Charles Feinberg:

This is where it comes from. Thus saith the Lord, the King of Israel and its redeemer. The Lord of Hosts. I am the first and I am the last and beside me there is no God. No one before him and no one after him. How could any man say that? Scripture tells us of the shortness of life. Man that is in honor abideth not but it says the beast of the field that perishes and it was proved so in the fourth chapter of Daniel when Nebuchadnezzar was driven out from among man. His reason was unseated. He became Smitten with what medical science tells us is Lycanthropy. Two Greek words liekos (wolf) and anthropos (man). He became a wolf man, deranged. Deranged. And then wisdom, when his wisdom came back to him he lifted- before that, like an animal he's always looking there and it's interesting they said seven tongues shall pass upon thee and Archaeologists have found in the records of Babylon a seven year period blank. And abbey Denise, one of the historians of antiquity said, he didn't go into it much just touched on it and ran off because he was a great, great great ruler, Nebuchadnezzar was. The best of the Babylonians for that matter. It’s said that uh somehow, somewhere, one of the Gods misled him. In other words he became insane. Just as Scripture indicates.

Yes, the years of our pilgrimage uh three score years and ten and if by virtuous strength it be four score. Yet as the labors of sorrow for it is soon cut off. There's a picture of a weaver. It is soon cut off, the threads are cut off and we fly away. [inaudible] for it is soon cut off. And we fly
away; all man is as grass, as the flower of the field. It fadeth. The flower will wither; the grass becomes so dry you can see it. It gets so brown you almost forget what color it ought to be, remember. But the word of our God abideth forever. Oh yes. And James tells us, what is your life? That's a rather pointed question isn't it? And I've thought of this so many times. I remember when we traveled most by train across the country, the continent from the east on to the west coast. Uh it would go through and you could see that they begin to sow down and you'd go out and say are we out of water? And they'd say no we got plenty of water what we want is steam. We got a lot of watery Christians we need some Christians who are on fire too ya know. We need some steam Christians. And so when they got enough steam they'd go on. And then you'd see it come out, and you'd see it almost filling the whole horizon and then if your attention was just diverted for a little bit and looked back it was gone! It looked so full of substance. So tangible yet it was gone so he says what is that like. It is as a vapor, soon passes away and vanishes.

For him to say, for him to say I am the Alpha and the Omega he's claiming to be God himself, you know why, he is. He says I am the first and I am the last. Two men were once disputing the deity of Christ. Ad one of them who was arguing against it he said you know if it were true, what you are saying it would certainly have been expressed in more clear, undeniable terms in the Bible. Oh he says is that right? Then let me ask you this. Admitting, you don't of course but let’s admit that you did believe it and that you were authorized to teach it. You were allowed to use your own language, whatever language you wanted. How would you express this doctrine to make it unquestioned, undoubted. Well he says you know I would just say point blank Jesus Christ is the true God. He says well bless God that's exactly right. He says you have had a very happy choice of words this moment because you have hit on the very wording of the
word of God. Saying John the Apostle. And he says it in the fifth chapter of his epistle. This is the true God and eternal life, Jesus Christ. These words of our text prove without a shadow of doubt that he's God. I am the first. I am the last, after me there is no one and before me there is no one.

He's the eternal one. what is he speaking of here? Eternity, he's the eternal one. And don't ever forget it, no person that ever lived and that even means Satan. Satan. Satan. Is gonna go on all through eternity in a lost condition, and so are the lost. But they're never called- eternal life doesn't consist of non-cessation. it’s more than duration it’s the kind of life. Even the unsaved are gonna go on, that's the seriousness of it. But all human beings, Satan, the angels. Holy and fallen angels, all men. Redeemed. They go on. Different type though to the saved and the other but none of them can say I had an existence from eternity. That's not in the Bible. The the eternal existence of soul has been taught by some philosophers, but the preexistence of souls that is not in the Bible. No. What does he mean by I am the Alpha and the Omega, the a and the z the a and the zett. He is the eternal one. He means more, I am the all-inclusive one. When Christ says he's the a and the z he's regarding the alphabet as a whole with all the intervening letter between the first and the last. They tell a rather humorous sentence it happened it went on many years ago. If any of you know Dr. William Evans, he was pastor there at the Church of the Open Door. Uh Dr. John McNeal was pastor there for a while the father of our beloved brother archer McNeal in glory. And Evans was asked to speak on the revelation it went on. Then he began he came to the first chapter he said I am Alpha and Omega and he did part his hair in the middle, he had enough hair. so he went very dramatically, I am the Alpha and the Omega I am the first, I am the last and he's going on like that and dear Sophie the washer woman my she was just bursting asunder and
when he said that about eh third time she said yes and bless God in the middle too! [audience laughter]

Yeah. the lord is not only the a and the z he's all the letter in between. It's as we say, why I saw that fellow knowing that subject all the way from a to z or they used to say a to wizard. oh yes. All of it. Think of the large libraries in this country. I've seen them I’ve seen the Vatican library I’ve seen the one at Columbia, at Hopkins, at Harvard. Chicago, Library of Congress. My, they would not only give you a multiplied headache to read those it gives you a headache to read the titles. Think of the libraries in this country and in the world. They have all the books that are in the Luber museum. And in the, in the London, British museum also. All indexed in huge volumes. In the Library of the Hebrew university in Jerusalem, I know. Think of the large libraries, around the world. Millions and millions of books in English. Yet they're all made up of combinations of just 26 letters. I don't know if you've ever thanked God, sometime during a day or during your lifetime for the alphabet. If you've been a missionary to a land that is syllabic, and Hattic is partly syllabic and partly alphabetic but you take uh Babylonian, Assyrian that's syllabic.

But if you have never seen a non-alphabetic language you can't imagine. You take Babylon-Assyrian has about 600 ideographs. And each one of them can have anywhere from ten to twelve meanings depending on its relationship with the words around it. Think of it. And then think, and that's true of what Wycliffe does too, reducing certain languages that are not alphabetic, but they have to use the alphabet even when they do that, phonetic. Oh but in English, they all use the Latin alphabet. Therefore you could look at a German one that's in the Latinized character and you could look at not only German but French and Spanish, the accent s may be different of course and there may be questions at the front or back of the sentence and
exclamations at the front and back that's just to get a good salt and pepper for preservation. But uh still you can tell an a from a q and so forth and so on. Yes. Yeah. Sometimes uh these things that are handed in from our student we see some strange things, they think if they spell cat with a k we oughta be satisfied after all they didn't spell it with a q. Twenty six letters. One secretary spelled sugar with an e. When the boss showed it to her she said how stupid could I be I forgot the h. The h happens to be silent like x in fish. But when we have twenty six letters, we have all of the English language. Includes every word in every library, isn't that fabulous. No book ever written in English was written outside of those basic letters. That, you have it. They're all inclusive. Now there are some alphabets, like the [inaudible] alphabet has about thirty. The uh Arabic alphabet has more than that. Christ is the all-inclusive one.

Yes. How do you mean all inclusive? Well he's all-inclusive as to space. Psalm 139 what's true of the spirit, how shall I flee from thy spirit that means God the father too and God the son. If I go up to heaven he's there. Go down to the nether regions he's there. If I fly away to the outermost part of the earth, there the hand of God, even there you have to have God's hand sustaining you to get there. Oh yes, he's all-inclusive as to space, as to time. In the beginning the word didn't come into being in the beginning of time, the word was. In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God. No passing of time with him. He is. Our lord Jesus would've never died, oh he went as a child and on in teens and into mature manhood, but if he had not taken our sin upon him he had no death, no sin principle working in him. It was sin put on him from outside. That's how he endured death. That's the only way he could die because the wages of sin is death and he took our wages upon him. And as soon as he finished it, that's why Scripture says it was impossible for the grave it was impossible for Sheol it was impossible for Hades it was impossible for Satan and all of his minions to keep him one
moment longer. It was impossible for him to beholden of death. No passing of time with him. He is. When at the creation of the material universe that morning star sang together [inaudible] and all the sons of God shouted for joy he was there. When at the end of all time, ages of earth the element are gonna melt and burn with fervor [inaudible]. Read in 2 Peter 3, and the old heavens and the old earth are gonna be displaced by the new, he's gonna be there. When ten million years as we speak of it of course, there are no years in eternity but when ten million times ten million years have elapsed in eternity he will still be there, still be there. And he is all inclusive to events. In their origin, in their commencement, in their continuation, in their consummation. They're all known absolutely to him, he's been there. A part of it. History is his story. All history is comprehended by him he bears a relation to all human history from its beginning to its close. Colossians first says he not only created all things but by him all things cohere. We say it’s the law of gravitation. That's science. The Bible says they stick together by our lord Jesus. He is the cohesive force, if it weren't for him everything would smash into oblivion. Is that right. Hebrews one our brother Barbra quoted it today. Upholding all things by the word of his power. If he let go there wouldn't be anything.

Yes. As to events and oh scripture reveals the beginning, Genesis 1:1. An end. Then shall the kingdom be delivered over to the father and God shall be all, father son, holy spirit. God shall be all and in all. he's there. He is neither a beginning nor an end he knows both, he sees both at once. He has all power, all power. Power belongs to the Lord. he is the first and last word in power. My how this generation when it went into the atomic age. Why to listen to these nuclear Phys- fissionists. Nuclear physicists who studied nuclear fission, or splitting. And you know they even have the word named wrong. Atom is from two Greek words, A, like apathetic means non, like the Latin non. And Tom, for Atom, is from [inaudible] split. Atom means non
splittable. They split the unsplittable, yes. They're now trying to know the unknowable but they're will be one thing they'll never get to do and that's unscrew the inscrutable. [audience laughter] But here. You wanna see the power of God look at Nahum the first chapter. Turn to Nahum the first chapter. You say where is that? That's in the Old Testament. Nahum, that's the same name in Hebrew as Manakem Bagan [SP]. He has a longer form of it; it's the same basic root as Nehemiah. Alright let’s turn to the prophet Nahum. And I'll tell you what page it is if you don't mind. It's on page 950. Now, look at this. This is an amazing statement concerning God. Verse 3, Nehemiah 1:3, The Lord is slow to anger and great in power. How much in power? Great in power. He [inaudible] with the wicked. The Lord hath his way in the whirlwind. Have you ever seen a whirlwind go? And in the storm and the clouds of the dust of his feet, he rebukes the sea.

You can stand out there on Cannon Beach and talk to the sea, it'll keep on working it won't mind you. He rebuketh the sea, though the Lord can, makes it dry. You try to dry it out. And dries up all the rivers. Bashan [inaudible] Carmel, the flower of Lebanon. Those are the three most lush, luxuriant, fruitful areas of the Holy Land, Bashan Carmel and Lebanon. The mountains quake before him. All those questions that God asked Job, 38 chapter on. I went through it once. God asked Job exactly 100 questions. You know what he got on that exam? A zero with the rim knocked off. [audience laughter] He flunked that flat on his face. He couldn't answer a one of them. Where were you when I formed the world? You make the hinds to calf. Would you turn the mountains into level ground? Oh my, finally Job said my I was just running off my mouth I don't know what I was doing. You know the tongue is the most remarkable organ in the human body. You can start it going, go off and come back and still find it going, it's the only one. The mountains quake before him and the hills melt and the earth is burned in his
presence. Ye the world and all that dwell in it, who can stand before his indignation, who can abide in the fierceness of his anger. His fury is poured out like fire. The rocks, hear it, the rocks are thrown down by him. Oh my. I tell ya, if you've ever been in an earthquake, I was in the one in that February few years back. It certainly revolutionizes your idea about the stability of the earth. Talk about Terra firma. The firma the less terror. Oh it's pitiful. It's pitiful. You, you feel like a child that uh has lost all support. That's one of the worst feelings of a little child on its first reactions. And then he is wheat all-inclusive in wisdom. He knows all things he's the last word in wisdom, as with all his attributes. It's amazing. You know you hear the story of the little boy, what he said to the Lord when he went to bed. But a lot of people do, you oughta hear how they instruct the Lord in their prayer. Lord as you know, like the preacher, you remember he forgot to announce the meeting, and he said Lord as you know the women's missionary society is supposed to meet in its luncheon Tuesday at noon.

It's amazing how they instruct the Lord. Like the little fella did. he said Lord as you've seen in the Los Angeles Times this morning things are in a mess. The Lord doesn't need to look at any of the newspapers he knows. Romans 11:33-36. For of him, having him hidden all the treasures of wisdom and all the depths of the riches of the wisdom of God. All his ways are beyond tracing now. Who hath given unto the Lord it shall be given unto him. God doesn't owe anybody anything. God's the author, so is Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. Oh I tell you he's the all-inclusive one. He's the creator of the universe. He's the consummation and redemption. He's the beginning and end of all speech. He's the one who gives meaning. Word! What's he called? Word of God. Oh if you studied the Greek philosophers how much they make out of the word Logos, word. I could stand up here and say I’m thinking of something round, it's about that deep and it's black. And has something going out. You say I know that it is one of
those old fashioned lady's hats with a feather sticking out. Well it could be that, round, black and something- I was actually thinking of a skillet, see. The word gives it to you, you grasp it. He is the very embodiment of the wisdom of God, yes. He's the beginning and end of all speech. Nothing precedes nothing whatever supplements. Everything, as well as scripture is full of him, since he is all inclusive. There was a Scottish fisherman who certainly put it beautifully about searching the scripture. Somebody asked him, how he went about searching in the Bible for truths about Christ. And in his homely effective way he said it's like going into a forest to look for wood. It's all wood together. Yes. Christ in Luke 24:27 when he was talking to the Emmaus disciples, beginning at Moses and all the Prophets and in the Psalms, the writing. What did he do? He expounded unto them concerning himself. That was the greatest Bible conference that ever took place on earth. The Lord Jesus was the conference speaker and he started at the beginning and went all through the Scriptures that were then in existence.

But he's not only, hear it, he's not only the eternal one. He's not only the all-inclusive one, he's the never changing one, never change- what kind of an alphabet would it be if it changed from time to time? Expressions and phrases change, but the alphabet doesn't, no. Applesauce. Well it used to mean something to our grandmothers it came from apples now you can't be sure. Words change. I remember when we were in school; today they live in a pad we used to ride on it. And when we were doing the revision on the [inaudible] we came to Genesis 24 and it said that Rebecca alighted off a camel, well that looks like a commercial for a cigarette, light it off a camel. So we changed it. She alighted from a camel. You see things are changed. And in the Psalmist it says mine eyes prevented the dawning of the morning. Why students would give a huge price to buy that, especially the night before the exam, to prevent the dawning of the morning. It's a good trick if you can do it. You can't do that, and that's not what it means. Mine
eyes anticipated like when you're ill, you just can't wait until it gets light. The night seems to drag on and never end. Mine eyes anticipated the dawning of the morning. So I'm saying expressions and phrases change but you can't change the alphabet. Think of the confusion and the education of a literary commercial. Even everyday world. If the alphabet were given to change, its chief property value is that it never changes. Christ never does, he never will. The same yesterday, today, yes and forever. This same Jesus that you've seen going to heaven shall come in like manner, Acts 1:11. The same one who walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. The same one who visited Abraham and Sarah in lonely old age. The same one who was with Moses in the wilderness, the same one who was with Joshua and the conquest of the land. The same one who delivered David from all his troubles and foes and agonies. The same one who was with Daniel's friends in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace and the same one who was with Daniel himself. in the den of lions of Darius. The same one who was with Mordecai and Esther and fought off Persia with the [inaudible]. The same one who was with the disciples in 3 and 1 half years of incomparable ministry. The same one who brought through the spirit of God in the saints of the early church. The same one, exactly the same one revealed himself to John on the island of Patmos, on the island of Patmos, where there in surpassing vision and it would yet appear for and with his saints in never ending glory. Christ never changes. What do we read beloved? What do we read in Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament in our Cannon, 3:6 because I the Lord change not therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consume.

Oh my friends, how often people change. They, one day they're this way and one day they're that way. One day they feel, they remind you of that Chameleon or [inaudible] as some call it you know that's uh little critter that if you put it on red it turns red, you've heard of it. And purple it turns purple. Yellow it turns yellow. Green it turns green. Well one fellow was really a
joker he put it on scotch plaid. The thing burst asunder trying to rise to the occasion. Talk about being changeable! Some people are all things to all men all the time. You know. Christ can no more change than we can cease breathing for a day and still live. He's the never changing one. Oh to have something that's always there. Someone that's there. It was during the Civil War in our country, a strange sight was seen in a Western city. The day had been very dark, it was raining. It'd been coming down in torrents. High up on the Bravo Mountain that overlooked that city the national flag was suddenly seen waving, bathed in the only beam of sunshine that lighted the whole landscape just as if you'd put on a spotlight. The clouds had parted for just a moment at that point. And this one rift opened the way for the sunbeams to rest directly on the star spangled banner and the crowd stood admiring and wondering as they saw the flag waving in the breeze, beautified in the sunshine.

Reminds me of and our flag was still there. How that flag came to be there was a mystery and later on they found out. There was an exploring party gone up for some measurements and they chanced to set a flag here at the exact moment one in spite of all the previous rain there was a rift in the clouds that permitted the sunlight to flash radiance upon it. The fortunes of war might change; they did from time to time. But that flag remained the same. The things of life and death may change, but Christ abideth, abideth ever the same blessed one, changeless, unchanging, immutable. I love that hymn it says change and decay all around I see thou changest not. Abide with me. Sands of time are sinking, and dawn of heaven breaks, but he remains always the same. And then I, in closing would like to point out that he's not only the eternal one, he's not only the all-inclusive one, A-Z you can't just start the alphabet there or here you gotta have all to make any sense. Think of somebody saying I will only learn that alphabet from a-m or n. Uh some words in z like zoo and zebra, yes. And zoology. You know. It's all inclusive. And then it is
unchanging and then finally it's the indispensable, indispensible - when you can't get along without it. Without the alphabet there'd be no English language, or any language, even non alphabetic, because you have to put it in some kind of letter that we can understand. Phonetics even have to use certain letters that we see. No literature, think of it, no speech, no trade, nothing. If we didn't have English you couldn't have Shakespeare. You couldn't have great writers of our day. We must have an alphabet. We think otherwise, too many think otherwise but we've gotta have Christ. He's indispensable to any human heart for life, cleansing, peace, joy, comfort, companionship, strength, spiritual food, hope, everything. He's the key of life, yes. And he's the key to life. Without him we're dead, and worse.

He alone of all we know is indispensable. Oh how hard it is for a widow to give up that one who's been so near and dear. How hard it is for a widower to give up that one that's like an arm. But even they, even they can get along, it is possible. Can't get along without him, no. No. you must have him. Light of our life, breath of our breath. We must have him. One of the other leaders said recently he said you can get along a certain number of days without food, you can get along less days, but you can get along, without water. You can get along even less time without air. But you can't get along at all without honor, he said. But he was wrong you can't get along, or he said honor and hope. You can't get along without Christ. You may think you can, but you can't. No such thing as getting along without him. There's a bridge in the European country of Austria, I don't know how many have been there, it's beautiful the Alps are gorgeous there and Innsbruck and those areas and of course uh the um the great musical city of Straus-what is the city there in Austria? Salzburg, and what other one, how's that, Vienna yeah Wien, auf Deutsch. Yeah Vienna v-I-e-n-n-a, that's where that Wiener-schnitzel comes from that's not a hot dog, no that's cutlets, Wiener-schnitzel.
So here in Austria there's a bridge has twelve niches, twelve different representations of Christ. This is true. In one of them there's the figure of Christ the carpenter, in another Christ the physician and so on and so on and as those dear people pass over the bridge, the artisan, the workman offers his devotion as carpenter. He finds that relationship. The sick man prays to him as the good physician. The Shepard stands for Christ the good Shepard. He's indispensable to one and all. They all need him, my dear friends you need him too. He can be your all in all. You may think you can get along but you can get along with everything else in the world, except without him. You have to have him. He's life. You don't begin to live until you have him. And it's a wonderful thing how outspoken our young people are today. Many think they have many failings but I think they have a tremendous number of assets. Talk about boldness in the faith, they have it. And they realize that even for them he's indispensable. They say the glory of young men, Scripture says in Proverbs the glory of young men is their strength, but even that, they know that strength is nothing without him. And they have a good statement.

We belong to the now generation, that's Biblical because now, behold now is the accepted time behold now is the day of salvation. You are to trust him now. Come every soul by sin oppressed there's mercy in the Lord. For he will surely give you rest by trusting in his word. Only trust him, only trust him, when next week? Only trust him now. He will save you, like what a Christmas layaway plan; no he will save you now. Trust him now he saves you now. He will save you he will save you now. Will you trust him? Father, we pray thy blessing upon these dear ones every heart. Thank you for a place like this where we can be honed in with thee. The world shut out and we shut in with thee. And with thy word and with thy blessed and indwelling spirit who's so willing to teach us the truth is the author of the book. He's responsible for every word though he used human penmen. So our father, bless the conference. Bless needy ones if there's
someone here who has not yet trusted Christ, may that one not try to seek rest, physical rest, until that one is resting in Christ the Lord. Oh thou would keep him in perfect peace who's mind is stayed upon thee for he trusteth in thee for the Lord is an everlasting rock, the rock of ages. Bless then the conference. All of its administration. The many problems, not all one of them too much for thee-