

<sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> 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, <sup>6</sup> and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father ...

*Revelation 1 : 4 - 20*

to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. <sup>7</sup> "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. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty." <sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, ...

*Revelation 1 : 4 - 20*

was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." <sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ...

*Revelation 1 : 4 - 20*



<sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. ...

*Revelation 1 : 4 - 20*

His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.<sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.<sup>19</sup> "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ...

*Revelation 1 : 4 - 20*

<sup>20</sup> The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

*Revelation 1 : 4 - 20*



A street scene with buildings and a horse-drawn carriage. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light from the right side. The buildings have white shutters. A horse-drawn carriage is visible in the middle ground. The ground is paved with cobblestones.

# Revelation

*Hope for tomorrow... for today*

# Nero





# Marcus Aurelius



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# Diocletian







СВЯТАГО ДУХА СЪВЪЩАЮЩАГО СЪВЪЩАЮЩАГО СЪВЪЩАЮЩАГО



**AN ALPHA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO WAS)

**AN OMEGA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO IS TO COME)

**A LIFE THAT CONNECTS THE TWO**  
(THE ONE WHO IS)

**AN ALPHA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO WAS)

**AN OMEGA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO IS TO COME)

**A LIFE THAT CONNECTS THE TWO**  
(THE ONE WHO IS)

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God,  
"who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

*Revelation 1 : 8*



He is telling you that having  
Him like this in your life is  
what you need to make it  
through anything.

Jesus as our Alpha point  
gives us a basis for ethics.



"Newborn human babies have no sense of their existence over time. So, killing a newborn baby is never equivalent to killing a person...if that was in the best interests of the baby and of the family as a whole." ...

*Dr. Peter Singer | Practical Ethics*

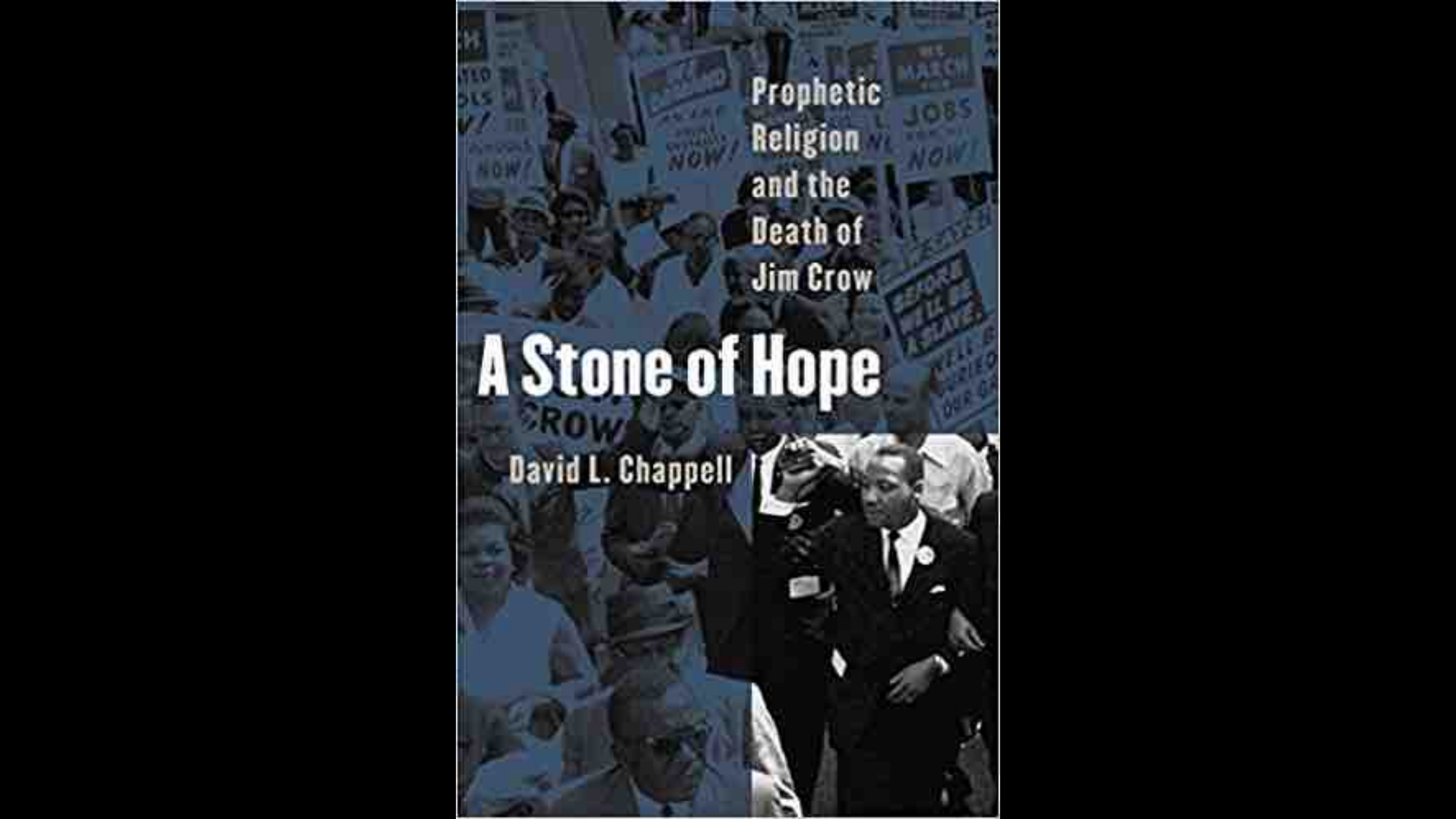


"I don't want my health insurance premiums to be higher so that infants who can experience zero quality of life can have expensive treatments."

*Dr. Peter Singer | Practical Ethics*

Jesus as the Alpha Point gives  
us the basis for social activism.





Prophetic  
Religion  
and the  
Death of  
Jim Crow

# A Stone of Hope

David L. Chappell



"While white liberals disliked segregation, they did almost nothing about it. They expected it to go away on its own. They were optimistic about human nature, the power of reason, the efficacy of education and the inevitability of social progress. But black activists, deeply rooted in Biblical faith, knew that power corrupts and that the human heart was sinful. ...

*David Chappell | A Stone of Hope*

The story of the Civil Rights Movement is not then, the triumph of liberal ideas of gradual progress, not at all. Northern liberals' faith in the power of human reason to overcome prejudice was at odds with the Civil Rights Movement's goal of immediate change. But the prophetic tradition of the Old Testament lifted African-American activists to unprecedented solidarity and self-sacrifice. ...

*David Chappell | A Stone of Hope*

Black leaders believed, as the Hebrew prophets believed, that they had to stand apart from society and institute dramatic changes to force an unbelieving world to abandon its sinful ways - the sin of segregation.

*David Chappell | A Stone of Hope*



**AN ALPHA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO WAS)

**AN OMEGA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO IS TO COME)

**A LIFE THAT CONNECTS THE TWO**  
(THE ONE WHO IS)

Is Jesus the means to an end in  
your life, or is He the end itself?





God, if he was my accomplice, had betrayed me.  
If, on the other hand, if He was God, he had freed me.

*Elisabeth Elliot | No Graven Image*

**AN ALPHA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO WAS)

**AN OMEGA POINT**  
(THE ONE WHO IS TO COME)

**A LIFE THAT CONNECTS THE TWO**  
(THE ONE WHO IS)



He sees the clouds

"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."

*Revelation 1 : 7*



The background is a blurred interior scene. It appears to be a room with several wooden lampstands, each with a white lampshade. The lampstands are arranged in a row, and their legs are visible. In the upper part of the image, there is a window with vertical bars or a frame. The overall lighting is soft and somewhat dim, creating a sense of depth and focus on the text.

He sees the clouds

He sees the lampstands

<sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

*Revelation 1 : 12 - 15*



...and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

*Revelation 1 : 20*

The background is a blurred photograph of an interior space. On the left, a window with vertical bars is visible. In the center, a lampstand with a lamp is partially seen. The overall scene is out of focus, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere.

He sees the clouds

He sees the lampstands

He gets the touch



<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.  
Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid.  
I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was dead,  
and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!  
And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

*Revelation 1 : 17 - 18*

A street scene with buildings and a horse-drawn carriage. The scene is dimly lit, with a warm, golden light from the right side. The buildings have white shutters. A horse-drawn carriage is visible in the middle ground, and a person is walking in the distance. The ground is paved with cobblestones.

# Revelation

*Hope for tomorrow... for today*