

How To Be (or have been) Entered Into The Book of Life

- There has always existed a ledger from **before** the beginning of time with the names of those who will be resurrected to spend eternity in Heaven when this life is over. Because of the eternal, omniscient (*all knowing*) nature of God, before man was created, it was known by Him even then who would be saved and who would be condemned. He didn't "decide" who would be on that list, He only "knew" who would be on it. There are things we don't decide in life, but that doesn't mean we don't know they are going to happen. God knowing this does not remove the free-agency of man. Ultimately it remains our choice.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 **But** (*this make it conditional*) of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die. (*Emp. Added*)

- By this passage we see that every individual that understands right from wrong has the God-given choice to decide their own fate. And only God has known those choices made, by all who made them, since before the foundation of the world.

Job 37:16 Dost thou know the balancings of the clouds, the wondrous works of Him which is perfect (*Heb.8549- entire: -complete*) in knowledge?

God's Immutability

(*To mutate is to change. Using "im" as a prefix makes the definition opposite the original meaning.*)

Mal 3:6 For I *am* the LORD, I change not;...

- The things God has set in motion and purposed from before the creation cannot and thus will not change. The hope of salvation, then, has been and always will be offered to all who seek it.

Tit 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

Num 23:19 God is not a man, that He should lie; neither the son of man, that He should repent: hath He said, and shall He not do *it*? or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?

Example...

Jon 3:4 And Jonah began to enter into the city a day's journey, and he cried, and said, Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. 5 So the people of Nineveh **believed God** (*If only America would heed the Gospel message this way.*), and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them even to the least of them. 6 For word came unto the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, and he laid his robe from him, and covered *him* with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 And he caused *it* to be proclaimed and published through Nineveh by the decree of the king and his nobles, saying, Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste any thing: let them not feed, nor drink water: 8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them **turn** everyone from his evil way, and from the violence that *is* in their hands. 9 Who can tell *if* God will **turn** and repent (*Heb.5162- to pity*), and **turn** away from His fierce anger, that we perish not? 10

And God **saw their works**, that they **turned** from their evil way; and God repented (*According to the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia, one Old Testament meaning that fits in the context here is “to turn”*) of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not. (*Emp. Added*)

- The Hebrew word for repent is *naw-kham* (5162) which has many meanings. The one that fits the context depends on the context itself along with other scripture that either support or reject the meaning implied. This is one of the texts that is used to bolster the false teaching that God changed His mind (*as though there are things that God wills Himself not to know*) when there are other passages that prove the opposite. Would those who teach such be claiming that God lies?

*“They repented, and brought forth fruits meet for repentance; works which showed that they did most earnestly repent. He therefore changed His purpose, and the city was saved. The purpose was: **If** (emp. mine) the Ninevites do not return from their evil ways, and the violence that is in their hands, within forty days, I will destroy the city. The Ninevites did return, etc., and therefore escaped the threatened judgment. Thus we see that **the threatening was conditional** (Emp. Added).”* Adam Clarke

- God has set certain qualifications over the ages that must be met in order for anyone to escape His wrath. Those qualifications never change once He made them. His mode of dealing with the actions of sinners is determined by their response to His threats of punishment. If we are not obedient to His commands, we will suffer the consequences which He will not back down from.

Col 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive **for the wrong which he hath done**: and there is no respect of persons. (*Emp. Added*)

“When repentance is attributed to God, it implies a change in His mode of dealing with men, such as would indicate on their part a change of purpose.” Samuel Davison

Heb 6:17 Wherein God, willing **more abundantly** to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability (*Gk.276- un-changeability*) of His counsel (*Gk.1012- purpose*), confirmed it by an oath: (*Emp. Added*)

“His fixed purpose. He meant to show in the most solemn manner that His purpose would not change. The plans of God never change; and all the hope which we can have of heaven is founded on the fact that His purpose is immutable. If He changed His plans; if He was controlled by caprice (impulse); if He willed one thing today and another thing tomorrow, who could confide in Him, or who would have any hope of heaven?”

Albert Barnes

The Book of Life

- In the following passage we find the first mention of this book that exists with God. Whether a figurative or literal record or just in the mind of God makes no difference, the fact remains that it **does** exist.

Exo 32:30 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, Ye have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the LORD; peradventure I shall make an atonement for your sin. 31 And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a

great sin, and have made them gods of gold. 32 Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray Thee, out of **Thy book** which Thou **hast** written. 33 And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against Me, him will I blot out of My book. (*Emp. Added*)

2Ti 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God **standeth sure**, having this seal, The Lord **knoweth** (*He “actively” knows*) **them that are His**. And, Let everyone that nameth (*Gk.3687- to profess*) the name (*Gk.3686- authority*) of Christ (*Christians*) depart from iniquity. (*Emp. Added*)

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath **from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth**: 14 Whereunto He called you by our Gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. (*Emp. Added*)

“Unfortunately, not all will receive His calling or choosing. It comes through the setting apart of, or by, the Spirit and an actively demonstrated belief of the truth.”

“Some would say we are randomly elected unto salvation. Paul says those who receive the gospel call will get to share in Christ's glory at His coming. So, obedience to the gospel yields a final, glorious, setting apart.” Gary Hampton

- In other words, God **chooses those who obey** Him, **over** those who don't, to be saved through the purification process of the Spirit.

Tit 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done (*nothing we can do on our own aside from the blood of Christ*), but according to His mercy He saved us*, by the **washing** (*Gk.3067- a bath, that is, [figuratively] baptism*) **of regeneration** (*Gk.3824- [spiritual] rebirth*) [*Jn 3:5*], and **renewing of the Holy Ghost**; 6 Which He shed on us abundantly **through Jesus Christ our Saviour**; 7 That being **justified** (*Gk.1344- to render [that is, show or regard as] just or innocent*) **by His grace** (*Gk.5485- favor*), we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life. (*Emp. Added*)

Dan 9:18 O my God, incline Thine ear, and hear; open Thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by Thy name: for we **do not** present our supplications before Thee **for our righteousnesses, but for Thy great mercies**. (*Emp. Added*)

Eph 1:4 According as He (*God the Father*) hath **chosen us in Him** (*Christ*) **before the foundation of the world**, (*and here are the qualifications that we are to meet*) that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: 5 Having predestinated (*Gk.4309- to limit in advance, that is, [figuratively] predetermine*) [*few will make it because few will heed the warning*] us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath **made us accepted in** the Beloved. (*Emp. Added*)

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are **His** workmanship, created **in** Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath **before** ordained that we should walk in them. (*Emp. Added*)

“God outlined the works we are to perform to receive His great gift. Clearly, we do not act so as to save ourselves but to satisfy the Father's requirements (2:8-9).” “If we want to be what God intended for us to be, we must do His bidding.”

Gary Hampton

- To sum it all up, we have to have been **in** Christ* before providentially chosen in advance for adoption into God's family. And God has always known since before time who His children would be. He did not determine that number by force either, but has always known it through His free agency. **We** make that choice by our faithful obedience to Him. Our faith along with His qualifying works, such as repentance, confession and baptism, are what determine our place in eternity. Therefore, to be **in** Christ is synonymous with being listed in the *“Lamb's book of life”*.

*Gal 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized **into** Christ have **put on** Christ.

Rev 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but **they which are written in the Lamb's book of life**. (*Emp. Added*) (*To be in the book of life we first need to be in the Lamb!*)

Heb 12:22 But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, **which are written in heaven**, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than *that of* Abel. (*Emp. Added*)

God has always known.

Psa 139:15 My substance was not hid from Thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought (*Heb.7551- to variegate [Webster: To diversify in external appearance; to mark with different colors] color, that is, embroider; by implication to fabricate*) (*David's race was determined...*) in the lowest parts (*Heb.8482- the womb*) of the earth. 16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect (*Heb.1564- a wrapped [and unformed mass, that is, an embryo]*); and in Thy book all (*my members -not in the original text*) were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned (*Heb.3335- to mold into a form*), when as yet there was none (*from two Heb. words, 3808/259- not united*) of them.

“When my substance - my form - was not yet developed, when yet an embryo, and when nothing could be determined from that by the eye of man as to what I was to be, all the future was known to God, and was written down - just what should be my form and vigor; how long I should live; what I should be; what would be the events of my life.”

Albert Barnes

- In eternity there is written, all things we have done and will ever do from birth to death, in either the book of life or in the other “books” that record the works of those who have not been found faithful to God.

Rom 9:11 (For *the children* being **not yet born** (*speaking of Jacob and Esau*), **neither having done any good or evil**, that the **purpose** of God **according to election might stand**, not of works, but of Him that calleth;) (*Emp. Added*)

- The genealogy of Christ came through only one of the sons of Isaac. But which son would God choose since neither one had yet to know good or evil, both being innocent? Because God is omniscient He has known everything about everybody since before He created anything. He knew in eternity that Jacob would be the one best suited for His purpose. So in Jacob's lineage the Messiah would come. Again, we all have a choice!

Rev 3:5 **He that overcometh**, the same **shall be clothed in white raiment**; and I will **not blot out his name out of the book of life**, but I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels. (*Emp. Added*)

- But what of those whose names are not written in the book of life? Who are they and what is their destiny? They are people from all generations, out of every nation and from all walks of life.

Psa 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the **book of the living, and not be written with the righteous. (Emp. Added)*

Rev 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat on it, from Whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them (*2 Pet 3:12**). 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book of life*: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books (*the book of life included*), according to their works. 13 And the sea* gave up the dead which were in it; and *death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. (*The first death is found in Romans 6:8 "Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him." This is the figurative thousand year reign, a.k.a., the last or Christian dispensation in Rev 20:6.*) 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**2Pe 3:12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*

- The physical sea is to be destroyed along with the earth in Rev 20:11. This sea is spiritual and is known as the place "under the altar" where "the souls of them that were slain for the word of God" (*Rev 6:9*) were told to "rest" (*v. 11*) and is made up of those who are "before the throne of God" in Rev 7:15. It is upon this sea the righteous dead figuratively stand (*Rev 15:2*). In Luke 16:22 it is known as "Abraham's bosom". In Luke 23:42 it is known as the realm of Paradise where Jesus told the thief He would meet him that day. Those of the dead that are raised from this sea then are the ones whose names are written in the book of life.
- Death and Hades- In Rev 6:8 the rider of the pale horse (*Death*) took lives and the realm of Hades collected them (*When death comes to all of us we reside in the realm of Hades until the final judgment.*). Since both the righteous and the wicked dead reside in different parts of the same realm (*Lk 16:26*), once the saints are risen from this place, those left are the wicked. Here they are delivered to be judged. Unlike those from the sea before the throne, these according to their ungodly deeds. Once God accomplishes His divine purpose, these two elements of separation, death and Hades, are cast into the only place where any of His creation will be apart from Him throughout eternity. This is the second death, the eternal separation from God, the lake of fire known as Hell!

Where is your name written?

Joh 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour **is** coming, in the which **all** that are in the graves shall hear His voice, 29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of **life**; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of **damnation**. (*Emp. Added*)

1Jn 5:12 He that hath the Son hath life; *and* he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. 13 These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; **that ye may know** (*Gk.1492- be sure, understand*) **that ye have eternal life**, and that ye may believe (*Gk.4100- to have faith [in]*) on the name (*Gk.3686- authority*) of the Son of God. (*Emp. Added*)

- There are only two places where a person's name can be listed to spend eternity. If you trust in the authority of Christ to save you, you will follow His commands written in His word. If not...well, the choice is yours. Where do you want to spend eternity? How do I know for sure that my name is written in the book of life?

Hear: Romans 10:14 ..."how shall they believe in Him Whom they have not heard?"

Believe: Heb 11:6 ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Repent: Act 3:19 ..."Repent ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

Confess: Act 8: 37 And Philip said (*to the eunuch*), If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. 38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Be baptized: 1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth **also** now save us..."

Remain faithful: 1 Cor 6:20 ..."For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."

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