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The Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb.

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

The Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb.

Topics.

- The book of life of the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world.
 - Names not written in the book of life of the Lamb.
 - The dead are judged according to what is written in heavenly books.
 - The Lamb's book of life.
 - Taking away from the words of this book.
 - A brief overview from birth to eternity.
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The following is all the Scriptures that use the following two titles "The Book of Life" and "The Book of the Lamb."

- **Philippians 4:3:** Paul says; "Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have laboured side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life."

Here we see that the names of all the faithful in Christ are written in the Book of Life.

- **Revelation 3:5:** Jesus says, "The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."

Here we see that whoever overcomes the struggles and hardships of life and endure in their faith will not be blotted out of the Book of Life. The words; "Whoever overcomes" does not mean that Christians will never sin, but that they remain in faith.

- John wrote, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us" (1 John 1:8-10).

These words of John show us that not one of us can stand before God's Holiness without sin, if anyone of us could attain to this glorious state of sinlessness Christ died for no purpose. Overcoming means always trusting in God's grace and returning to the Lord in honest heartfelt repentance, it means remaining faithful to Christ in contrast to forsaking our faith. The words, "Whoever overcomes" also embraces the idea that the pleasures and enticements of this world's riches, and wealth and the lure of materialism have not drawn a believer away from their faith and that a crisis in life, tribulation and persecution has not caused a brother or sister in Christ to forsake God. Remaining in the faith means faithfully abiding in Christ and trusting in him for salvation, this is what it means to overcome.

THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB SLAIN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD

- **Revelation 13:8:** John says, "All who dwell on earth will worship it (the beast) everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb that was slain."

Slain from the foundation of the world can refer to the following two things:

1. The year of Christ's crucifixion was the commencement of Christianity, as the apostles then first began to proclaim the Gospel of Christ so the foundation of the world can refer to the foundation of the Christian world.
2. Since Jesus was in God's eternal mind, His eternal plans and purposes and appointed by God from the foundation of the world to redeem man by his blood, he therefore is in a very eminent sense the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (i.e., from the creation).

Peter wrote:

- You were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot. He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for your sake (1 Peter 1:18-20).

The words, "The Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world" clearly do not mean that Christ was actually put to death from the foundation of the world, but that God's intention to give him for a sacrifice was formed from the foundation of the world. The crucifixion was so certain that it could not only be spoken of as actually then occurring but was constantly represented by bloody sacrifices from the earliest ages, all typifying the future Saviour. It is in this sense that Jesus is said to be slain from the foundation of the world.

NAMES NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE OF THE LAMB

The words, "Whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the Book of Life of the Lamb that was slain" Does not mean that before the foundation of the world God predestined some to be saved to eternal life and others to be condemned to eternal death since that would not only violate man's free will, but make it pointless to proclaim the Gospel since those who had been predestined to be saved would be saved regardless of what they do and those who had been predestined to condemnation would be unable to alter their predestined future. The following are two ways of understanding what John means:

1. It is an overall general statement that means all the names of the wicked in the world of every generation have never been written in the Lamb's book of Life.
2. God is the all-powerful omnipresent Almighty God of creation and of heaven and not only dwells in eternity, but also has no beginning and no end and in His eternal foreknowledge already knows what choices we will make since he not only sees the end of our world as we know it, but also sees the beginning and the end of our lives and knows the choices we will make before we even make them.

This is why the prophets were able to prophecy in such exact detail future events before they came to pass and why John was able to make the statement that certain names were not written in the Book of Life of the Lamb before the foundation of the world.

NOTE: we must always keep in mind when we are speaking of God's eternal mind and God's eternal foreknowledge and things concerning ETERNITY that it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we are attempting to understand things not yet happened and because of this we should never be dogmatic and absolute in our understandings and explanations concerning God's eternal mind and God's eternal foreknowledge, but always allow for certain amount of mystery.

DWELLERS ON EARTH WHOSE NAMES ARE NOT WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE

- **Revelation 17:8:** God's angel told John, "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come."

For an understanding of the words, "Whose names have not been written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world," see the notes following (Revelation 13:8) (above).

NOTE: the beast does not refer to a wild animal or some kind of demonic creature, but to Daniel's glorious dream of an image of an iron man with a head of fine gold, a chest of silver a middle and thighs of bronze, his legs of iron and his feet a mixture of iron and clay. This image symbolises the world's seven great kingdoms, Chaldea, Egypt, Babylon, Media Persia, Greece, Rome and the final world Empire of iron and clay which all symbolise the system of the global world of mammon (money) and that denies God and is opposed to Christ.

This vision of Daniels is simply amazing since it ends with Daniel seeing a stone that was cut out without any human help striking the image on its feet of iron and clay and breaking the feet in pieces which results in the entire image of iron, clay, bronze, silver and gold being crushed and becoming like dust and the stone becoming a great mountain filling the entire earth. This is a glorious and triumphant picture of Christ's return and of the total and final destruction of the world's oppressive system of finance, banking, interest and trade etc., and of all false religions. But to go into details concerning the beast is far too big a topic for this study so for those who are interested in Bible history and prophecies see:

- Daniel 2, Daniel 7 and Revelation 13.
- In, Commentary OT.
- In Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

THE DEAD ARE JUDGED ACCORDING TO WHAT IS WRITTEN IN HEAVENLY BOOKS

- **Revelation 20:8:** And I (John) saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life and the dead were judged by what was written in the books according to what they had done.

John also wrote:

- I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them and I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the *books, according to* what they had *done* (Revelation 20:11-12).
- The sea gave up the dead who were in it, death and hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, *according to what they had done*. Then death and hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life he was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:13-15).

These events take place at the end of Christ's millennial reign on earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. At the end of this glorious age God Himself descends on a Great White Throne and the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead and they stand before the throne of God. The Book of Life is opened and if anyone's name is not found in it they are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total and utter extinction). If a person's name is found in the Book of Life other heavenly books are opened and they are judged according to what is written in these other books according to what they have done those who are counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire.

- **Revelation 21:27:** But nothing unclean will ever enter it (the New Jerusalem) nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Here we are told that only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will enter the glorious eternal holy city New Jerusalem (the Holy City of God). This is in total harmony with the teaching of the Gospel. God in this present New Testament age is seeking out a Bride for his son and a faithful people to be priest and kings with Christ during his glorious millennial Kingdom age. Those who attain to this glorious Kingdom will be with Christ as his royal Bride forever. But! At the end of Christ's millennial Kingdom reign everything changes, it's a new age, God Himself descends to earth, the dead are raised to stand before him and be judged, after which God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its majestic and royal fullness. I personally believe (and it is only my belief) that those who have a heart of compassion and kindness, those who have helped the poor and the less fortunate, those who believe in God because of creation, but who have never heard the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ will be judged according to the compassion and kindness they have shown to other humans. Jesus said:

- Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward (Matt. 10:42).

This means whoever shows kindness and compassion to the less fortunate will not go without a reward. There is no-doubt that the Bible clearly teaches that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God, but not everyone that does not know the love and grace of God and has not heard the Good News of the Gospel of Christ is a wicked human, many manifest generous acts of caring and kindness to other humans less fortunate than themselves.

- Consider; all those who helped the Jews at great risk to themselves during the holocaust not because they themselves were saved, but because they hated the injustice and had compassion in their hearts.
- Consider; those of the secular world who have comforted Christians during times of persecution and suffering. I personally knew a secular woman who gave up her time to comfort a Christian woman suffering breast cancer this woman's care and compassion greatly comforted this Christian lady through an enormously fearful time in her life.
- Consider; the all the good men and woman who sacrifice the luxuries of this life to help the suffering and the poor in third world countries.
- Consider; the following words of Jesus "Whoever gives one of these little ones even a cup of cold water because he is a disciple, truly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward" (Matt 10:42).
- Consider those who believe in God because of creation, but have never heart the message of the cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible defines the wicked as those who:

- Murder (meaning they deliberately take the life of the innocent).
- Steal (robbing people of what they have honestly worked for).
- Commit adultery (a married person who has sex with someone who is not their husband or their wife).
- Lie, cheat, deceive and oppress others for their own selfish gain.
- Rape, commit incest or physically and verbally abuse others.

- Deceptively by charm and lies sexually use others to gratify their own selfish lust.

The spirit in all of these sins is self-gratification, it is using others to get what self wants, that is why these people are called wicked, they are totally selfish and have no regard for others. For further information concerning sin, see the titles:

- Sin and Self-gratification.
- The motivation of Sin.
- Both titles are in, Sin (ON WEBSITE MENU).

All humans have a sin nature, but it may not look exactly like the Christian fundamentalists say it does, because there are a multitudes of people around the world that do great and self-sacrificing things for others less fortunate than themselves, this is especially true in light of hundreds of millions of dollars caring citizens of the world give when there is a global disaster. The next most important thing to God other than believing He exists and surrendering to His eternal plan of salvation in Christ, is doing-good to other humans. Doing-good is not only fulfilling all God's six commandments concerning mankind, but also fulfilling Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself" (Matt. 19:17-20) (Mark 12:29-31) which is called the royal law (James 2:8) in the New Testament. There is no-doubt that many secular people around the world are fulfilling this royal law in very caring, compassionate and self-sacrificing ways to multitudes of humans who are suffering worldwide, especially in third world countries. My personal belief is that those who will be counted unworthy at the great White Throne Judgment and cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total extinction) are those who have no integrity, are totally selfish and who instead of having compassion toward other humans use them for their own selfish gain. God at the moment is raising up a bride for His Son and a people to rule and reign as kings and priests with Christ to be the final world government over God's Kingdom on earth. This eternally blessed group will be gathered together with Christ when he returns, but the second group to be raised will be judged according to what is written in the books that are opened at the great White Throne Judgment at the end of Christ's millennial Kingdom age when ETERNITY in all its majestic royal and eternal fullness begins.

TAKING AWAY FROM THE WORDS OF THIS BOOK

- **Revelation 22:18-19:** For I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book, if anyone adds to these things, God will add unto them the plagues that are written in this book ¹⁹And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away their part out of the book of life and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

The words; "If anyone adds or takes away from what John has written God will add to them the plagues written in the prophecy of this book" does not mean (as some believe) that because modern translations use different words to the King James Bible they have added to and taken away from the words of this book. It is not the individual words that Jesus angel had in mind when he spoke about adding and taking away from the words of this book, but the messages. The angel of Jesus is stating that, "If anyone adds or takes away from the messages in this book, they will have no part in ETERNITY. If the inspired word of God meant every individual word is inspired those who live in Mexico, China, Russia and the multitudes of Asian Christians and those who live in non-English speaking countries would never be able to read the inspired word of God since their Bibles are written in their language. It is not the words themselves that are inspired, but the messages that the words proclaim, it is these messages that are the inspired word of God.

Following is a brief overview from the birth of mortal life to eternity in its majestic royal fullness:

1. When a baby is born their name is recorded in the Book of Life and their life is recorded in some other books, if they accept Christ their name is transferred from the Book of Life into the Lamb's Book of Life, but if not, their name remains in the Book of Life unless they are totally selfish and use other people for their own gain, through murder, stealing, adultery, rape and oppression etc. If a person deliberately harms other humans their name is likely to be blotted out of the Book of Life, while the names of those who show compassion and kindness to others remain in the record of names recorded in the Book of Life.
2. In the first resurrection when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory those whose names are recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life are granted eternal life because of their faith in God's Son. They will reign from God's Holy City New Jerusalem with Christ as kings and priests through his glorious millennial reign as King of kings and Lord of lords on earth (Rev. 20:5).
3. At the end of Christ's glorious millennial reign God Himself descends to earth on a Great White Throne the grave, the sea and death give up the dead and they all stand before God. Those whose names have been blotted out of the Book of Life are immediately cast into the Lake of Fire this is called the second death (i.e., total and utter extinction). Those whose names are found in the Book of Life are judged according to what is written in the other books that are opened at the same time those who are counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire.

NOTE: there may be a literal Book of the Lamb and a literal Book of Life, but it is more likely that it is a simple way for the writer to explain to our mortal finite fallen minds that the eyes and mind of God sees all things and remembers all things in His eternal mind. He knows when a baby is born, He sees their life good or bad unfold before Him and He remembers their deeds and will judge accordingly.

Malachi said:

- Then those who feared the LORD often spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a Book of Remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed and thought upon his name (Mal. 3:16)

FOOTNOTE

Understanding every detail of the Book of the Lamb and the Book of Life is not important to a person's salvation to eternal life and therefore should never be turned into a dogmatic legalistic teaching, but should always be allowed to have a certain amount of mystery surrounding it and to be openly discussed in an atmosphere of peace and spiritual adventure and discovery.

THE BOOK OF LIFE AND THE BOOK OF THE LAMB

The title: "The Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb" is linked the following four folders: -

1. Alphabetical Directory under **B**
2. Various Topics 2013

3. Articles 2013

4. Resurrection 2013

The title: The Book of Life and the Book of the Lamb in Alphabetical Directory is linked to the one in Resurrection and is under B

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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