

The Lamb's Book of Life

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Luke 10:17-20 "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. **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."

Jesus sent out seventy-two chosen disciples in pairs with a specific mission, they were totally separate from the twelve apostles. They were told to preach in every town that Jesus was to enter to prepare it for him. When they returned they marvelled that even demons submitted to them in the name of Jesus. But Jesus tells them to rejoice even more because their names are written in heaven. What purpose is there in their names being written in heaven? The apostle Paul mentions something similar.

Philippians 4:1-3 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends! **2** I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. **3** Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Paul mentions the 'book of life' in whose names are written all those who are followers of Christ and who labour for the cause of the gospel. This book of life was also mentioned by God himself when he was talking to Moses on Mt. Sinai. Israel had just broken the covenant by worshipping a golden calf at Mt Sinai. The next day Moses intercedes with God on behalf of Israel.

Exodus 32:30-34 "The next day Moses said to the people, "You have committed a great sin. But now I will go up to the Lord; perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." **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. **34** Now go, lead the people to the place I spoke of, and my angel will go before you. However, when the time comes for me to punish, I will punish them for their sin."

Interesting that Moses mentions a book that God has written. Moses desires to be a substitute for the sin of Israel by taking their punishment for them. God refuses his request and says that the ones who sin against God are the ones who will have their names blotted out of the book. This indicates that a person who was once a saved person can lose that salvation by sinning against God.

In the New Testament the Apostle John also mentions the book of Life in the context of those who worship the antichrist.

Revelation 13:5-8 "The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. **6** It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. **7** It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them. And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. **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."

Those who worship the beast will not have their names in the Lamb's book of life. This would indicate that to worship the beast is to sin against God.

Daniel 7:9-14 "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. **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. **11** "Then I continued to watch because of the boastful words the horn was speaking. I kept looking until the beast was slain and its body destroyed and thrown into the blazing fire. **12** (The other beasts had been stripped of their

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authority, but were allowed to live for a period of time.) 13“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”

On the great judgement day as pictured here we are shown the court room in heaven opened. God the Father -the Ancient of Days himself is presiding. It is interesting that as soon as the court is seated the books are opened. These books must be of solemn importance to be mentioned so prominently. In the book of Revelation John sees the great judgement taking place and also mentions some books that figure prominently in the court room.

The Judgment of the Dead Revelation 20:11-15 “Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. 12And 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. 13The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. 14Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. 15 Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.”

The books mentioned are separate from the book of life. The dead are judged from these books. In them is recorded everything that they have ever done whether good or evil. The sentence handed out to each person is according to what they had done as recorded in the books. In contrast to these books is the Lamb's book of life which contains the names of God's people. Those who have their names in the book of life are saved while those whose names are not in the book of life are thrown into the lake of fire. How important it is to have our names remain in the Lamb's book of life. Those people will enter the eternal city of God.

Revelation 21:21-27 “The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass. 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. 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. 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.”

Eternal life in the eternal city, the New Jerusalem, is only given to those whose names are in the Lamb's book of life. People who do what is shameful or deceitful will not have their names in the book. All human beings have one of two destinies, either destruction or glory. Let us then make every effort to have our names in the Lamb's book of life.