

Is Your Name in the Book of Life?

Frank Borg

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The book of life is mentioned in Philippians and is more extensively referred to in the book of Revelation. What is this book of life? Do we understand its meaning? Do we know God's purpose behind it?

Contrary to popular belief, God is not trying to save the whole world today. Yet He has called a small group of people to be taught and trained as firstfruits now, so they may assist Jesus Christ in the massive task of educating all of mankind in God's ways in the Millennium and beyond.

When an individual is called, repents, believes, is baptized and has his or her sins forgiven, he or she receives an earnest of God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 2 Corinthians 5:5). As we will see, this has much to do with the book of life. At baptism, such a person is begotten as a son of God (Romans 8:14, 16) and, at that point, *has his or her name recorded in the book of life.*

Once baptized, a begotten son of God can expect to be tried, tested and proven. God judges the individual (1 Peter 4:17) so He can decipher whether or not we will enter into His Kingdom at Christ's return! That judgment begins once the person receives the earnest of God's Holy Spirit at baptism. God judges His called-out ones during their physical lifetime — He watches to see what His begotten sons are doing with the abundant spiritual knowledge that He has given them! He is actually now judging His people to see whether or not their choices and actions are worthy of them entering His Kingdom. The responsibility God's people have is heavy, but the reward is awe-inspiring.

Let us notice further what all this has to do with the book of life. Revelation 21:27 clearly tells us that all those individuals who will enter into the Kingdom of God must have their names written in the book of life: "And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life."

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will be in the Kingdom of God (Matthew 8:11), so it is clear that their names must be written in the book of life. Among others, Moses was another faithful man who has his name written in the book of life (Exodus 32:31-32). Moses realized that having his name in the book of life was vital if he was to enter the Kingdom of God. Other people who have received their title to eternal glory, and who have the right of citizenship in the Kingdom of God, have their names written in the book of life (Philippians 4:3).

This very important book has a record of all the names of the saints who will be resurrected, or changed, at Christ's return and who will enter into the Kingdom of God! *This is the purpose of this book of life.*

Note how Revelation 20:11-12 illustrate that the book of life will be used and have names added to it even during the Great White Throne judgment. God will then offer salvation to the multiple billions who have not yet had the opportunity to know and understand God's truth in this lifetime. The book of life is used by God whenever salvation or eternal life is offered, because this is the book in which the names are recorded of those who are judged worthy of eternal life.

Something we must be cognizant of, however, is that names can also be blotted out of the book of life! This depends on the individual's conduct during his or her physical lifetime. If a

begotten son of God *willfully* rejects God and His ways, he or she commits the unpardonable sin, which results in eternal death (Hebrews 6:4-6; Romans 6:23). Obviously, if an individual commits the unpardonable sin, he or she will no longer be recognized by God as a begotten son of His. In Exodus 32:33, God tells us, "Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book." Clearly, God will only reject those people who reject Him (Ezekiel 18:20). If God's begotten sons reject Him, He will erase their names from the book of life.

Because we are human and still subject to the pulls of the flesh, there will be times when we slip up and commit sin. However, if we show God that we have godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10) for the sin we have committed, and we show Him that we will do our part to overcome that sin, then God will grant us repentance. In that case, we should not fear having our names blotted out of the book of life (Revelation 3:5). If our attitude demonstrates to God that we are working and doing our part to overcome a sin, God will be sure to help us with the problem we are trying to conquer.

The book of life typifies salvation. As we have seen, those who will be given entry into God's glorious Kingdom and eternal life will have their names recorded in this book. How blessed and privileged we are to know and understand the meaning and purpose behind this important book.

Is your name written in the book of life?