

Names Written in The Book of Life

Yirmeyah Tan, 15 March 2026

Shalom.

Today we are going to explore the topic of the “**Names Written in The Book of Life**” and the implications of being included or excluded from The Book of Life.

Let me begin by quoting from **Rev 20:11-15** –

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.*

Rev 20:12 *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, according to their works.*

Rev 20:13 *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.*

Rev 20:14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Rev 20:15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

We will talk about what the Bible calls the Lamb's Book of Life. Refer to **Rev 13:8** -

I. Lamb's Book of Life

Rev 13:8 *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

A second reference to the Lamb's Book of Life is in **Rev 21:27** –

Rev 21:27 *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**.*

Is the Lamb's Book of Life the same as The Book of Life as described elsewhere in the Bible? The answer is yes because the Book of Life belongs to Yeshua and Yeshua is the Lamb of God. How do we know this? We turn to **Joh 10:27-29** –

a. The Book of Life belongs to Yeshua, the Lamb of God:

Joh 10:27 *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:*

Joh 10:28 *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.*

Joh 10:29 *My Father, which gave them Me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of My Father's Hand.*

The implication of these verses is very clear: those whose names are found written in the Book of Life are also described as the sheep of Yeshua. In John 10:29, Yeshua says that these sheep have all been given to His Hands by His Father, our Heavenly Father.

Next, those whose names are in the Book of Life are ordained or appointed to eternal life. We saw John 10:28 where Yeshua said that He will give eternal life to His sheep namely, to those whose names are found in the Book of Life. Let's look at **Act 13:48** –

II. Ordained To Eternal Life

Act 13:48 *And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and glorified the Word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.*

Note: this verse suggests that only those whose names were written in the Book of Life from before the foundation of the world can come to Christ.

This is an astounding discovery. Most of us think that when we come to Christ, it is of our own decision that settles the matter but, in fact, it is all appointed or ordained from before the foundation of the world.

Next, we need to settle the question - if indeed Yahweh only chose certain names to be included in His Book of Life so what about the rest who are excluded? Is this unfair of Yahweh to do? How do we answer this question? The answer lies in God's sovereignty. Let me show you what the Bible says about God making vessels of mercy and wrath. We will look at **Rom 9:21-24** –

III. God's Sovereignty: Vessels of Mercy & Wrath

Rom 9:21 *Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?*

Rom 9:22 *What if God, willing to shew His wrath, and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:*

Rom 9:23 *And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the **vessels of mercy**, which He had afore prepared unto glory,*

Rom 9:24 *Even us, whom He hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?*

Yahweh is the potter and we are the clay. If you are a potter and you got a lump of clay, you can choose to make whatever vessels you want. In the ancient days, you could make vessels for olive oil or water [vessels of honour]. You could make vessels to contain the excretions, urine and so on in the night [vessels of dishonour]. Likewise, Yahweh as the potter and we as the clay: He can make vessels of mercy and wrath as it pleases Him. Should we question Him? He is God, He is Sovereign.

Next, those whose names are written in The Book of Life are also described in the Bible as the elect and those who are predestined to salvation in Yeshua our Messiah. Let's look at **Eph 1:3-6** –

IV. Elect & Predestined

- a. **Only the elect who were predestined to adoption as children of God have their names written in the Book of Life**

Eph 1:3 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:*

*Eph 1:4 According as he hath **chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:***

*Eph 1:5 Having **predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,***

Eph 1:6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Let's examine His own purpose and grace that is referred to. What does it mean? We will turn to **2Ti 1:9-10** –

b. His Own Purpose & Grace

2Ti 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

2Ti 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, Who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

There is a lot of theological discussion about the foreknowledge of God. Did God write our names in the Book of Life? He knew beforehand and had foreknowledge how we would respond to His son Yeshua, how we would allow salvation to be worked out in our lives and how we will walk all our lives after coming to Christ. Did He put our names in the Book of Life, contingent on our correct decisions? These verses tell us it is according to His own purpose, grace and sovereignty. He has no obligation to save anybody from the fallen race of Adam and Eve. He has chosen some to be saved: those whose names are written in the Book of Life and those are called the elect and pre-destinated to salvation. Salvation is not just justification, believing that Yeshua died for our sins but it is much more than that. Let's turn to what Paul wrote in **2Th 2:13-14** –

c. Chosen for salvation through sanctification of the Holy Spirit and belief in the truth

2Th 2:13 But we are bound to give thanks always 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:**

2Th 2:14 Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sanctification is a doctrine that is hardly taught in most churches. They simply teach about justification, what Yeshua did for us on the cross, how He paid the penalty for our sins on the cross and then rose from the dead. But He did much more than that: we begin with justification, but, before we become adopted as His sons and daughters and go into the glorified state of glorification, there is an intermediate step called sanctification. Sanctification is separation from the world, with its lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and the pride of life. We must put the world aside and live unto Yahweh. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of our minds. The word 'transform' is a very important word: this is done through the power of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit also enables us to believe in the truth.

Many preachers take off wrongly from the verse in John 1:17 which says, “**For the law was given by Moses *but* grace and truth came by Yeshua.**”

I have pointed out in a previous video that the word ‘but’ does not exist in the Greek and in all the translations of the Bible. They put the word ‘*but*’ in italics and the proper rendering of the verse is “**For the law came through Moses, grace and truth came by Yeshua.**” Most preachers grab grace and preach it wrongly as an unmerited favour of God. This is not all! Grace is the power of God exercised through the Holy Spirit, influencing us to walk in Holiness before Yahweh and helping us to overcome the flesh so that we might live forever more. Walking in the Spirit as opposed to walking in the flesh: that is grace.

What about truth? Have you heard many preachers teaching and preaching about truth? What is truth? Pontius Pilate asked the question, and most Christians have no clue about it. What are we supposed to do with it? The Bible says we are supposed to believe and walk in the truth. God has chosen us from the beginning to salvation through sanctification of the spirit and belief of the truth.

d. Only some children are called before birth, like Jacob. Others like Esau are condemned

Rom 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, 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;)

Rom 9:12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger.

Rom 9:13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

This account should make us think about the salvation of young children. Most people think that children are innocent and they automatically go to heaven if they should die. They misinterpret the verse where Yeshua said: ‘suffer little children to come to Me for to such belongs the Kingdom of Heaven’. They conclude that every child that dies before the age of reason automatically go to heaven.

Look at the example of Esau and Jacob: you will have an inkling of what the Bible has in mind. Not all children will be saved. In the case of Esau, what did he do? He was not yet born but he was rejected. What about the children of the great flood that destroyed men, women and children, apart from the eight people saved in the ark. Children are regarded by men as innocent- so why were they not saved? In Sodom and Gomorrah, everyone [men, woman and children] were destroyed except for Lot and his two daughters who were brought out of Sodom and Gomorrah. Remember Joshua: he gave instructions from Yahweh to the tribes of Israel that they were to exterminate all who lived there, all the seven tribes who lived there [men, women, children and cattle] when they entered the promised land. What do you make of that?

It leaves a chilling thought that, at the rapture, one or both parents might be raptured and the children left behind.

e. Only the elect raptured

Mat 24:31 And He shall send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

We have seen that the elect are those whose names are written in the Book of Life. Let's find further evidence that **only the elect will be raptured** in **1Th 4:15-17** –

f. Only Those Alive [in the Book of Life] raptured

1Th 4:15 *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

1Th 4:16 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

1Th 4:17 *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*

Note: Thayer's definition of "alive" [Gr 2198]: those who are active, blessed, endless in the kingdom of God

Those who are alive and remain The word 'alive' is repeated twice in v15 and v17. Why doesn't scripture simply say those who remain or those who are still alive and not dead? Thayer explains that those who are alive and remain means those who are alive in the spirit, those who are the elect of God, those whose names are written in the book of life because only those have eternal life.

Next, I want to refer to a book called The Book of Remembrance in **Mal 3:16-17** –

V. Book of Remembrance

Mal 3:16 *Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name.*

Mal 3:17 *And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.*

Note: those who fear [revere] YAHWEH, have a poor and contrite spirit and who tremble at His Word will be remembered as His jewels in His Book [same as Book of Life or another Book?]

Please note the reference is to those who fear [revere] Yahweh: who honour Him, who spoke about His Name, thought about His Name, meditated on His Name and, obviously, revere His Name.

The Book of Remembrance is also a very special book: it refers to the jewels of Yahweh. Jewels are very precious things.

VI. Paul Knew Who Were in The Book of Life

Php 4:2 *I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.*

Php 4:3 *And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers, **whose names are in the book of life.***

Question: how did he know?

Next, we are going to talk about what Yeshua said about names written in Heaven. Refer to **Luk 10:17-20** –

VII. Names Written in Heaven [Book of Life]

Luk 10:17 And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.

Luk 10:18 And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven.

Luk 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

*Luk 10:20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; **but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.***

From these important verses, we can conclude that if our names were written in the Book of Life before the foundation of the world, we can assume that it is also written in Heaven.

Let's look at another verse that confirms this in **Heb 12:22-24** –

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,

*Heb 12:23 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,*

Heb 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

The General Assembly and Church of the firstborn whose names are written in Heaven. Those are the names of those written in the Book of Life.

Next, which is very important and chilling to learn: what are the characteristics of those names are in The Book of Life?

VIII. Characteristics of Those Named in Book of Life

a. No sin unto death

*1Jn 5:16 If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is **a sin unto death**: I do not say that he shall pray for it.*

*1Jn 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is **a sin not unto death**.*

An example of sin unto death is the sin of Ananas and Safira. Another example of sin unto death is the two sons of Aaron who burned incense unlawfully. This was what Yahweh said to Moses when Moses were interceding for the children of Israel after the plague broke out among them. He beseeched the Lord to forgive them saying, if not, blot my name out of Your Book. Yahweh's response was simply that those who sinned against Him will He blot out of The Book of Life. Now, obviously the sin must be a sin like what John described in 1John 5:16 as sin unto death. A sin so grave there is no possibility of repentance and forgiveness. We have to be careful about the sins that we commit. We do fall into sin because of weakness of the flesh but let none of us deliberately sin against Yahweh like King Saul. King Saul was a stubborn and very rebellious man: he despised the Word of Yahweh and his obedience to God was often delayed and partial.

Those whose names remain in the Book of Life are also described as Overcomers in **Rev 21:7** –

b. Overcomers

Rev 21:7 *He that overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.*

The 3rd point, those whose names remain do not add or subtract Yahweh's word. We look at **Rev 22:19** –

c. Do not add or subtract from YAHWEH's Word

Rev 22:19 *And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the Book of Life, and out of the Holy City, and from the things which are written in this book.*

We have to be careful on how we deal with God's word. We have to approach the Bible in fear and trembling, honouring the Word of Yahweh and carefully examining His word. Just as Paul said to Timothy, we must preach the whole counsel of God, value His Word, weigh His Words properly and compare verse with verse.

The 4th point, those whose are obedient in **Rev 22:14** –

d. Obedient

Rev 22:14 *Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

We are not saved by works of obedience, but we are saved that we might learn to obey Yahweh. We are saved by grace through faith in what Yeshua did on the cross. When we come to Christ, we get a new nature and a new man created in us, with the Holy Spirit to help us to walk in obedience to Yahweh's word however imperfectly. That is what the obedience refers to here.

The 5th point, those whose names are in the Lamb's Book of Life are those that do not defile themselves, are not liars, are not unclean and do not practice abominations in **Rev 21:27** –

e. Not defiled, liars or unclean

Rev 21:27 *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.*

Next, what about the names that were blotted out? I mentioned the sin unto death and I made passing reference to Exodus. Let me give you the explicit verses in **Exo 32:31-33** –

IX. Names Blotted Out

a. Sin Unto Death

Exo 32:31 *And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Oh, this people have sinned a great sin and have made them gods of gold.*

Exo 32:32 *Yet now, if Thou wilt forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of Thy Book which thou hast written.*

Exo 32:33 *And the LORD said unto Moses, **whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of My Book.***

Now, the word sin here does not refer to sins in the moment of weakness, weakness of the flesh due to temptation but, rather, deliberate and prolonged kind of sin and sinfulness. Think of King Saul and his life and his behaviour as compared with King David. Truth be told, King David committed terrible sins: adultery, lying, cheating and murdering Bathsheba's husband among other things. He was in total darkness until Nathan was sent to him and, by the grace of Yahweh he could repent. I believe that we should never sin such that we can never repent and turn back to Yahweh. Otherwise, if we sin without being able to turn back, our names will be blotted out from the Book of Life.

Next, wicked people in **Psa 69:27-28** –

b. Wicked people

Psa 69:27 *Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness.*

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

These verses raise the issue: do the wicked or everybody in the world have their names in the Book of Life and subsequently taken out because of wickedness? Or only the elect and the chosen will be inscribed in the Book but some will be blotted out later because they turn out to be wicked. From other verses that were shown or quoted this seems to be the case. Only those who are chosen for salvation, chosen to be righteous and so on to enter the kingdom of heaven will have their names inscribed. However, it does not mean that once someone's name is there, they cannot fall away. The Bible tells us there is a possibility.

We mentioned earlier about overcomers being in the Book of Life but failure to overcome can result in names being taken out from the Book of Life. We find this in **Rev 3:5** –

c. Failure to Overcome

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.*

We are expected to be overcomers by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Next, those who add to or subtract from the Word of God wrongly or distort the Word of God. Refer to **Rev 22:18-19** –

d. Adding to or subtracting from the Word of God [human interpretation]

Rev 22:18 *For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:*

Rev 22:19 *And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, **God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.***

This warning squares with the warning in Deuteronomy not to add or subtract to Yahweh's word.

Now, our final question is what will happen to those whose names are not found in the Book of Life? Let's look at **Rev 13:7-8** –

X. Not In the Book of Life

a. Will worship the Beast [Antichrist]

Rev 13:7 *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

Rev 13:8 *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Only those whose names are not in the Book of Life are the ones who will run to worship the Antichrist when he appears.

Another related point: turn to **Rev 17:8** –

b. Shall admire the Antichrist: the Greek word ‘thaumazō’ is better translated as admire rather wonder

Rev 17:8 *The beast that thou sawest was and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and **they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.***

When the Antichrist appears, the people whose names are not written in the Book of Life will admire him and obviously he will be a figure that people would revere. Look at **Rev 20:12** –

Rev 20:12 *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, according to their works.*

Books containing the works: the record of all the evil things that people do will be opened at the Great White Throne Judgment. Then the Book of Life will also be opened so those who did wicked things will not find their names in the Book of Life will be judged.

How will they be judged? By being cast into the lake of fire. The last 3 verses will conclude this message. Refer to **Rev 20:13-15** –

c. Cast into the Lake of Fire

Rev 20:13 *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.*

Rev 20:14 *And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.*

Rev 20:15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

My friends, take heed and walk carefully with the Holy Spirit.

Shalom.