

Isaiah 48:12-13

¹²“Listen to Me, O Jacob, even Israel whom I called; I am He, I am the first, I am also the last. ¹³“Surely My hand founded the earth, And My right hand spread out the heavens; When I call to them, they stand together.

God is the God whose existence extends eternally in both directions. You and I have a starting point, but God does not.

He is also the one who began all of the creation we see and enjoy, and who sustains it every day.

Isaiah 41:4

⁴“Who has performed and accomplished *it*, Calling forth the generations from the beginning?
‘I, the Lord, am the first, and with the last. I am He.’”

God is the one who presides over the generations of mankind, and calls them into existence at the proper time.

God says He is the first- when there was no creation- and will be *with* the last- the last generation of mankind!

Isaiah 44:6-7

⁶“Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: ‘I am the first and I am the last, And there is no God besides Me. ⁷‘Who is like Me? Let him proclaim and declare it; Yes, let him recount it to Me in order, From the time that I established the ancient nation. And let them declare to them the things that are coming And the events that are going to take place. ⁸‘Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced *it* to you and declared *it*? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any *other* Rock? I know of none.’”

God says He is King and Redeemer, Lord of Hosts, first and last, without equal, and the one who tells us what is to come.

He is our Rock, and we are His witnesses. He is the one stable thing in all of life, and we have seen that it is true!

Isaiah 33:6a

⁶And He will be the stability of your times, A wealth of salvation, wisdom and knowledge

God is emphatic that there is not another like Him.

Revelation 1:12-20

¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, “Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last,¹⁸and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. ¹⁹Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Jesus presents Himself to John in His glory, and His glory is no less than that of God Himself.

John 17:5

⁵ Now, Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

His heart is the same as His Father's- that He is the first, and will be *with* the last!

Revelation 2:1

² "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:

He holds the seven stars (messengers) in His hand, and walks among the churches as they gather together!

Hebrews 12:1-2

12 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

2 Timothy 1:12

¹² For this reason I also suffer these things, but I am not ashamed; for I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Do you know whom you have believed, and have you let your mind be filled with Him in all His glory?

Are you convinced that Jesus- representing all of God's interests and man's- has secured your future?

The test of trust is where we keep our storehouses.

Matthew 6:19-21

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Psalms 73:24

²⁴ With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterward receive me to glory.