



# ALPHA AND OMEGA

## THE FIRST AND THE LAST

*“He said to me: ‘It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.’”*

REVELATION 21:6

The Hebrew prophet Isaiah wrote that God was there in the beginning—“with the first”—and He will be here “with the last” (41:4). In other words, God serves as bookends for history. What a comforting thought in a world where nothing lasts and everything constantly changes! The One supervising when the world began will be the superintendent at the consummation of all things.

The Bible emphatically states that nothing happens outside the purview of God’s sovereignty and power. Nothing happens without His permission or without His authorization. Nothing can thwart His eternal plan to restore all things to perfection.

Saying the Lord is the *Alpha and Omega* is essentially saying this: If human existence were a movie, and we got to watch the credits, God would be listed as creator, writer, producer, director, and star. As the author, He’s the ultimate authority.

In the final book of the Bible, at the conclusion of history, Jesus says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega . . . who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty” (Revelation 1:8). *Alpha* and *omega* are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. With that phrase, Jesus is essentially saying, “I am the whole story. I

am the God of creation, the God of the Old Testament, the God that Isaiah wrote about, the God who has been here since the beginning and will be here evermore.”

Whatever is going on in your life today, here’s a fact you can cling to: The One who is the Alpha and Omega controls the outcome of this world as well as the details of your life. He knows where your story and His story are going, and nothing can alter His good intentions or perfect will.

The Alpha and Omega isn’t bothered by the past or worried about the future.


***How does the idea of God having “the whole world in His hands” affect your mood and actions today?***



### PRAYER

God, You are before all things and You are the end of all things. You are found in the person of Jesus Christ, from the first verses of Genesis to the very last verse of Revelation. I praise You, for You are uncreated, infinite, and eternal! Amen.

READ MORE: ISAIAH 44:6; 48:12; REVELATION 22:13



# EL OLAM

## THE EVERLASTING GOD, THE ETERNAL GOD

*“Abraham planted a tamarisk tree in Beersheba, and there he called on the name of the LORD, the Eternal God.”*

GENESIS 21:33

Companies eventually pass from one owner to another. Whether it’s a family business passed down from one generation to the next, or a larger corporation snatching up a rival, such transactions typically result in uncertainty. Sometimes in the aftermath of such a transition, a business goes under or becomes unrecognizable. It’s a reminder that no business, no matter how solid, is forever. Brands come and go. At some point, even Apple, Amazon, and Google will be no more.

God is the great exception. He is the one CEO, if you will, who reigns forever and ever. His kingdom is the one entity that will never end. This is because he is *El Olam*, which is Hebrew for *eternal, everlasting, or forever*. God is impervious to time and change. As the everlasting God, He will never cash in His stock options and hand over the reins to someone else.

Among the many great things about a God who is everlasting is that He can make everlasting agreements! He made an unending covenant with Noah that He would never again flood the whole earth (Genesis 9:11). He made an eternal covenant with Abraham that He would be his offspring’s God forever (Genesis 17:7). *El Olam* also makes an irrevocable promise to those who put their faith in Jesus Christ: They will have new, true spiritual

life forever (Hebrews 9:15). Only *El Olam*, the Eternal God, can make audacious promises: “This is what the LORD says—Israel’s King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God” (Isaiah 44:6).

Because God is eternal, our redemption is secure. Our salvation is guaranteed to last. God does not run a business that He will one day sell to the highest bidder.

Our future is sure and secure because we serve the Eternal God.

*In what ways does the eternal nature of God  
give you confidence?*



### PRAYER

Thank You, Father, for giving me a tiny inkling of what eternity means. Thank You for being an everlasting God who pledges to save me eternally. Amen.

**READ MORE:** PSALM 90:1-2; ECCLESIASTES 3:11; ISAIAH 40:28



*“But there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries. He has shown King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in days to come.”*

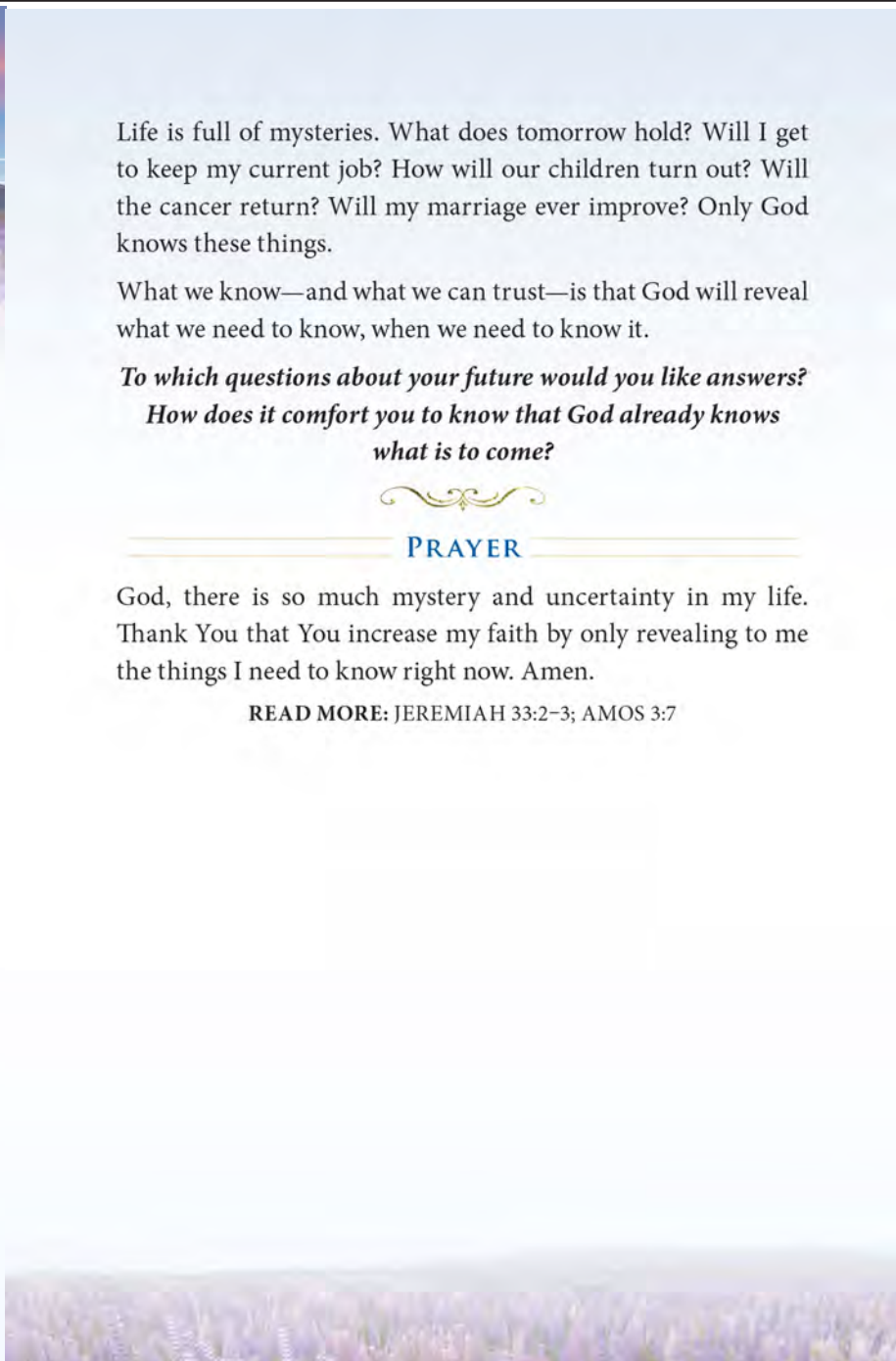
DANIEL 2:28

One night Nebuchadnezzar, the ancient Babylonian king and conqueror of Judah, had a troubling dream. Upset and worried, he summoned his top wise men.

Nebuchadnezzar knew being a consultant was a very subjective business that often involved more speculation than fact (especially since no one likes to give bad news to powerful people), so he decided to raise the stakes. Before hearing his advisers spout various opinions about the *meaning* of his dream, he'd first make them state the *facts* of the dream. (Only someone with a divine hotline could know such details, right?) Failure to do so would result in termination and extermination.

Understandably, Nebuchadnezzar's advisers panicked. Who can read another's mind, even under the threat of death (perhaps *especially* under the threat of death)?

Enter Daniel, the Jewish prophet and worshipper of the one true God. Noting that God is the revealer of mysteries, Daniel was unfazed by the king's edict. He assured all who would listen that God is powerful enough to give dreams, read minds, and interpret cryptic, mystical revelations. Sure enough, aided and empowered by God, Daniel revealed things only God could have known.



Life is full of mysteries. What does tomorrow hold? Will I get to keep my current job? How will our children turn out? Will the cancer return? Will my marriage ever improve? Only God knows these things.

What we know—and what we can trust—is that God will reveal what we need to know, when we need to know it.

***To which questions about your future would you like answers? How does it comfort you to know that God already knows what is to come?***



PRAYER

God, there is so much mystery and uncertainty in my life. Thank You that You increase my faith by only revealing to me the things I need to know right now. Amen.

READ MORE: JEREMIAH 33:2-3; AMOS 3:7

## BIBLE STUDY GUIDE for individuals or groups



Below is a six-week Bible study guide that will allow you to delve into the names of God thematically. Focus on one devotion each day. At the end of each week, simply reflect on one question: *What did I learn about God this week?*

### Week 1: God, Our Refuge

Intro: *This week you'll be reading about the names of God that reveal how He protects those who love Him. Read one each day, and reflect on the question at the end of each reading.*

El Sela: God My Rock (p. 24)

Metzudah: Fortress (p. 136)

Jehovah-Palat: Deliverer (p. 164)

Maon: Dwelling Place (p. 77)

Jehovah-Magen: Shield (p. 174)

Migdal Oz: Strong Tower (p. 50)

El Yeshuati: The God of My Salvation (p. 30)

### Week 2: Our Gracious God

Intro: *This week you'll be reading about the names of God that reveal His gracious nature. Read one each day, and reflect on the question at the end of each reading.*

Jehovah-Jireh: God My Provider (p. 20)

Elohay Selichot: The God Who Is Ready to Forgive (p. 36)

Jehovah-Go'el: Redeeming God (p. 58)

Jehovah Qadash: The Lord Who Sanctifies (p. 120)

El Racham: The Compassionate God (p. 150)

El-HaNe'eman: The God Who Is Faithful (p. 32)

Yahweh-Channun: God of Grace (p. 92)

### Week 3: God, Our Direction

Intro: *This week you'll be reading about the names of God that reveal how God directs our steps. Read one each day, and reflect on the question at the end of each reading.*

'Or Yisrael: Light of Israel (p. 108)

Immanuel: God with Us (p. 46)

Jehovah-Ra'ah: The Lord Is My Shepherd (p. 64)

Jehovah-Nissi: The Lord My Banner (p. 62)

El Deah: The God of Knowledge (p. 140)

Theos Pas Paraklesis: The God of All Comfort (p. 86)

Theos Monos Sophos: The Only Wise God (p. 84)

### Week 4: God, Our Life

Intro: *This week you'll be reading about the names of God that reveal His life-giving nature. Read one each day, and reflect on the question at the end of each reading.*

El Chaiyai: God of My Life (p. 110)

El Roi: The God Who Sees Me (p. 26)

Elohim Ahavah: The God Who Loves (p. 38)

Jehovah-Shalom: The Lord Is Peace (p. 160)

El Kanna: Jealous God (p. 10)

Geōrgos: The Gardener (p. 40)

Jehovah-Rapha: The Lord Who Heals (p. 66)

### **Week 5: Our Eternal God**

*Intro: This week you'll be reading about the names of God that reflect God's eternal qualities. Read one each day, and reflect on the question at the end of each reading.*

Atik Yomin: Ancient of Days (p. 12)

Basilei ton Aionon: King Eternal (p. 48)

Alpha and Omega: The First and the Last (p. 94)

Bara: Creator (p. 100)

El Olam: The Everlasting God, the Eternal God (p. 148)

Basileus Basileon: King of Kings (p. 192)

El Gibbhor: Mighty God (p. 99)

### **Week 6: God, Our Judge**

*Intro: This week you'll be reading about the names of God that show God's righteous and just character. Read one each day, and reflect on the question at the end of each reading.*

Akal Esh: Consuming Fire (p. 42)

Shaphat: Judge (p. 52)

Ba'al: Husband (p. 96)

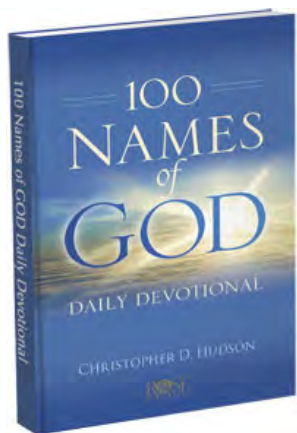
Jehovah-Makkeh: The Lord Who Strikes (Disciplines)

You (p. 60)

El Nathan Neqamah: The God Who Avenges Me (p. 146)

Sane: The God Who Hates (p. 180)

Paraklētōs: Advocate (p. 188)

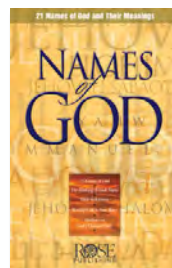


### 100 Names Of God Daily Devotional

Experience the peace, joy, and hope that come from deepening your understanding of who God is with Rose's 100 Names of God Christian devotional. From Adonai to Jehovah-Jireh, each daily devotion ushers you into the very presence of God by having you reflect on who He is.

Based on Rose's #1 selling pamphlet, Names of God, this Christian devotional covers five times as many names as the original pamphlet and features daily reflections, thought-provoking questions, powerful prayers, and stunning graphics not offered anywhere else!

Devotional .....9781628622911 .....Reg. \$14.99

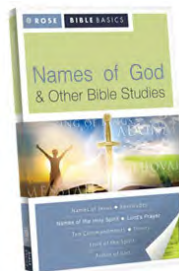


### Names of God

Knowing and understanding the names of God will enrich your time of personal devotion and prayer, and will help you build faith and trust in the Lord. In this easy-to-follow pamphlet, each of His names and its meaning are listed, along with the Bible reference and special insights.

Pamphlet ..... 9781890947507 .....\$3.99

Also available as PDF, eBook, Wall Chart, PowerPoint®.



### Names Of God And Other Bible Studies [Rose Bible Basics Series]

This full-color book contains studies on the Names of God, Names of Jesus, Names of the Holy Spirit, Trinity, Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Beatitudes, Fruit of the Spirit, and Armor of God. 112 pages. Includes color charts, illustrations, and photos throughout.

Book ..... 9781596362031 .....\$14.99

Also available as PDF.



### Attributes of God

Rose Publishing's Attributes of God, a full color, 14-page pamphlet, explains 20 traits of God in an easy-to-reference chart. This easy-to-understand pamphlet explains each attribute, and provides probing questions and devotion-based activities to help you apply the insights to your personal walk.

Pamphlet ..... 9781596364844 .....\$3.99

Also available as a PDF. Quantity discounts available



ROSE PUBLISHING/ASPIRE PRESS  
www.rose-publishing.com  
info@rose-publishing.com  
or call (310) 353-2100

Sign up now to receive FREE Rose Bible eCharts at [www.rose-publishing.com/echarts](http://www.rose-publishing.com/echarts)



**\$5 Off**

Orders of \$25 or More

Enter Coupon Code  
**SEC12**

Not valid with any other offer.

Rose Publishing, Inc., publishes full-color, easy-to-use Bible reference materials, including charts, maps, time lines and biblical reference pamphlets for pastors, Bible study leaders, new member classes & small groups.