

Doctrine of Book of Life

1. Eight times in the Authorized Version of the Bible (KJV) mention is made of The Book of life.
2. The word for book in the Hebrew is *seper*, and in the Greek, *biblos*.
3. The Hebrew word conveys much more than our English word, *book*. The term is used in the following ways.
 - Anything *written*, as a bill of sale or deed of purchase. *Jeremiah 32:12 And I gave the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, the son of Maaseiah, in the sight of Hanameel mine uncle's son, and in the presence of the witnesses that subscribed the book of the purchase, before all the Jews that sat in the court of the prison.*
 - A bill of accusation or an indictment. *Job 31:35 Oh that one would hear me! Behold, my desire is, that the Almighty would answer me, and that mine adversary had written a book.*
 - A certificate of divorce. *Deuteronomy 24:1 When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favour in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleanness in her: then let him write her a bill of divorcement, and give it in her hand, and send her out of his house. 2 And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife. 3 And if the latter husband hate her, and write her a bill of divorcement, and giveth it in her hand, and sendeth her out of his house; or if the latter husband die, which took her to be his wife;*
 - A letter. *2 Samuel 11:14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah.*
 - A volume. *Exodus 17:14 And the Lord said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.*
4. The phrase, "The Book of Life" itself is a figurative expression based on the ancient custom of keeping genealogical records.
5. Genealogical records were kept for a variety of reasons.
 - To distinguish social classes. *Nehemiah 7:5 And my God put into mine heart to gather together the nobles, and the rulers, and the people, that they might be reckoned by genealogy. And I found a register of the genealogy of them which came up at the first, and found written therein,*

- To establish who could serve as a priest. *Nehemiah 7:64 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but it was not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood.*
 - To register a citizen for the purpose of blessing or cursing. *Jeremiah 22:30 Thus saith the Lord, Write ye this man childless, a man that shall not prosper in his days: for no man of his seed shall prosper, sitting upon the throne of David, and ruling any more in Judah.*
 - To eliminate unworthy prophets. *Ezekiel 13:9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I am the Lord God.*
6. God is declared to have a record of all His creation, with particular emphasis on those who are under His special care and the object of His great love.
- *Philippians 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow-labourers, whose names are in the book of life.*
7. To have one's name take away from "the book of life" is to be severed from the divine favor and to incur an untimely and tragic death.
- Imprecatory Prayer. *Psalms 69:28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.*

Moses pleaded that he might die, rather than that Israel should be destroyed.

- Intercessory Prayer. *Exodus 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.*
8. In the New Testament "the book of life" refers to the record of the righteous that are to inherit eternal life.
- *Revelation 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.*
 - *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.*
 - *Revelation 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.*

9. The saved will not, indeed cannot be blotted out of the Book of Life for they are kept by the power of God unto salvation. They shall not only be preserved by Divine faithfulness but will persevere in faith through all the great tribulations of life.
- *1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
 - *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.*
10. In the Revelation mention is made of more than one “book” for we read “and the books were opened”.
- There is the “Book of Life. *Revelation 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.*
 - There is the “Book of Works”. *Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

Special Note.

Those who reject Jesus Christ as personal savior demanded to be judged on the basis of their works. God agrees to do this but to their own peril. Because their names are not written in the Book of Life and because no one can be saved by the works of the law, individuals who reject Christ shall be cast into the Lake of Fire. We must meet God on God’s terms. It is the way of the Cross which leads to eternal life and a home in heaven.

11. Anyone who denies the Word of God shall be severely punished. They shall have no part in the Book of Life, they shall have no place in heaven or the holy city, and they shall have no blessings which are written in the Revelation.
- *Revelation 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.*
12. The names of the elect are known to God and were recorded in the Book of Life before the foundation of the world.
- *Ephesians 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:*

- *1 Peter 1:20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you.*