

The Book of Life

Bible Study

The Church of God
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Introduction



Have you heard about the Book of Life?



Have you read the scriptures pertaining to the Book of Life? Do you understand what the Book of Life is all about? Do you have any idea how important the Book of Life is to your salvation?



I suspect that most professing Christians have no idea that such a book exists, let alone how significant it is.



Jesus revealed this to the Apostle John in the Book of Revelation saying in Revelation 20:15

“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”



Then is it not important to ask if your name is written
in the Book of Life?



Today, we want you to determine for yourself if your name is written in the Book of Life. To answer this vital question, we will do a full Bible exposition on the subject.



The Book of Life



We will talk about the following:

1. What is the Book of Life?
2. How does one get his name written in the Book of Life?
3. Who writes the names of the saved in the Book of Life?
4. Can a name be blotted out from the Book of Life?
5. What happens to a person whose name is blotted out?
6. How do you keep your name always written in the Book of life?



Very few people are aware that such a book exists.
And most people encounter it only in the New
Testament. Since the beginning of the written
scripture, this book – the Book of Life – has been
known.



When the Israelites sinned against God in the desert of Sinai by worshipping the Golden Calf, Moses pleaded God to forgive Israel.



Exodus 32

30 The next day Moses said to the people, “You have committed a very serious sin, but now I will go up to the Lord—perhaps I can make atonement on behalf of your sin.”

31 So Moses returned to the Lord and said, “Alas, this people has committed a very serious sin, and they have made for themselves gods of gold.



Exodus 32

32 But now, if you will forgive their sin..., but if not, wipe me out from your book that you have written.”

33 The Lord said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me—that person I will wipe out of my book.



Daniel knew about it too as told by the Angel Gabriel.



Daniel 10

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,

5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.



Daniel 10

6 His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; those who were with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.



Daniel 10

8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.



Daniel 10

11 He said, “Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you.” And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.



Daniel 10

12 Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and **I have come in response to them.**



Daniel 12

1 “At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found **written in the book**—will be delivered.



Daniel 12

2 Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: **some to everlasting life**, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

3 Those who are wise **will shine like the brightness of the heavens**, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.



Angel Gabriel confirmed that the Book of Life,
wherein the names of the saved are written, exists.



1. What is the Book
of Life?

The Book of Life is a book of record. It is a record of the names and deeds of the saved. The prophet Malachi referred to it as the Book of Remembrance. It is a Book of record listing all the names of individuals who will inherit eternal life from God.



Malachi 3:16

“Then those who feared the Lord talked with each other, and the Lord listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the Lord and honored his name.”



Psalm 56:8

“Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll — are they not in your record?”



Only the names of the true righteous followers of Christ and inheritors of eternal life are recorded in the Book of Life.



The names of the sinner, the vile, the wicked, the impure, and the condemned will not be found in the Book of Life. Jesus reveals in the Book of Revelation that the people of this world who follow the Beast are condemned and their names will not be found written in the Book of Life.



Revelation 13:3

“The whole world was filled with wonder and followed the beast.”



Revelation 17:8

“The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.”



Revelation 20:15

“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”



The Book of Life is a record of the names of individuals who will inherit eternal life from God.



2. How does one get
his name in the Book
of Life?

One gets his name written in the Book of Life once he receives God's Holy Spirit. There is an incident in the Bible recorded in Luke 10 that clearly suggests this.



Luke 10

1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go.

(A similar incident also happened as recorded in the Gospel of Mark as Jesus gave them authority over impure spirits. Mark 6:7 Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.)



Luke 10

2 He told them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.



Luke 10

17 The seventy-two returned with joy and said,
“Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.”

18 He replied, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from
heaven.



Luke 10

19 I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

20 However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”



The way Jesus sent them out is recorded in John 20
Again Jesus said,

“21 Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I
am sending you.”

22 And with that he breathed on them and said,
“Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven;
if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.”



With the fellowship of the Holy Spirit their names are written in heaven. Therefore, one gets his name written in the Book of Life once He has God's Holy Spirit dwelling in him.



Ephesians 1

13 And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were **marked in him with a seal**, the promised **Holy Spirit**,

14 who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are **God's possession**—to the praise of his glory.



The Holy Spirit marks the believer with a seal as God's possession. On this very instance, your name is written in heaven in the Book of Life. So, when do you receive the Holy Spirit from God?



Peter said in the Book of Acts 2 Peter replied,

38 “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Acts 2

39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”

40 With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.”



Acts 2

41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.



Three thousand names were added to the Book of Life that day. And since then, many names have been added. All those who are baptized in the name of Christ and have received the Holy Spirit now belong to the church of the fruitfruits.



Hebrews 12

22 “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly,

23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are **written in heaven.**”



In Philippians 4:3, Paul referred to members of the true church as such “help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.”



3. Who writes the
names of the saved
into the Book of Life?

The person responsible for authorship of the Book of Life is Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ causes each individual name to be written down.

For this reason, the Book is referred to as the Lamb's Book of Life.



Revelation 13:8

“All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—
all whose names have not been written in the Lamb’s
book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the
creation of the world.”



4. Can a name be
blotted out from the
Book of Life?

The answer is a big YES. The scripture is clear in the warning against falling from our secure position.



2 Peter 3:17

“Therefore, dear friends, since you have been forewarned, be on your guard so that you may not be carried away by the error of the lawless and fall from your secure position.”



How can a person whose name is written in heaven
fall from the secure position?



Hebrews 10

26 For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins,

27 but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries.



Deuteronomy 29:20

“The Lord will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the Lord will blot out their names from under heaven.”



In Psalm 69:28, David pleaded with God regarding his wicked enemies:

“Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.”



Exodus 32:31-33 records Moses pleading with God for the Israelites.



Exodus 32

31 So Moses went back to the LORD and said, “Oh, what a great sin these people have committed! They have made themselves gods of gold.

32 But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

33 The LORD replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.



Revelation 22:19

“and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”



It is clear from scripture that any believer who falls away will be blotted out from the Lamb's Book of Life.



Paul clarifies saying in Ephesians 4:30

“And do not **grieve the Holy Spirit of God**, with whom you were **sealed for the day of redemption.**”



Isaiah 63:10

“Yet they rebelled and **grieved his Holy Spirit**. So he turned and became their **enemy** and he himself fought against them.”



Hebrews 10

26 If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left,

27 but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.



Once a person deliberately and willfully sins against God and rejects the sacrifice of Christ, God would remove the Holy Spirit from him.



David understood this; thus in his prayer to God, he implored saying Psalm 51:11

“Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.”



David knew that the moment he loses the Holy Spirit, he would be cast away from the presence of God and he would be doomed to destruction. When that happens, his name will be blotted out from the Book of Life.



5. What happens to
the person whose
name is blotted out?

Revelation 20:15

“Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

They are lost and condemned. They will be destroyed completely thrown into the lake of fire. They will not participate in the eternal kingdom of God.



6. How do you always
keep your name written
in the Book of Life?

Revelation 3

1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God.



Revelation 3

3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

4 Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy.



Revelation 3

5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

6 Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.



Jesus' directive is clear. We should remain unsoiled by the sins of the world. Walk with Christ with all purity. Then we will be victorious and our names will be indelibly written in the Book of Life permanently and forever.



The Two Books



There are two books in the Bible that somehow refer to God's plan of salvation. In a vision, Daniel saw the two books opened at the time of judgment.



Daniel 7

9 “As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.



Daniel 7

10 A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.



Beside the Book of Life is another book. The scripture suggests that these two books play a crucial role in the judgment of God.



Revelation 20:12

“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”



We know the Book of Life contains all the names and records of the saved. Therefore, the other book must be the foundation and basis of God's moral judgment.



Now, let us go to a few scripture to find out what is this moral book of God. Here are a few references to such a moral book:



1. Deuteronomy 31

24 After Moses finished writing in a book the words of this law from beginning to end,

25 he gave this command to the Levites who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD:

26 “**Take this Book of the Law** and place it beside the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God. There it will remain as a **witness against you**.”



2. Deuteronomy 28

58 If you do not carefully follow all the words of this law, which are written in this book, and do not revere this glorious and awesome name—the LORD your God—

59 the LORD will send fearful plagues on you and your descendants, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses.



2. Deuteronomy 28

60 He will bring on you all the diseases of Egypt that you dreaded, and they will cling to you.

61 The LORD will also bring on you every kind of sickness and disaster not recorded in this Book of the Law, until you are destroyed.



3. Deuteronomy 30

9 Then the LORD your God will make you most prosperous in all the work of your hands and in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your land. The LORD will again delight in you and make you prosperous, just as he delighted in your ancestors,

10 if you obey the LORD your God and keep his commands and decrees that are written in this Book of the Law and turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.



3. Deuteronomy 30

15 See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction.

16 For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.



3. Deuteronomy 30

17 But if your heart turns away and you are not obedient, and if you are drawn away to bow down to other gods and worship them,

18 I declare to you this day that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live long in the land you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.



3. Deuteronomy 30

19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live

20 and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.



4. Joshua 1

8 Keep this **Book of the Law** always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.



5. Galatians 3

10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”



The two books are the Book of the Law and the Book of Life. The author of the Book of Revelation need not specify what was the first book because it is already understood from the scripture.



Every reference to THE BOOK means the Book of the Law. Therefore, the Book of the Law is the basis of God's moral judgment upon which each individual is judged. The name of the righteous – the saved - is then written in the Book of Life.



Summation



Is your name written in the Book of Life? To the vast majority, the answer is probably no. How then do you know if Christ has written your name into this important Book of Life?



1. Open the Book of the Law to see if you walk according to its precepts.
2. Repent of your sins, be baptized and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
3. Stop sinning and live according to the spirit.
Romans 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live.
4. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted to you—guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit who lives in us. 2 Timothy 1:14



I know of a partial list of names in the Book of Life. Hebrews 11 contains this partial list. These are God's heroes and their names are written in the Book of Life.



Hebrews 11

4 By faith Abel brought God a better offering than Cain did. By faith he was commended as righteous, when God spoke well of his offerings.

5 By faith Enoch was taken from this life, so that he did not experience death: “He could not be found, because God had taken him away.” For before he was taken, he was commended as one who pleased God.



Hebrews 11

7 By faith Noah, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family.

8 By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.



Hebrews 11

11 And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise.



Hebrews 11

20 By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau in regard to their future.

21 By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of Joseph's sons, and worshiped as he leaned on the top of his staff.



Hebrews 11

22 By faith Joseph, when his end was near, spoke about the exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and gave instructions concerning the burial of his bones.

23 By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be known as the son of Pharaoh's daughter.



Hebrews 11

31 By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient.

32 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets,



Hebrews 11

33 who through faith conquered kingdoms,
administered justice, and gained what was promised;
who shut the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the
edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to
strength; and who became powerful in battle and
routed foreign armies.



Hebrews 11

35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again. There were others who were tortured, refusing to be released so that they might gain an even better resurrection.

36 Some faced jeers and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.



Hebrews 11

37 They were put to death by stoning; they were sawed in two; they were killed by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated—

38 the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, living in caves and in holes in the ground.



Hebrews 11

39 These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised,
40 since God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.



I have another partial list of twelve in Luke 6

13 When morning came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them, whom he also designated apostles:

14 Simon (whom he named Peter), his brother Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew,

15 Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Simon who was called the Zealot,

16 Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor.

(except for Judas Iscariot)



And another set in Acts 1

23 So they nominated two men: Joseph called Barsabbas (also known as Justus) and Matthias.

24 Then they prayed, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which of these two you have chosen

25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs.”

26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.



Acts 6:5

“This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.”



Your name, our names, can be included in this list of names written in the Lamb's Book of Life. In fact, it is imperative that we endeavor to have our names written therein.

So knowing this, what are we suppose to do?



2 Timothy 1

6 For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame** the gift of God, **which is in you** through the laying on of my hands.

7 For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but **gives us power**, love and self-discipline.



2 Timothy 1

8 So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God.

9 He has saved us and called us to a holy life.



Strive to belong to the church of the firstborn that your names may be written in heaven in the Lamb's Book of Life. So, that we may enter into the Holy City – the abode of the righteous and be with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ forever and ever.



Revelation 21

10 And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

11 It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.



Revelation 21

22 I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

23 The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.



Revelation 21

24 The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

25 On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there.



Revelation 21

26 The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.

27 Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the **Lamb's book of life**.



Jesus said: Rejoice for your names are written in
heaven!

I pray that your names be written down in the
Lamb's Book of Life.



END

