

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

January 6, 2009

The Book of Life
Mini Book
Part 1

Published For:

HANDS FOR JESUS
P.O. BOX 18655
MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

Visit our Web sites at:
www.handsforjesus.cc
www.handsforjesus.org

2008 by Merle E. Koepke
All Rights Reserved

Introduction

What does the Bible say about “The Book of Life?” Each of the following verses speak of “The Book of Life.”

Philippians 4:3 says **“And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.”**

Revelation 3:5 says, **“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.”**

Revelation 13:8 says, **“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.”**

Revelation 17:8 says, **“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.”**

Revelation 20:12 says, **“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.”**

Revelation 20:15 says, **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”**

Revelation 21:27 says, **“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.”**

Revelation 22:19 says, **“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.”**

Jesus made a statement concerning “The Book of Life.” In Luke 10:20, Jesus said to His disciples, **“...rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.”** Where are their names written in heaven? They are written in “The Book of Life.”

In reading these verses, remember “the Blood of Jesus,” which cleanses us from all our sins, **“when we repent and return to God.”** The Blood of Jesus is the seal of an everlasting covenant with God (Heb. 13:20). We should always, repent and confess our sins, and the LORD will keep our names written in “The Book of Life.”

What does God say about The Book of Life?

In Revelation 13:8 it says, **“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.”** This is talking about those who worship what is called “the dragon,” which gave power to “the beast,” therefore, they also worshiped “the beast” (Rev. 13:4).

Those who worship him, it says their **“...names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** Why not? Anyone who does not worship the LORD our God, and worships someone else, their names will not be found in “The Book of Life.” It is that simple. We cannot worship another god, or another object, or another being and keep our names written in “The Book of Life.”

Notice something here, it does not say that their names **“were” “...not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** It says **“are not written.”** Are not and were not are two different things. They could have been **“...written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** It could be that their names were taken out of “The Book of Life,” after they decided to worship the beast, or the dragon.

People on this earth have a choice as to who they will worship? Will they worship the LORD our God, or will they worship someone else, or something else? The choice is theirs. God will not force anyone to worship the LORD our God.

Some Christians do not think their names can be taken out of “The Book of Life.” But, look what it says in Revelation 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.”**

If we study what the Apostle John was told to write to the church at Sardis, we will notice something about the names of those who are written in “The Book of Life.” In Revelation 3:4, it says, **“Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.”**

It says, **“...which have not defiled their garments...”** What is this talking about? There are many different ideas of what the LORD was speaking of in this verse. But, all things considered, it would mean they kept themselves from walking in darkness, and continued to walk in the Light (1 John 1:5-7).

It is very important for Christians to understand, that when they are not walking in the Light, they are out of fellowship with the Father and the Son. Being out of fellowship with God, Satan has control in certain areas of our lives.

Christians must not have fellowship with the works of darkness. Christians must walk in the Light to keep themselves cleansed from sin by the Blood of the Lamb. In 1 John 1:7, it tells says, **“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”**

The only way to keep from defiling our garments is to **“walk in the Light.”** For, **“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us”** (1 John 1:8). Those who are not walking in the Light, their garments are not cleansed by the Blood of the Lamb. Understand, **“walking after the flesh”** is the same as walking in darkness. Christians must **“walk after the**

Spirit,” and not after the flesh (Rom. 8:1-8).

Notice, there were only **“a few”** in Sardis, that did not defile their garments (by walking in darkness). Not everyone in the Church of Sardis keep their garments clean. Only **“a few”** were found in that Church who **“overcame”** the temptations of this world, and the god of this world. Only **“a few!”** Isn’t that sad that only **“a few”** had overcome the wicked one?

What about the rest of the members of the Church at Sardis? What happened to them? Are their names still written in **“The Book of Life?”** It does not say they are. But what it does say is that, **“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”** (Rev. 3:5).

Are Christians today, keeping their names written in **“The Book of Life?”** Are they overcoming the world, and the god of this world? Or, are they just waiting for Jesus to return and take them to heaven?

Look what it says in Revelation 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.”** It says, **“...whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world...”**

We must be careful how we read this verse of Scripture. It is saying, **“their names are not in”** **“The Book of Life?”** Or is it saying, **“their names are no longer in”** **“The Book of Life?”** Is it saying that everyone’s name was written in **“The Book of Life”** from the foundation of the world? Or, is it saying, our names can be, or are written in **“The Book of Life”** when we become born again into the family of God? Could it be saying that God started writing names in **“The Book of Life”** from the foundation of the world? Or were the names written in **“The Book of Life”** already before the foundation of the world?

It is a matter of understanding the complete Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation. Not just taking one verse from the Bible and saying it means what some say it means.

Look what it says in Revelation 22:19. It says, **“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.”** According to this, someone’s name can be taken out of **“The Book of Life.”** That means, it was in **“The Book of Life”** at one time, but then it was taken out of **“The Book of Life”** because of what they did. It was not God’s idea for them to **“...take away from the words of the book of this prophecy...”** It was their own doing. It was something they did of their own. God did not tell them to do it. They did it, actually against the will of God.

God is not willing that anyone should perish. But, God will not stop them if they willingly go against what God has told them in His Word.

God has made us **“a great and precious promise”** concerning **“The Book of Life.”** That is, whosoever’s name is written in **“The Book of Life.”** **“on that last day,”** they shall enter into heaven forever and ever. In Revelation 20:15, it says, **“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”** What about those whose names are written in **“The Book of Life?”** All indications are that **“they will enter into heaven”** with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

In Revelation 21:7,8 it says, **“He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son...But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”**

Notice in Revelation 21:7 it mentions **“He that overcometh...”** This is the second time it mentions about “those who overcome.” It was also mentioned in Revelation 3:5. Therefore, it must be important that we overcome in this life!

Then there is another “warning” in Revelation 21:27. It says, **“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.”**

It seems to be very important that Christians make sure their names stay written in “The Book of Life.” Do not get involved in anything that could cause us to have our names taken out of “The Book of Life.”

What Some say About Eternal Life

There are some Christians teaching “once saved, always saved.” That sure seems to be a great idea. It seems to be like “a free ride.” Just get saved and wait until you go to heaven to be with Jesus forever. For many of them, all they ask someone to do is “say a sinners prayer” and they will become saved.

They even use what they call “The Roman Road to Salvation,” taking a few Scripture verses out of the Book of Romans. Isn’t it interesting that they think “that is the way to be saved?”

What happened before the Book of Romans was written? How did people get saved before the Book of Romans was written? There could be something wrong about that teaching.

Is that true? Is that what God says? Or, is there more to becoming a Child of God and entering into heaven, than just saying a sinners prayer? We should study the Scriptures, and see what it truly says?

If we study the Scriptures from Genesis through Revelation we will find that there are two categories of people among those whom God works with. There are those who “are saved,” all throughout the Bible from Genesis through Revelation.

Then there are those in the New Testament that are “born again” “of the Word and the Spirit” (John 3:6,7; 1 Peter 1:23).

Saved and born again are two different experiences. When a person becomes born again, they become a true child of God. God becomes their true Father, and they become His true children. This makes them “related” to God by a new birth. Therefore, establishing “relationship” to God.

When a person is saved, they are delivered or protected from some condition or circumstance in their lives. Saved means “delivered or protected.” This results in “fellowship” with God. Being in fellowship with God, God “delivers and/or protects” those who are in fellowship with Him. Those who are not in fellowship with God are still under the control of the Devil, and his demons.

The Bible tells us that Noah and his family were saved. We see this spoken of in 1 Peter 3:20, where it says, “**...God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.**” By this it tells us that Noah and his family were saved during the flood. All throughout the Old Testament it talks about people being saved. Therefore, all throughout the Bible people could be saved.

But it never talks about people being born again in the Old Testament. Actually, in the New Testament it says that Jesus was “the firstborn” from the dead (Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:15,18). That means that people on earth were not born again before Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary. They were saved, but not born again.

When a person is born again, they are born into the body of Christ, and become members of His body here on earth. Jesus did not become “Christ” until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit, following His baptism by John the Baptist.

The name “Christ” and the word “Christ” mean, “the anointed One.” Jesus did not become the anointed One until He received the Holy Spirit following His baptism in water by John the Baptist. Therefore, no one could become “in Christ” until after Jesus became “Christ.”

Being “in Christ” is what makes a person a child of God. People are born again “in Christ.” Being born again, they are new creatures “in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:17). That is what establishes

“relationship to God.” God becomes their true Father, being they are born again “in Christ.” This is a new birth, a new life, a new creation of man.

Notice something interesting in Acts 2:47, where it says, “**...And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**” These people were added to the church, which is the LORD’s body. Yet, they still needed to be saved. In other words, they were born again and became “related” to God by a new birth in the spirit. But, they were not saved. Which is “delivered and protected.” They still needed to be delivered and protected from the works of the Devil.

This deliverance and protection comes by having fellowship with God. In 1 John 1:5-7 it says, “**This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all...If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:...But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**”

It is this “fellowship” with the Father and the Son that keeps us from having our names taken out of “The Book of Life” (Rev. 3:5). O, how important it is that Christians would study their Bibles, and know what it truly says, rather than just going by what some men teach.

There are two very important positions we must obtain and maintain in this life. We must be born again as Jesus said in John 3:6,7, “**That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit...Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**” This is the first, and most important position we must receive and maintain in our lives. This is “relationship” with God the Father.

The second position we must receive and maintain is our “salvation” which is “fellowship” with God the Father and the Son. If we study the Epistle of 1 John completely from Chapter One through Chapter Five, we will understand what it takes to maintain our salvation (fellowship) with God.

In Luke 15:11-32, Jesus said, “**A certain man had two sons...**” (Luke 15:11). In this story, it was said “**...the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living**” (Luke 15:13).

This could be similar to Christians who, having an inheritance in the kingdom of God, but then using what they have to go back into the world and enjoy all the world has to offer. We are cautioned about this in 1 John 2:15-17.

After this son had wasted all that he had, he thought of what it was like in his father’s house. He thought about, how that his father’s servants had it better than he did. It says, “**And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger!...I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee...And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.**”

After this son returned to his father’s house, his father said to his other son, “**For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found**” (Luke 15:24). If Christians do not maintain their “fellowship” with the Father and the Son, where will they be? Where would this son have been, had he died before he returned to his father’s house?

God loves His Children. But, each one of us must decide for ourselves. Will we maintain our “relationship and fellowship” with the Father and the Son? Will we endure unto the end. Jesus said

in Matthew 24:11-13, **“And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many...And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold...But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.”**

There are many teachings of men that could cause us to be deceived. It is very important that we maintain our “relationship and fellowship” with God the Father and the Son until the end.

We must be careful, not to be taken in by those who love the world and the things of this world. In 1 John 2:15-17 it says, **“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him...For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world...And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”**

Do we truly want to **“abide for ever”**? Do we truly want to spend eternity in heaven? Are we willing to do what the Scriptures tell us to do?

There are all sorts of ways the Devil uses to get Christians away from the total plan of God for their lives. In Mark 4:14-20 it tells us of some of the ways the Devil tries to keep us from being fruitful in the kingdom of God. It says **“And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts”** (Mark 4:15).

Then Mark 4:16,17 says, **“And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness...And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word's sake, immediately they are offended.”**

When the Devil cannot get Christians with the first two tries, then it says, **“And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word...And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful”** (Mark 4:18,19).

Here, Jesus said, Christians are tempted with **“...the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things...”** O, how the Devil tries everything he can to get Christians away from the plan of God, and into his control.

The Devil used **“...the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life...”** to get Eve to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. If the Devil tried it on Eve, what are the chances he will also try the same upon Christians today?

The Devil is still the same Devil. He has not changed. He is still out to destroy everyone he can. He wants to get every person he can to spend eternity with him in hell.

Wouldn't it be better to do what the Scriptures tell us to do and then spend eternity with the Father and the Son in heaven?

In Romans 6:16 it says, **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”** Don't Christians know that if they serve the Devil he will become their master? Why not make a final decision and follow Jesus in everything He told us to do? Why give up a place in heaven for the things of this world?

The things of this world are only temporal. The things of heaven are eternal (2 Cor. 4:18). Which will you choose? Who will you serve? It is all up to you. God already did all He could to

make it possible for you to serve Jesus Christ and reject anything that Satan has to offer. Say No to Satan (the Devil), and say Yes to Jesus!

Once you have received Jesus Christ as your LORD and Savior, continue in Him and in His Word until we enter into heaven. It is very important that we “overcome” all the works of the Devil in our lives. It is very important that we keep our names written in “The Book of Life,” until we get into heaven for eternity.

“The Book of Life” has written in it the names of everyone who will enter into heaven on that last day. If your name is not written in “The Book of Life,” at this time, it can be.

Just ask Jesus Christ to come into your life and be your LORD and Savior. Say a prayer similar to the following. But be sure you mean what you say. Therefore, from your heart pray,

“LORD Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died on the Cross of Calvary for me. I believe You rose again from the dead, and are now at the right-hand of God the Father in heaven.

LORD Jesus, forgive me of my sins and receive me into Your kingdom. I commit my life to You, LORD Jesus. I will serve You all the days of my life. I receive You now, as my LORD and Savior. Thank You Jesus!”

We Must Overcome

As we can see from Revelation 3:4,5, it is important that Christians “**overcome**” the works of the enemy. The way to overcome the enemy is by the written Word of God, the power of the Holy Spirit, and the Blood of Jesus (1 John 5:8).

When a Christian sees that they have missed it, and are not overcoming the Devil, the first thing they should do is remember the Blood of Jesus, which is the seal of an everlasting covenant with God. The Blood of Jesus will cleanse us, if we repent and turn from going in the wrong direction, and confess to God that we have missed it.

Jesus said, “**...that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations...**” (Luke 24:47). This is not just for those who are not born again. It is for everyone who has been taken in the snare of the Devil.

In Hebrews 13:20 it says, “**Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.**”

The Blood of Jesus is the seal of an everlasting covenant. God loves His Children. But, God cannot have fellowship with the works of darkness. Therefore, we must repent, turn from all works of the enemy and walk in the Light as God is in the Light.

We must restore our “fellowship” with the Father and the Son. This is explained in 1 John 1:5-7, saying, “**This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all...If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth...But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.**”

God is love, and God does not desire that any of His Children should have their names taken out of “The Book of Life.” Therefore, the Blood of Jesus is the seal of an everlasting covenant. Whosoever will turn back to God, He will receive them and cleanse them from all sin.

Never turn away from God. Always turn to God and receive the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome the enemy in every area of your life. God is for us, not against us. That is why God sent Jesus into this world, to set us free of the works of the Devil.

The reason for Jesus having the Apostle John write to the seven Churches in Revelation, Chapters Two and Three, is to bring their attention to things that needed to be repented of and be forgiven and restored to “fellowship” with the Father and the Son.

Therefore, always turn to God, not away from God when you see you have gone in the wrong direction. Of ourselves we cannot overcome the Devil. We must overcome the Devil “**...by the Blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony**” (Rev. 12:11).

O, how much God loves His Children. God has done all He can to set us free and keep us free of all the works of the enemy. God has given us His Word in saying, “**...whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved**” (Acts 2:21, Rom. 10:13). Whosoever means “anyone and everyone,” including those who are His Children who have not overcome the Devil in their lives.

As long as we have life in our bodies, we have the full assurance of God, that He will forgive us and restore us when we repent and turn back to Him.

For more information and a better understanding of the Written Word of God concerning our eternal life, get **Part 2** of the book, “**The BOOK of LIFE,**” also get other books, such as “**The**

Curse of the Law,” “The Snare of the Devil,” “Why this World,” “It is FINISHED,” etc.
Download all these free Books from our Web sites at:
www.handsforjesus.cc www.handsforjesus.org