

When are the names written in the book of life?

This study examines Revelation 17:8 and poses the question; Are those that have worshiped the beast been predestined to do so because their names are not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world?

(Rev 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.

(Rev 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.

There are two views in this case. The first view predestines those who worship the beast from the foundation of the world.

The names of those who worship the beast are placed in the book of life at the foundation of the world. They are predestined to be placed into the Lake of fire at the end of the age. Rev 14:9-10 This will be the majority of the earth's population at that time. Based on the wording it does appear to say that names in the book of life are entered at the foundation of the world. This would also mean that the saints are predestined to have eternal life because of their names in the book of life. There are those that have had their lives predestined before birth; David and Jeremiah. Paul was ordained from the womb and Moses knew his destiny 40 years before he led Israel out of Egypt. It was said of Moses that he was a "goodly" child. Which means one favored by Yahovah. This could be a separation from the womb as well. Then in Ephesians it says that we were "chosen in him" before the foundation of the world. Does that mean our names were written in the book of life before the foundation? That our persons were known of the Father before we were born. I personally think that "knowing our persons" was an exception to the rule. Few were known before the foundation or before the womb. Paul says in romans that the Father "foreknew us". How far back does that go? Beginning at the foundation of the world?

The account with Moses

(Exo 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.

(Exo 32:33) And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

But we see in Ezekiel and Jeremiah that ancient Israel will be resurrected and given a heart of flesh and the holy spirit. They will have a chance to be in the book of life. All those who died in the desert and sinned against Yahovah. They will be given a second chance. This time with the holy spirit dwelling in them.

The second view gives those individuals free choice

Notice revelation 14:9 the text says “if” any man worships the beast. That’s a conditional statement. There is choice involved. It is an angelic warning to not take of the mark. If the population were predestined to accept the mark why would there be a warning to not do so? Would they be predestined then given a choice to reject the mark? It would seem to be one way or the other?

(Rev 14:9) And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive *his* mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

(Rev 14:10) The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

(Rev 14:11) And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

The other view is that the book of life “of the lamb” belongs to Yahshua. It is through him that we have eternal life. That’s the way the Father set things up.

The book of life is established from the foundation of the world. Individuals that have accepted the calling based on their own freewill will be placed in the book of life at that point. Those who have rejected the calling are blotted out from the book in the course of time. There is no predestination involved in those that reject the calling. They have a free choice.

Those that have accepted the calling can be blotted out of the book of life if they despise the sacrifice and count their calling as meaningless.

Heb 10:26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

There seems to be no predestination for those that are called and have not overcome themselves and the world.

(Rev 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.

The lukewarm condition which is marked by being involved with the riches of the world and it`s ways, once again is directed at those once called.

(Rev 3:15) I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

(Rev 3:16) So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

(Rev 3:17) Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

Mark Rusinko

Forward comments to Rusinkomark@aol.com