

23. *EMT*

The First & the Last

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"I am Alpha and Omega, says the sovereign Yahweh, who is and was and who is to come, the Almighty" (Rev. 1:8 RSV).

"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one; I died and behold I am alive for evermore, and I have the keys of death and hades'" (Rev. 1:17,18 RSV).

Some have proposed these verses are speaking of one and the same person. Not so. The first (Rev. 1:8) speaks of the one and only Yahweh, the one true El (Jn. 17:3). The second (Rev. 1:17,18) speaks of Yahshua the Messiah; he who DIED, but is now ALIVE for evermore. The question has been asked, however, "How can BOTH the Father (Yahweh) AND the Son (Yahshua) be the first and the last, the beginning and the ending?" This is a good question. The answer is just as good - and easy.

Yahweh

Yahweh, the Father, the Creator of all things, is indeed the first and the last, the beginning and the ending, the Alpha and the Omega (Rev. 1:8; 21:6; 22:13; Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12). He is UNIQUE, which means he is one of a kind, having no equal. He is the Creator, so naturally, he is the Alpha, the first, the beginning. His purpose and plan will be done in the earth. He will have the last word, the last say, so this makes him the last, the ending, the Omega.

Yahweh "was, is, and is to come." He lives for ever (Deut. 32:40,41). He is El from everlasting to everlasting (Ps. 90:1,2; 41:13). Yahweh will one day come to the earth (Rev. 1:8). Other Scriptures agree (Isa. 40:10; 59:19; 66:15,16; Zech. 14:5-8; Rev. 21:3).

Yahshua, the Son of Yahweh

Yahshua is also "the first and the last" (Rev. 1:18). He too, is UNIQUE (one of a kind, without equal), although not in the same way as the Father, Yahweh. Yahshua Messiah is the FIRST and the LAST in the following ways:

- (1) Yahshua was the FIRST to be BORN from the dead (Rev. 1:5; Acts 26:23; 1 Cor. 15:20).
- (2) Yahshua was the FIRST of mankind to gain everlasting life {immortality} (Rev. 1:18; John 6:35,40).
- (3) Yahshua was the FIRST to be declared the "Son of Yahweh ... by his resurrection from the dead" (Rom. 1:3,4).
- (4) Yahshua was the BEGINNING of Yahweh's creation {the NEW creation of spiritual beings; that is, being born from the dead to a new life, to immortality} (Col. 1:18; Rev. 3:14).
- (5) Yahshua was the FIRST (and perhaps the only one) to be given the "keys of Death and Hades

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(Rev. 1:18).

- (6) Yahshua became the FIRST Citizen (the # one Citizen), in the Commonwealth of Israel (Eph. 2:12,19,20; Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:26-29; Heb. 2:10,11; 12:2).
- (7) Yahshua was the FIRSTBORN among many brethren (Rom. 8:29), therefore he will receive the inheritance (Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:26-29; Mt. 21:33-41).
- (8) Yahshua was the FIRST of mankind to ascend far above all the heavens (Eph. 4:10).
- (9) Yahshua was (will be) the FIRST to conquer death and the grave (Rom. 5:15; 1 Cor. 15:24-26; Rev. 20:13-15).
- (10) Yahshua was the FIRST and the LAST (the only) sacrifice which truly removes the sins of mankind (Heb. 9:26; 10:12,29; Rom. 5:17-19; Heb. 9:26-28).
- (11) Yahshua was Yahweh's FIRST and LAST Messiah; the only total and true one (John 1:41; Acts 2:36; 3:18; 4:12).
- (12) Yahshua was FIRST in importance, but was the LAST of the great prophets in ancient Israel (Heb. 1:1; 1 Peter 1:18-20; Deut. 18:15,15; Acts 2:22,23).

Conclusion

Yahweh and Yahshua are both unique, each in his own way, but they are not one and the same person. The Father (Yahweh) lives forever - from eternity past to eternity future. Never for a moment did he die. He lives perpetually (Deut. 32:40). Not so, the Son, Yahshua. He DIED as a sacrifice for the sins of mankind, and remained dead for three days and three nights (72 hours). The Father, Yahweh, raised him from the grave - from the dead - and imparted to him everlasting life (Rev. 1:18).