

God, or that it was even known until a comparatively late period in the course of Egyptian history. The earliest form of the alphabet seems to be in an order quite similar to that of the modern Hebrew alphabet, but contains various letters that fell out of use before our present Hebrew alphabet came into existence. These extra letters occur at various points in the alphabet and also at the end, if I recall correctly. Thus it is not my impression that Tau is actually the final letter in the earliest form of the alphabet that is now known. However, I cannot speak with certainty on this as my study of this material was quite a few years back and I do not have the time at the moment to look it up. The statement that "these letters, especially in their original forms and meanings, describe the Messiah in the many aspects of His redemptive career," impresses me as purely imaginative.

In a quick glance at Greek textual apparatus, I have not observed any textual variation in the words "I am alpha and omega." Many manuscripts include immediately after this the words "the beginning and the end." Whether John is reproducing the identical words of Jesus as He used the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet as symbols for the beginning and the end, or whether Jesus actually spoke in Hebrew or Aramaic, and John gave it in Greek, using the proper Greek letters to convey the correct idea to Greek readers, would be impossible to prove. There is, however, no proof that he did not speak in Greek and use the very words that Revelation quotes.

We have absolutely no knowledge of Nimrod except what is contained in Genesis 8-10, and Micah 5:6. The letter *tau* in its present form in the Hebrew alphabet does not look the least bit like a cross, but earlier forms of it are somewhat similar to a cross and the sign was used in early days to indicate a mark just as a man today may make a cross to indicate his mark. The comparison of the cross to the tree of life seems to me quite unlikely.

Revelation 17:8-11 describes the beast, but makes no reference to Nimrod. Isaiah 10:5 is speaking about the ancient Assyrian empire and has no reference to modern events. Isaiah 23:13 impresses me as a reference to the beginning of the Chaldeans in ancient times at a period possibly 2000 years after the time at which Nimrod lived. Micah 5:5-6 is a reference to events in the last days, but its only reference to Nimrod is as a means of identifying Mesopotamia. While a further allusion might be in the