

## **Theme: “Names of Wondrous Love” – THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA**

**Text: John 19:30 (EHV)**

**<sup>30</sup> When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished!” Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit.**

Do you know what the two words *alpha* and *omega* mean? They are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet—just like A and Z in ours. Did you know that these two Greek letters are part of one of the names for Jesus? In Revelation chapter 22, our Savior applies this name to Himself: **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.” (Revelation 22:13 NKJV)**. What does this name mean? Why is it such a “Name of Wondrous Love” for our Savior?

Let’s use an illustration from everyday life: Have you ever received one of these at your house (hold up Amazon package)? This smile with an arrow at the end of it is the logo for one of the largest and most recognizable companies in the world: Amazon. An earlier version of this company’s logo had this “smile” beneath the word “Amazon” and the “smile” with the arrow on the end of it connected the letters “A” and “Z” in the word “Amazon.” This was meant to imply that this company has everything “from A to Z.”

Now, it may be true that in a few years Amazon will literally have everything ☺, but this expression “everything from A to Z” has been used by companies like this to give their customers the idea that their company has everything they need. Anything you need you can find it here “from A to Z.” Now, is it *actually* true? Can any company, even one as large as Amazon, really have everything we need? No, of course not.

But how about when Jesus refers to Himself as “the A and the Z” **“the Alpha and the Omega”**? Does He truly have everything we need? Yes! It is true—it is wonderfully true! Jesus has it all. He has everything we need for this life and the next—“from A to Z,” from beginning to end. He is all-sufficient. He is all we need for salvation and eternal life in heaven.

His powerful words from the cross reflect this. Three words in our language, but just one in the Greek: **“It is finished!” (John 19:30)** (Greek: “tetelestai”). The Gospel writers tell us that Jesus did not whisper these words either. He spoke them with a loud voice for all to hear. The Holy Spirit inspired John to record them so that all the world could read them. They are the most important words in the history of the world: **“It is finished!”** What was finished? What is the “it” of which Jesus spoke?

Was He referring to His agony and pain? Were these words of relief as Jesus welcomed death and said good-bye to the torture and torment He had been enduring on that cross? No doubt there was relief in Jesus’ words, but more importantly, there is victory! These are not just the words of a man who is surrendering to death, but the words of a soldier who has conquered in the battle. They are the words of a Savior whose mission has been accomplished. They are the words of **the Alpha and the Omega** whose all-sufficient work for our salvation has been completed. That is the “it” that was finished!

Not a single sin in the mountain load on His back was left unpaid. From the very first sinner to the very last, there was no one whose guilt His shed blood had not covered. No payment was left to be made.

In fact, the ancient Greeks wrote this word that Jesus cried from the cross, “tetelestai,” on tax bills to show that they were “paid in full.” On Calvary, Jesus wrote “Paid in Full” with the crimson ink of His blood on the bill of sin we had run up before God. “Finished, paid in full,” He said. In these words we have the summary of our salvation. In these words we see Jesus’ “wondrous love” for us and all people. We have the peace of knowing what Paul expresses in Romans chapter 8, **“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus... Who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus, who died and, more than that, was raised to life, is the one who is at God’s right hand and who is also interceding for us!” (Romans 8:1, 34 EHV).**

One day a man came to the pastor and asked rather sarcastically, “What must I do to be saved?” Knowing the man was not serious, the pastor answered, “It’s too late.” The man became alarmed and asked again, this time more seriously, “No, seriously, what must I do to be saved?” Again the pastor answered, “It’s too late...” and then added, “It’s already been done.” Thank God we know our salvation is all done. **“It is finished!”**

We once again sit beneath the cross of Jesus on this Good Friday. We see our Savior dying there. His death has taken away death’s sting by the forgiveness He won for us there. There is now nothing to fear when we come to our last day. Instead, Jesus also shows us how to die. Now, unlike us, Jesus didn’t die because He had to, but because He wanted to! Jesus said earlier in the Gospel of John, **“I lay down my life so that I may take it up again. <sup>18</sup> No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have the authority to lay it down, and I have the authority to take it up again” (John 10:17-18).** The last half of our text tells us, **“Then, bowing his head, he gave up his spirit” (John 19:30b).** Luke records His final words in which He entrusted His soul to His heavenly Father, **“Father, into your hands I commit my spirit” (Luke 23:46).**

Because of Jesus’ death and resurrection we can do the same when our life is finished. No, we cannot control when or how we will die. But when our end comes, we can peacefully commend our souls into the eternal loving hands of the One who is **“the Beginning and the End;”** the One who will cradle us in His loving arms and carry us home to the place He’s prepared for us in heaven. Because of our all-sufficient Savior and his wondrous love, heaven will be our home.

No Amazon doesn’t actually have “everything from A to Z.” No store or business that’s ever claimed that actually has, or ever will. But when Jesus says, **“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last” (Revelation 22:13 NKJV),** we can take Him at His word. Jesus has everything! The Bible tells us, **“for in him [Jesus] all things were created, in heaven and on earth, things seen and unseen, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and all things hold together in him” (Colossians 1:16-17 EHV).** In Jesus we have everything: Everything we need for this life, for salvation, for heaven. Nothing needs to be added. Nothing more needs to be done. Jesus proved it and guarantees it for us by His cross. **“It is finished!”** Hallelujah! Amen.