

Book of Life

The Church, the Body of Christ is not listed in the Book of Life. The Book of Life is mentioned 3 times in the Old Testament (even though it is not called the Book of Life.) We know it is referring to the Book of Life because it is God's book and names are being blotted out of, or found in it. Since the Church, the Body of Christ was a mystery program, nothing about us is found in the Old Testament.

Exodus 32:31-33

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

Psalm 69:27-28

Add iniquity unto their iniquity: and let them not come into thy righteousness. **Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.**

Daniel 12:1-2

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and **at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.**

The previous 2 verses in Daniel span one thousand years. When Christ comes to set up His kingdom of heaven on the earth, Peter will use the book of life to admit the righteous people, who are still alive on this earth, into the 1,000 year kingdom. Later on in this study, we will look at the resurrection of the unbelievers, right before they are judged at the Great White Throne at the end of Christ's 1,000 year Kingdom of Heaven on the earth.

Matthew 16:16-19

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus

answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. **And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**

The disciples will also have the power to forgive sins, or to retain sins!

John 20:21-23

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Why would the disciples have that power? They will rule Israel with Jesus Christ.

Matthew 19:27-28

Then answered Peter and said unto him, Behold, we have forsaken all, and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

There will also be all of those Old Testament saints who we have read about in the Bible. The unbelievers will weep and gnash their teeth.

Luke 13:28-29

There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, **when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God,** and you yourselves thrust out. And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.

The angels that come with Jesus to set up His kingdom will round up the unbelievers and send them to hell. This is the same event, there will be

weeping and gnashing of teeth from those who are cast down to hell.

Matthew 13:41-42

The Son of man shall send **forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend**, and them which do iniquity; **And shall cast them into a furnace of fire**: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Here is another passage in Matthew, talking about the same event.

Matthew 8:11-12

And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

These “children of the kingdom” are the children of Satan’s kingdom, the previous earthly kingdom which belonged to Satan.

Luke 4:5-6

And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him **all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it.**

This parable shows how unbelievers will be closely mixed in with believers, and try to enter into the kingdom with believers at the “harvest,” when the kingdom is set up. They will be gathered up and burned in hell.

Matthew 13:24-30

Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field: But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him,

Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The Old Testament saints, who have died before Christ returns to earth to set up His kingdom, will be resurrected and given immortal bodies in which they can enter the Kingdom. Every one of their names will be in the Book of Life.

Ezekiel 37:12, 24-25

Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith **the Lord GOD; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.**

²⁴And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them. And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall

dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children for ever: and my servant David shall be their prince for ever.

Joel Finck calls the Book of Life a national registry for believing Israel. I don't agree with that. I think it's a registry for all nations in the entire Kingdom of Heaven on the earth, not just Israel. There will be Old Testament saints, starting with Adam and Eve onward, as well as Israel, being resurrected to enter the Kingdom when Christ comes to set it up.

The Bible records a precedent for entering a kingdom. After the kingdom of Judah (which was carried off to Babylon for 70 years) was allowed to go back to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple and the wall, Nehemiah found a register of the genealogy of the people who had been taken into captivity from Judah. Only those people and their families were allowed to re-enter Jerusalem. The Book of Life will be used like a registry.

Nehemiah 7:5-6

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, These are the children of the province, that went up out of the captivity, of those that had been carried away, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away, and came again to Jerusalem and to Judah, every one unto his city;

People who couldn't prove they had come from Israel were denied entrance.

Nehemiah 7:61

And these were they which went up also from Telmelah, Telharsa, Cherub, Addon, and Immer: but they could not shew their father's house, nor their seed, whether they were of Israel.

Men of Israel were not allowed to take wives or children back with them who were not of Israel.

Ezra 10:17-19

And they made an end with all the men that had taken strange wives by the first day of the first month. And among the sons of the priests there were found that had taken strange wives:

namely, of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren; Maaseiah, and Eliezer, and Jarib, and Gedaliah. And **they gave their hands that they would put away their wives; and being guilty, they offered a ram of the flock for their trespass.**

Ezra 10:44

All these had taken strange wives: and some of them had wives by whom they had children.

Ezra 10:11-12

Now therefore make confession unto the LORD God of your fathers, and do his pleasure: and **separate yourselves from the people of the land, and from the strange wives.** Then all the congregation answered and said with a loud voice, As thou hast said, so must we do.

The penalties would be severe if eligible people refused to separate from the land (and their wives and children if they were not of Israel) to return to rebuild.

Ezra 10:8

And that **whosoever would not come within three days,** according to the counsel of the

princes and the elders, **all his substance should be forfeited, and himself separated from the congregation of those that had been carried away.**

The Book of Life will be used at the resurrection of the Old Testament saints to usher them into the Kingdom of Heaven on the Earth, like the registry that Nehemiah used to determine who could go back to Jerusalem.

Matthew 25 is what it will be like for the faithful (who have their names in the Book of Life) to enter into the Kingdom.

Matthew 25:14-17, 20-23

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

²⁰And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. **His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.**

The next section talks about the end of the 1,000 year kingdom when Daniel says that the unrighteous will be resurrected to contempt. The book of Revelation says the names were written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world. The Book of Life will also be used to verify that the unsaved from all times deserve to be cast into the Lake of Fire.

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 20:11-15

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. 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. 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. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.**

The Book of Life will be used to admit the saved people to the Kingdom of Heaven on the earth and to judge the unsaved people who will be cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of the thousand year kingdom.

The Church, the Body of Christ is just that— Christ's body. Once we are saved and placed into Christ's body, we are where He is, we have what He has, and we are co-heirs. It is unnecessary to put each of us in the Book of Life, we are Christ's and Christ is God's.

1 Corinthians 3:23

And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

There is no “vetting” or “screening” that is done for us in the Church. We are sealed by the Holy Ghost until the Rapture.

Ephesians 1:13-14

In whom ye also trusted, after **that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,** Which is the earnest of our inheritance **until the redemption**

of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

We are not waiting to walk into the Kingdom that Jesus will set up on this earth. We are waiting to be caught up together with all the rest of the believers, in the clouds, to forever be with our Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

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: **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.** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Finally, Paul does mention the Book of Life, but not about the Body of Christ. It is to let us know that there were some faithful Jews (whose names are in the Book of Life, meaning that they were following Peter's message) who were helping Paul in his ministry to the Gentiles.

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 fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.**

He mentions other Jews who were helping him and says they “who are of the circumcision.” This is much more frequently the way that Paul distinguishes those who followed Jesus and his disciples from those, Jews and Gentiles, who are part of the Church, the Body of Christ.

Colossians 4:10-11

Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, **and Marcus, sister's son to Barnabas**, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) **And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision.** These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.