

Isaiah 48:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

Analysis

The titles 'I am he; I am the first, I also am the last' anticipate Revelation 22:13 where Jesus claims this divine title. The 'Alpha and Omega' language establishes God's eternity and sovereignty over all history from inception to consummation. This self-designation appears repeatedly in Isaiah (41:4, 44:6), creating unique divine signature that Jesus appropriates.

Historical Context

For exiles feeling abandoned, God's claim to be 'first and last' assured that He hadn't forgotten them - the same God who began covenant relationship would complete it. This sustained remnant hope through centuries until Christ.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does Jesus' claim to be 'first and last' prove His deity and fulfill Isaiah's prophecies?

2. What comfort does God's sovereignty over beginning and end provide for your current circumstances?

Interlinear Text

אַתָּה	הִוא	אַתָּה	שָׁמְעֵנִי	אַלְכָה	בְּעֵד	יְעַדְךָ	לִי	וַיִּשְׁבָּא	לִי	מַלְכָּא	לִי	אַנְתָּה
Hearken	H413	unto me O Jacob	H3290	and Israel	H3478	my called	H7121					H589
H8085												H1931

אַתָּה	אַתָּה	רָאשׁ	בְּלִי	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	אַתָּה	
I am he I am the first	H637		H589	I also am the last	H314							
H7223												

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 41:4 (Parallel theme): Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.

Isaiah 44:6 (References Israel): Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Revelation 22:13 (Parallel theme): I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Revelation 1:8 (Parallel theme): 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.

Isaiah 55:3 (Parallel theme): Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David.

Isaiah 43:11 (Parallel theme): I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.

Isaiah 46:3 (References Israel): Hearken unto me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, which are borne by me from the belly, which are carried from the womb:

Isaiah 49:1 (Parallel theme): Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name.

Deuteronomy 32:39 (Parallel theme): See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.

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