesus, they will ask, “Where did You get those wounds?” and Jesus will answer, “In the house of My friends,”
No wonder they will be mourning.

An application for us:

I find it incredible that Jesus will bear the marks of His suffering on our behalf for eternity. It reminds me of:

Romans 5:8 AMP

But God shows *and* clearly proves His [own] love for us by the fact that while we were still sinners, Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for us.

The proof of God’s love toward me will be before my very eyes for all eternity. Every time I see my beautiful Saviour, I will see the scars and will be reminded of How much He loves me.

My and your relationship with God will never be stagnant or boring. You and I will spend eternity learning about the most glorious topic imaginable — How much God loves me as I come to understand more and more just how much it cost Him to save me. We read about this in:

Ephesians 2:7-8 AMP

He did this that He might clearly demonstrate through the **ages to come [for eternity]** the **immeasurable (limitless, surpassing) riches of His free grace** [His unmerited favour] in **[His] kindness and goodness of heart toward us in Christ Jesus.**

So, Why will it take eternity to learn about God’s grace and love? Because it’s immeasurable or infinite. We will forever be growing deeper and deeper in love with our Saviour.

For those who are married, think about how exciting it was, and should still be, to fall in love with your spouse, and how all the other things that you used to think were important just seemed not to matter any more.

For all of us as christians, think about how awesome it is now as we mature in our Christian walk and enjoy and appreciate our relationship with God more and more. Life becomes more and more fulfilling and beautiful, regardless of our circumstances. This will be true for all eternity as well. We will all share the beautiful experience of continually falling in love with Jesus forever and ever, deeper and deeper. For me, thinking about how much God loves me now can be overwhelming, I can’t imagine what it will be like when I see Him face to face, and I know Him as He knows me (1 Corinthians 13:12). We’ll come back to this concept when we cover chapters 5 and 6, where we learn about the church in heaven who sees Jesus as “the Lamb who was slain.”

∇ **7 All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him:** Jesus also predicted this in Matthew 24:30 where He said:

Matthew 24:30 NKJV

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, **and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

We have already covered the reaction of the Jews to seeing Jesus still bearing in His glorified body the scars of His crucifixion. Now we see the reaction of the rest of the world. The surviving tribulation saints would no doubt be like the church in Rev 5, gazing in awe and coming to a greater understanding of God's love for them — this is mourning in a positive sense. For the surviving Tribulation Saints will be like it says in:

2 Corinthians 7:10a NKJV

For godly sorrow produces repentance *leading* to salvation, not to be regretted;

But for the unbelievers, it will be a different story.

God had given many clear warnings to all people living on the earth for the first 3 1/2 years not to follow the antichrist and take his mark. Firstly, the two witnesses had been prophesying and doing miracles and causing plagues and drought for the first 3 1/2 years (Revelation 11:1-6). Then there were 144,000 witnesses from the 12 tribes of Israel had been evangelising for at least the first 3 1/2 years. They received God's protection and led probably billions to Christ (Revelation 7). Finally, Revelation 14:6-11 tells us about three angels who go about flying around warning people. The first angel is proclaiming the everlasting gospel. The third angel has a very specific message:

Revelation 14:9-11 NLT

⁹ Then a third angel followed them, **shouting**, "Anyone who worships the beast and his statue or who accepts his mark on the forehead or on the hand ¹⁰ must drink the wine of God's anger. It has been poured full strength into God's cup of wrath. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb.

¹¹ **The smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night, for they have worshiped the beast and his statue and have accepted the mark of his name."**

The choice had been made crystal clear, put your trust in and worship the true God or you put your trust in and worship the fake God, the counterfeit god, the antichrist. The unbelievers had put all their eggs in Satan's basket and now they understand that their decision was a bad one. Jesus has returned, the antichrist is defeated and thrown into the Lake of Fire, and the surviving unbelievers know that it's just a matter of time before they too will also be thrown into the Lake of fire to be tormented for ever and ever **because they took his mark and worshiped this false messiah.**

Put yourself into their shoes. Just a few hours earlier, I imagine that they would have felt cocky and confident, thumbing their noses at God as they looked around at the hundreds of millions of troops and endless weapons around them. They, like the antichrist, would have thought themselves undefeatable, invincible, almost immortal. But then Jesus comes and, with just His words, millions and millions of soldiers at a time fall to the ground dead. Suddenly they realise that the end has come, that they've made their bed and now they have to lie in it. There is no chance to change their minds. Their fate is sealed. I imagine it would feel like being stuck in a car, broken down across a railway track at night, with the light and noise of a freight train bearing down upon you. The blood drains from you face as you prepare to die.

But what about now, today, in the church age. I think this is what it's like for an unbeliever who dies today. They all have their own idea of truth, but when they wake up on the other side and realise that they have made the wrong choice, and they can't change their mind — what an awful reality they will have to comprehend — they will experience utter despair and hopelessness. They will be mourning as well — for eternity.

Application for us today — Behold, He is coming (verse 7)

If you are not saved, wake up and realise that you must make a decision to repent, to humble yourself and be willing to change your ways and accept the free gift of salvation that God has freely provided for us by Jesus death on the cross in our place, the forgiveness of sins.

If you are saved, make your relationship with God your first priority and then start telling people about Jesus. We've just briefly talked about the great lengths that God goes to during the tribulation period to preach the gospel and warn people, but we need to remember that that job right now belongs to us, the church. In this age, the church age, evangelism is the church's responsibility. We are ambassadors for Christ, pleading with a lost world to be reconciled with God (2 Corinthians 5:15-21), to go and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19-20). That is our mission, our responsibility as the church of God.

God has not Rejected the Jews

Before we move on, here is another important application for us.

It's amazing that Jesus still considers the Jews His friends after their rejection of Him, but expected. Why? Because God promised to Abraham to never stop loving them, just like He promised never to stop loving the us, the church. God's commitment to us is unconditional. I love the verse in:

2 Timothy 2:13 AMP

If we are faithless [do not believe and are untrue to Him], He remains true (faithful to His Word and His righteous character), for He cannot deny Himself.

God explained that He would never give up on the nation of Israel, but would bless them despite their disobedience for His Name's sake, because He had made an unconditional promise to Abraham.

Ezekiel 36:22-32 NLT

“Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign Lord: **I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it.** I am doing it to protect my holy name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations. ²³ I will show how holy my great name is—the name on which you brought shame among the nations. And when I reveal my holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign Lord, then the nations will know that I am the Lord. ²⁴ For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land.

(this part is done already, God has already brought the Nation of Israel back into their land. The next stage, Israel's spiritual renewal, what we will read next, can't happen until after the rapture, and will happen during the tribulation period — it is one of the purposes of the tribulation as we learned previously in Daniel)

²⁵ “Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

²⁸ “And you will live in Israel, the land I gave your ancestors long ago. You will be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹ I will cleanse you of your filthy behaviour. I will give you good crops of grain, and I will send no more famines on the land. ³⁰ I will give you great harvests from your fruit trees and fields, and never again will the surrounding nations be able to scoff at your land for its famines. ³¹ Then you will remember your past sins and despise yourselves for all the detestable things you did. ³² **But remember, says the Sovereign Lord, I am not doing this because you deserve it.** O my people of Israel, you should be utterly ashamed of all you have done!

How merciful is our God. If anyone thinks themselves better than the nation of Israel, I think they are fooling themselves. We have all been unfaithful to God, we have all let Him down. I know that I have regularly. But God’s promise to save me is unconditional, and has nothing to do with my effort or goodness. **God is not saving me because I deserve it.** I look back at my life and I am ashamed of, mourn over, and am humbled because of the wicked things I have done, but then I am comforted because of the forgiveness that I have freely received.

This is what Jesus was talking about in:

Matthew 5:4 NKJV

Blessed *are* those who mourn,
For they shall be comforted.

Those who receive the most comfort are those who mourn the most, those who have humbled themselves more and are more aware of just how sinful their wicked hearts really are.

The new testament version of Ezekiel 36:22-32, where God blesses Israel even though they don’t deserve it, is Ephesians 2:1-11, where God blesses us, the church, even though we don’t deserve it.

So the moment you think that God should ditch the nation of Israel because of their hardness of heart, just take a look in the mirror and see that we too are saved by grace. We don’t deserve it either. Ephesians 2:5 makes this clear:

Ephesians 2:5 AMP

5 Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings *and* trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship *and* in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, **for] it is by grace (His favor and mercy which you did not deserve)** that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ’s salvation).

In summary, if God rejected the nation of Israel, then to be consistent, He would have to reject the church as well. Why? Because both are saved by grace. Neither Israel nor the church deserve to be saved. We are only saved because God loves us and has chosen to show us mercy.

Jesus Proclaims His Deity

Now in verse 8 we come to a very important revelation of who Jesus is.

Revelation 1:8 NKJV

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Who is speaking here?

Most people believe this to be an introduction from Jesus Himself, but it is possible that verse 8 is the Father speaking, as the titles can apply to both the Father and the Son. In many translations, and in “Red-Letter” editions where the words of Christ are in Red, these words are in red. However, it doesn’t really matter because both titles are used to describe Jesus specifically in other parts of the book of Revelation, including the next part of Chapter 1.

What does The Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End mean?

The idea behind these titles for Jesus is that He is *before* all things and will remain *beyond* all things. **Alpha** was the first letter of the ancient Greek alphabet, and **Omega** was the last letter. Jesus says, “I am the ‘A to Z,’ **the Beginning and the End.**”

Why is this important?

If Jesus is both the **Beginning** and the **End**, then He also has authority over everything in-between. This means that Jesus has a plan for history, and He directs the path of human events toward His designed fulfillment. Our lives are not given over to blind fate. Instead, Jesus Christ who is **the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End** directs all of human history and even our individual lives.

v 8 **Who is and was and who is to come:** As shown in the comments on Revelation 1:4, this phrase communicates the *idea* behind the great Old Testament name for the Triune God, *Yahweh or Jehovah, the great I AM*. It reflects His eternal nature and His unchanging presence. Jesus has this eternal nature just as much as God the Father does. Micah 5:2 prophetically expressed it this way: *Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting*. Hebrews 13:8 expressed it this way: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*.

Micah 5:2 NKJV

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth *are* from of old,
From everlasting [literally, “the days of eternity”].”

Hebrews 13:8 NKJV

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

v 8 **The Almighty:** This word **Almighty** translates the ancient Greek word *pantokrater*, which literally means “the one who has his hand on everything.” It speaks of the great sovereign control of Jesus over everything—past, present, and future.

This great word **Almighty** is used ten times in the New Testament, and nine of the ten times are in the Book of Revelation. This book has a big emphasis on God’s sovereignty, the understanding that He has His hand on *everything*, that He controls *everything*.

Application: how to simply and effectively defend the deity of Jesus using these titles which obviously refer to an eternal, uncreated being — that is God.

Christians believe in the trinity, which is one God existing in three Persons.

Mormons believe that the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost are three separate gods. They also believe the Father and Son each have a “body of flesh and bones as tangible as man’s” but that the Holy Ghost “has not a body of flesh and bones, but is a personage of Spirit.” According to Joseph Smith, when Adam was formed in the image of God, it was a physical image. God the Father was once a mortal who lived on an earth. He died, was resurrected, glorified, and grew into his deified status. (**According to Joseph Smith, there is a “God above the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**) God the Father is the literal father of all spirit-children, including Jesus and the Holy Ghost, whose divinity is derived from the parent-child relationship. Within Mormonism, Jesus is identified with the Yahweh of the Old Testament. Mormons believe that when they die, they will resurrect and become little gods just like Jesus and the Father.

Jehovah’s Witnesses claim that Jesus was not divine and that the Holy Spirit is only an “active force” and not a person. Jehovah’s Witnesses believe that Jesus is God’s only direct creation, “the firstborn of all creation” and therefore rightly entitled to be called the “son of God.” However, they believe that as a created being “he is not part of a Trinity.” They believe that before Jesus came to earth, He was Michael the archangel. They say this because it says in Joshua 5 that Jesus is the chief or commander of the Lord’s armies. But they forget that you don’t have to be an angel to be the chief of the angels.

So notice that even though Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons use the same words as Christians do, e.g. Jesus is the “son of God”, they have very different meanings. Neither believe that Jesus is God, the eternal and uncreated God who created all things, and who is one of three persons that make up the one true God — the trinity. They, along with all cults, both believe that Jesus is a created being, and therefore not eternal.

One of the most dangerous attacks on the gospel is denying the deity of Jesus. Why is this so dangerous? Because John said in

1 John 2:22-23 NKJV

Who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. ²³Whoever denies the Son does not have the Father either; he who acknowledges the Son has the Father also.

John 5:22-23 NKJV

For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgment to the Son, ²³ that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent Him.

Both of these verses are talking about accepting the deity of Jesus. It’s important to understand that the Jewish and Christian understanding of the titles of “Son of Man” and “Son of God,” were divine, especially when used to describe the Messiah. Basically, if you reject Jesus as being God, you are also rejecting the Father. Therefore, if you reject Jesus as being God, you cannot be saved. We are baptised in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the triune God.

This is why One of the most dangerous attacks on the gospel is denying the deity of Jesus or denying that Jesus is God. We went through this in our last study in Ruth, where we looked at Jesus as being our kinsman redeemer. We came to the scriptural conclusion that Jesus must be both fully God and fully man in order to save us. Jesus was Immanuel, "God with us."

Right now I would like to finish today by showing you how to defend the deity of Christ using the title, "First and the Last," which is a reference to deity.

You can print out the pages below and put them into your bible so you know how to defend the deity of Jesus Christ when talking to a cultist.

Verses to show the deity of Jesus Christ using the title “First and the Last.”

Mark them in your bible and write the question and next reference next to them.

Revelation 1:8 (b)

“I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Ask a Jehovah’s Witness or Mormon the identity of the speaker in this verse, and he’ll say it’s Jehovah, or God the Father.

Turn him to Isaiah 41:4 (NKJV), which reads: “Who has done such mighty deeds, summoning each new generation from the beginning of time? It is I, the Lord, **the First and the Last**. I alone am he.”

Ask of whom it speaks. “Jehovah,” he’ll say.

Then turn him to Isaiah 44:6 NKJV

“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts:
‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me *there is no God.*’

Ask of whom it speaks. “Jehovah,” he’ll say.

Then turn him to Isaiah 48:12 NKJV

“Listen to Me, O Jacob, and Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

Ask of whom it speaks. “Jehovah,” he’ll say.

Then turn him to Revelation 21:6-7 NKJV

⁶ And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and *the End*. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. ⁷ He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”

Ask him who it is who cries out “It is done or finished,” and who says He will give the water of the fountain of life freely?”

“Jehovah,” he’ll say—even though it was Jesus who cried out on the Cross, “It is Finished” (John 19:30) and who said, “If any man thirst, let him come to Me” (John 7:37).

Then turn him to Revelation 22:12-13, 16 NKJV

“And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last,” ... “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.”

Ask of whom it speaks

“Jehovah,” he’ll say—even though verse 16 clearly identifies the Speaker of verses 12, 13 as Jesus.

And now he has a problem, for the reference in Revelation clearly being to Jesus, either there are two firsts and two lasts, two alphas and two omegas, two beginnings and two endings—or else Jesus and the Father are one. Also, it’s Jesus who is coming quickly, not the Father.

Then a couple of great verses to finish up with are:

Revelation 1:17-18 NKJV

But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I *am* He who lives, **and was dead**, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.

You can then ask the question, "when did God die?" Obviously it refers to Jesus' death on the cross (His human nature). So again, Jesus is the First and the Last, the eternal uncreated God.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

How can it be that the Everlasting Father [eternal begetter, founder, originator] came as a child (for us a child is born)? Unless Jesus is also God just like God the Father.