

## Small Group Discussion Guide

Sermon Date: January 9, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Raphael Warnock

Sermon Title: "I am Alpha and Omega"

### Scripture: Revelation 1:1-9

*The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near. John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. "Look, he is coming with the clouds," and "every eye will see him, even those who pierced him"; and all peoples on earth "will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

### Summary

With the beginning of the year, we turn to the Book of Revelation to see the end of all things. Despite our best intentions and New Year's resolutions, God's purposes are always bigger than our plans. The writer of Revelation uses extreme language to write about extreme social conditions while encouraging the church to remain faithful in the midst of trouble. The message, "God will have the last word," is introduced in the sermon text and integrated throughout the book. God is described as consummating, culminating and concluding the events of human and divine histories. God indeed is both Alpha and Omega, the beginning of all things and the end of all things. The significance of our transcendent God is "the fight is already fixed in our favor" ensuring "all things will work together for our good." Our God reigns, therefore evil will not have the last word. We should find a quiet place to hear God say I am The Alpha and The Omega.

### Sermon Points

1. Our God is the **God of the Present**
  - a. Don't limit God's influence in the present moment
  - b. A very present help in the time of need
2. Our God is the **God of Our Past**
  - a. We simply need to look back over our lives to realize it was God who brought us to the present moment
  - b. The song writer says, "My soul looks back and wonders...."
  - c. "The objects in our rearview mirror are closer than they appear"
3. Our God is the **God of the Future**
  - a. Don't stare in the rearview mirror which means we should focus on our future
  - b. It's foolish to romanticize the past while avoiding the present and the future
  - c. Don't fear the sonic boom of breaking the sound bearer but rather push through to your future

### Questions:

1. How do you recognize the presence of God in your daily life?
2. Share plans in which you purposely included God in your planning.
3. What memories do you draw upon to recognize how God helped in your past?
4. Describe an experience where you stared too long at your past. What was the impact? How did you turn forward?
5. What does it mean to know God is waiting for you in the future?
6. How does confidence in your 'future in God' impact your current situation?