

THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE

A Study

The purpose of this study is to look at the evidence for the existence of a 'Book' such as this, and provide facts which might help decide the manner in which it should be viewed.

This will involve going through material relating to when it was first mentioned, many centuries ago in 3rd century BC and its current usage today. The two main arguments seem to be: Is it a metaphorical term using PICTURE language, or is it a reality?

Any dictionary will tell us that a 'book' is something written or printed on a number of sheets which are folded or fastened together and protected by a binding or cover. It is interesting to note that our Bible is often referred to as 'The Book' and note that the word 'Bible' comes from the Greek word 'Biblos' meaning 'books'.

Also, in passing, the story about 'original sin' has in it the terms 'tree of life' and the 'tree of the knowledge of good and evil' (Gen 2:9). Today we have no actual trees called this, so the question needs to be asked 'Is this metaphor or not?' and does a 'Book of Life' fall under this heading?

So here goes - The Book of Life seems to be first mentioned in the Book of Enoch – an actual book dating back to Enoch who was 7th in line from ADAM (Gen 5:18-24). This book contains extracts from the Book of Noah who was the great grandson of Enoch. Enoch's book was held in high esteem by Jews and he became a legendary figure as a preacher, teacher and prophet. He was

considered to be a man of great and noble character (Gen 5:24) and was the father of Methuselah – considered to be the oldest man to ever live. Enoch was 365 years old when 'God took him away' or was 'translated'.

It's important to note that the book of Enoch was, of course, written long before Moses existed, and therefore the Jewish nation, and before the canon of the Old Testament. However, Jude (the brother of Jesus) refers to Enoch's book in his short epistle in the New Testament (Jude 14) and he actually quotes from it.

So what did Enoch have to say about the Book of Life?

CH 47:3

In those days I saw the Head of Days when He seated Himself upon the throne of His glory. And the BOOKS of the living were opened before Him. And all His host which is in heaven above and His councillors stood before Him.

CH 93:1

Enoch both gave and began to re-count from the 'BOOKS' which concern the children of righteousness and the elect of the world.

CH 103:2

Enoch says “I know a mystery and have read the heavenly tablets and have seen the holy books and have found written therein and inscribed regarding them. That all goodness and joy and glory are prepared for them and written down for the spirits of those who have died in righteousness.

REFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Exodus 30:35 - The golden calf.

'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”. 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. But now, please, forgive their sin – but if not, then BLOT ME OUT OF THE BOOK YOU HAVE WRITTEN.” The Lord replied to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me I will BLOT OUT OF MY BOOK. 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”. And He struck them with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.

Psalm 69:28 – *David's strife and persecution* -

He requests the Lord not to let his accusers share in salvation saying:

“May they be BLOTTED OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE and not be LISTED with the righteous.”

As a result it seems that the very early descendants of Adam and beyond - throughout the Old Testament – believed in a record which would determine the final judgement. There would also be a list of those fitted to enjoy the future blessings of the Messianic age. From this derived the notion of a BOOK OF LIFE (and also a Book of Death).

REFERENCES IN THE APOCYPHYA :

2 Esdras 6:20

'BOOKS shall be opened before the firmament and all shall see it together'

2 Esdras 14:35

When the judgement will come the names of the righteous will become manifest.

Sirach 11:27

At the end of a man's life his deeds will be revealed.

2 Esdras Chapters 7 & 8

Contains details of the day of Judgement itself and both chapters are worth reading.

NOTE :

The 14 books found in the Apocrypha (which means 'hidden') are not considered to contain the same authority or the 'divine inspiration' as those books in the Old and New Testaments. Even so, these 14 books are to be considered as part of Holy Scripture being useful and profitable to the faithful. They are still used by the Roman Catholic, Greek and Russian Orthodox churches.

REFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT :

Phil 4:3

'I plead with EUODIA and I plead with SYNTYCHEA to agree with each other in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have continued at my side in the cause of

the Gospel, along with CLEMENT and the rest of my fellow-workers, WHOSE NAMES ARE IN THE BOOK OF LIFE:'

WARNINGS AGAINST REFUSING GOD AND THE CHURCH:

Heb 22:12-23:24

'You have come to the church of the FIRSTBORN (Jesus), all of whose NAMES ARE WRITTEN IN HEAVEN. (Enrolled as citizens of heaven – NJ Version.)

Rev 3:1-5

Letter to church in Sardis (which was DEAD)

He who overcomes will, like them (the few people in this church who were NOT DEAD, and asleep in God's sight) be dressed in white. I will NEVER blot out his name from the BOOK OF LIFE.

Rev 13:8

The Beast of the Sea

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast, i.e., all whose NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN WRITTEN in the BOOK OF LIFE belonging to the LAMB that was slain from the creation of the world.

Rev 17:8

The Woman on the Beast

'The beast which you saw, once was, now is not, and will come up out of the Abyss and to his destruction. The inhabitants of the earth WHOSE NAMES HAVE NOT BEEN WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF LIFE from the creation of the world will be astonished

when they see the beast ...'

Rev 20:12-15

The Dead are Judged

V12 -'And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne and the 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

V15 – If anyone's name was NOT found written in the BOOK OF LIFE, he was thrown into the lake of fire.'

Rev 21:27

The New Jerusalem

'Nothing IMPURE will ever enter into 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.'

CONCLUSION

1. It is obvious from all the references quoted in this study that there does exist such documents.
2. 'ENOCH saw these tablets', witnessed them being opened and even read them.
3. MOSES specifically asked God not to blot the people, who had committed grievous sins out of the BOOK God had written, and ...
4. DAVID asked God not to allow his persecutors any share

in salvation and be blotted out of the BOOK OF LIFE.

5. Even the *APOCYPHA* refers to BOOKS being opened.

6. In the New Testament, Paul specifically refers to names that are in the BOOK OF LIFE.

7. And JOHN refers to it 5 times.

8. The evidence, therefore, weighs heavily in favour of the actual existence of the LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE in which are written all the names of the RIGHTEOUS, and even everybody's deeds'.

9. The use of the phrase so often, and in all written documents spread over at least 2 thousand years must lead to this conclusion and metaphor and picture language must be ruled out.

10. Because God is OMNIPRESENT (ever present), OMNIPOTENT (all powerful), OMNICOMPETENT (has jurisdiction in all cases and ever right) and OMNISCIENT (all knowing) it follows that He, Himself, has no need of any BOOKS to assist Him in His work of judgement of the righteous and unrighteous. (*Personal thoughts: Perhaps all this evidence gathering/documenting is purely for the purpose of revealing the 'perfect judgements' of the Lord upon each one for all to see. He makes us aware that all things are being recorded for us mere mortals to help us to be sure that what we believe and do is vitally important.*)g

