

THE DIVINE ALPHABET

"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 1:8.

Alpha is the first letter and Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. This alphabet rises to a sudden grandeur when it is employed by the risen Christ. It presents to us a sublime revelation of four things.

I. The Inexhaustibility Of Christ.

The alphabet, which is a wonderful contrivance, can never be exhausted. It has been used generation after generation, and century after century. The writers of the centuries used those twenty-six letters of the alphabet and nothing else. They juggled them, twisted and turned them, arranged and rearranged them, and placed them in an endless variety of juxtaposition. All the writers through all the centuries have been using only the twenty-six letters of the alphabet. And the alphabet is as far from exhaustion as it was when the first writer seized a pen. Survey the magnificent libraries of the world, and you will find that the millions of books in their shelves do not contain anything but the letters of the alphabet.

Which is the greater — the alphabet, or the literature that has been woven from the alphabet? You might be inclined to answer that the literature is the greater; but, in reality, the alphabet is greater than the literature. Likely we shall have greater poets than Shakespeare, and greater reformers than Dickens, and greater historians than Gibbon and Macaulay, and greater scientists than any who have yet written — and they will use this same alphabet. In the alphabet you have the germ of all the books that are yet to be. And, when the last writer has written the last book, the alphabet will still be as fresh as ever. How inexhaustible it is!

With divine insight Christ grasped the alphabet and held it up, and then said: "I am the alphabet; I am A and Z." Don't you see what He meant? He meant that everything else may become exhausted and obsolete, and be relegated to the scrap-heap of the centuries, but He can never be exhausted. All the men of all the ages may draw upon His grace. Multiplied millions of people have received Him as their Saviour, and to them He has given forgiveness and love; and that absolution and love are waiting now for whomsoever will. You can never exhaust His love. His grace, His pity, and His power are undiminished by all the demands that have been made upon them through the ages. This is the most sublime revelation ever given of the inexhaustibility of Christ.

II. The Indispensability Of Christ.

The libraries of the world possess great treasures of information and knowledge. Yet, if any person unlocks those treasures and makes them his, he must possess one key — he must know the alphabet. If a person has not learned the alphabet, those palaces of literature will all be barred and bolted against him. They cannot convey anything to the mind until the alphabet is mastered.

Christ is to life what the alphabet is to literature. You cannot make anything out of life unless you have Him. You cannot understand the Scriptures without or apart from Christ. You cannot make anything out of history unless you see Christ enthroned there. The nations do not rise by chance or fall by chance. This world has never been a God-forsaken one. There is a Mind behind it, and working through it. Christ is saying: "I am the alphabet. I was at the beginning, and I am at the end, and all the way through, I am there." And you cannot make anything of your history books unless you see Him — the living Christ, the Son of God — sublimely leading on in event after event, and age after age.

Concerning the boundless future Christ says: "I am the key to it; and you cannot make anything of prophecy, or have any rest concerning events that are to come, or have any peace of mind concerning the happenings of the ages that are still unborn, unless you see Me enthroned in it all as Lord and Master."

III. The Invincibility Of Christ.

By the statement, "I am Alpha and Omega," Christ means that He goes right through. What He begins, He completes. When Christ says to you, "I am A and Z," He will certainly not drop you at M or S, but He will go right through. That is what the statement in Hebrews means where it says: "He is the author and finisher of our faith." That is what Paul meant when he said: "I am persuaded that He Who has begun a good work in you will perform it unto the end." He, Who is able to save to the uttermost, is able to present you at last faultless before the presence of His Father, with exceeding joy. From the beginning of things to the ending thereof Christ will be in control of that which He called into being. What He begins, He will complete. He will go right through from the alpha of your conversion to the omega of that day when He will present you to His Father.

IV. The Adaptability Of Christ.

I cannot think of anything more adaptable than the alphabet. You are yourself a unique individual -- with your own moods, your own feelings, your own thoughts, your own desires. But you can sit down and take the twenty-six letters and write all that is in your mind. Those letters will adapt themselves to your emotional life, to your immediate requirements, to your peculiarities and idiosyncrasies. I can take the same twenty-six letters and say all that I want to say. They will adapt themselves to my needs also. The poet takes those twenty-six letters, and turns them into a song that shall be sung for centuries. A judge can take those same letters and form them into a sentence and send a prisoner to a felon's cell or a hangman's rope. The alphabet adapts itself to the requirements of each one. There is nothing so fluid and so adaptable as this alphabet.

The Christ, Who is the alphabet, can adapt Himself perfectly to your needs and mine. Whoever you are, and however distinctive or peculiar you are, Christ can exactly adapt Himself to your individual needs.