

## A PHYSICAL Registry

(Book of Living)

## Book of Living Versus Book of Life

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## A SPIRITUAL Registry

(Book of Life and Lamb's Book)

### Psalm 69:28

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

This refers to a physical registry of all those who are born. Both the saved and unsaved (all humanity) are part of this roster. In Psalm 69:28 David wanted his enemies to be killed and no longer appear in the physical registry.

Moses wanted to die in Israel's place and be blotted out of this physical registry.

### Exodus 32:32-33

"Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of **thy book** which thou hast written. And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, **him will I blot out of my book.**"

### David also declared in Psalm 139:16:

"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and **in thy book** (the book of the living) all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."

Names are added to this book at the time of conception and are obviously removed when a person dies.

Confusion occurs in God's prophetic Word when this book (**The Book of the Living**), a roster consisting of physically born humanity is mixed and confused with another book mentioned in Revelation termed "**the Book of life**" (Rev. 13:8; 17:8). Many conclude the "**Lamb's book of life**" (Rev. 21:27) is the same book mentioned in the Old Testament. However, mixing these two books (scrolls) results in confusion between a physical roster of people that are alive on earth and a spiritual roster of people related to the End Times judgment (Rev. 20:12; 21:27).

The best conclusion is to separate the "**Book of the Living**" (a roster of living people who possess physical life), which appears in the Old Testament, from "**The Book of Life**" and "**Lamb's Book of Life**" (a roster of redeemed people who are spiritually alive) which appears in the New Testament. Identifying these scrolls as *two different books* consisting of *two different types of life* (physical and spiritual) and *two classes of people* (those physically and spiritual alive) makes sense when interpreting God's Word.

The "Book of Life" and "Lamb's Book of Life" are the same Book mentioned in Revelation (compare Rev. 13:8 – "the Book of life of the Lamb" and Rev. 20:12 – "book of life" and Rev. 21:27 – "the Lamb's book of life"). The similarity in their name, inner relationship, and purpose proves they are the same book.

The names of *unsaved* people **NEVER** appear on the roster of the Book of Life since their names were **NEVER** written or recorded in this registry (Rev. 13:8; 17:8 – "whose names were **not written** in the book of life **from the foundation of the world**").

The teaching that the names of both the unsaved and saved appear together in Book of Life *until* the unbeliever's death or at the Great White Throne is incorrect. The assumption is made that the "**Book of Life**" (a different book consisting of the names of both saved and unsaved) somehow changes its name and turns into "**The Lamb's Book of Life**" consisting of only saved names at the end of time. This is because the *unsaved are allegedly removed* from the Book of Life and it becomes the Lamb's Book of Life. But these books are the same and this view creates confusion.

Revelation 13:8 and 17:8 teach that *unsaved* names **CANNOT** appear in the Book of Life, nor can they be **REMOVED** from this book since their names **NEVER** appeared in this book. Revelation 22:19 says God will take away the unbeliever's "**part**" (share in eternal life) - not remove his name out of the Book of Life.

Presumably, in juxtaposition (contrast) to what was stated (Rev. 13:8, 17:8), only the names of people who are *saved* while living on earth appear on this registry and they are written there from the foundation of the world (Eph. 1:3) in view of God's elective program that He has created (1 Pet. 2:9; Acts 15:14) from eternity past (Rom. 8:29-30).

During our lifetime, no names are **ADDED** to or **ERASED** from this registry. At the point of one's salvation a person *knows* that his name was written down from the foundation of the earth (Luke 10:20 – "your names are written in heaven" with Phil. 4:3 – "whose names are in the book of life").

From our earthly perspective there is a "new name written down in glory" but from God's perspective it was already there! The promise is given that a *saved person's name* will **NEVER** be removed from the registry of the Book of Life (Rev. 3:5) since it was already there from eternity past (Rom. 11:33).