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What About The Book of Life?

God is Omniscient, this is one of His attributes that declares He knows all things.

1. God cannot learn anything.
2. God cannot be surprised in any way.

God also has the attribute of “foreknowledge”.

1. This means that God knows all thing before they happen, when they are going to happen and if they will happen or not.
2. The attribute of foreknowledge is the result of God’s Omniscience, not the reverse as Calvinist teach.
3. Therefore because God knows all things He can prophecy what is going to happen, be it good or evil, even names of individuals, yet He does not force any person to commit the good or evil, but merely announces it beforehand.

I say all this at the beginning to remind us that man has a free-will to choose and decide on things in life, before being saved and after being saved and God holds him responsible for all he does.

1. Calvinist teach God decreed the fall of Adam in the Garden and declare God is the author of sin, horrible.
2. Think of the consequences, this means God forced Adam to sin, he had no choice, then God judged him for the sin of the Fall that God decreed!
3. Calvinist teach God was responsible for the fall.

3. Then God expelled them from the Garden for their disobedience that God forced Adam and Eve to do!
 4. This contradicts the attributes of God, He is holy, good, kind, just and merciful, if God decreed the fall then He violated all of His attributes, in fact He would be unholy, not good or kind, unjust and a liar.
- * This is the God of the Calvinist, not mine!

Having this as our foundation of the character of God, lets answer the question, “What About the Book of Life?” from three perspectives.

- I. The observations regarding the Book of Life.
- II. The contextualization of each text of regarding the Book of life.
- III. The book of Revelation regarding the Book of Life.

I. The observations regarding the Book of Life.

- A. There are different titles for the Book of Life.
 1. The title “The Book of Life” is found in the Bible seven times. Phil. 4:3; Rev. 13:8; 17:8, 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19
 2. The title “Your book” and “My book”, appear one time each. Ex. 32:32, 33
 3. The title “The book of the living” one time. Ps. 69:28
 4. The title “the book” one time. Dan. 12:1
 5. The phrase implying the book of life, “written in heaven” one time. Lk. 10:20

6. The other phrase to imply the book of life, “registered in heaven”, one time. Heb. 12:23

B. There are distinct declarations related to the book of life.

1. The declaration “to blot out”, appears three times. Ex. 32:32, 33; Ps. 69:28
2. The declaration, “written in the book” appears two times. Dan. 12:1; Lk. 10:20
3. The declaration, “registered in heaven” appears one time. Heb. 12:23
4. The declaration, “written in the book of life” appears one time. Phil. 4:3
5. The declaration, “not blot out the name” appears one time. Rev. 3:5
6. The declaration, “not written in the book of life” appears two times. Rev. 13:8; 17:8
7. The declaration, “not found written in the Book of Life” appears one time. Rev. 20:15
8. The declaration, “those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” appears one time. Rev. 21:27c
9. The declaration of warning, “If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book” appears one time. Rev. 22:19

C. There are two different vantage points expressed regarding the book of life.

1. Seven times it is presented from the negative “to blot out”, “not written in the book of life”, “not found written in the Book of Life”. Ex. 32:32, 33; Ps. 69:28; Rev. 13:5, 8; 17:8; Rev. 20:15
2. Six times it is presented from the positive, “written in the book”, “written in the book of life”, “registered in heaven” and “written in the Lamb’s Book of Life” and “take away his part from the Book of Life”. Dan. 12:1; Lk. 10:20; Phil. 4:3; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 21:27; 22:19

These are some of the observations regarding the Book of Life!

II. The contextualization of each text regarding the Book of life.

- A.** The first group is found in the Old Testament.
1. The context of the first appearance about the Book of Life is at the foot of Mount Sinai where Aaron crafted a golden calf and led the people of God in idolatrous worship and God was going to destroy them and Moses interceded for his people, “Yet now, if You will forgive their sin--but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your **book** which You have written.” And the LORD said to Moses,

“Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My **book**.” Ex. 32:32-33

- a. First, God knew the people were going to commit the sin of idolatry, it was no surprise to Him.
- b. Second, what was the source of the prayer of intercession by Moses?
 - 1) Was Moses the source?
 - 2) Was God the source?
- c. If we say the source was Moses then we must conclude certain things that are contrary to the attributes of God.
 - 1) If Moses was the source of his prayer, it means that Moses was more patient, loving and compassionate than God!
 - 2) But if God was the source of the prayer of Moses, it means God was the source of his prayers by laying the desire or need in his heart, in order to lift it to God that His will be done!
- d. This text is the first appearance about the Book of Life, therefore it is of the greatest importance since it is God Himself giving this Divine revelation, absolute truth about the Book of Life.
 - 1) God said, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My **book**.” Ex. 32:33
 - 2) The blotting out of a name is God’s doing for all sin is against Him and He alone can forgive sin by repenting.

- 3) The statement of “blotting out” is absolute truth to be acted on in the future, unless we want to accuse God of declaring to Moses a lie.
 - 4) The logical conclusion is that the Book of Life is for all who God created, for He died for all yet only the names of those who come, live and abide by faith in Christ will be left and those who do not, will be blotted out. Ex. 32:32, 22:19, 21:27
2. The second appearance of the Book of Life is in Psalms, the context is the evil and wicked.
 - a. The Psalmist David affirms the blotting out of names, “Let them be **blotted out** of the book of the living.” Ps. 69:28a
 - b. The Psalmist David does not say the names were not written in the book of life, but removed so as to not remain in the book, “And not be written with the righteous.” Ps. 69:28b
 3. The third appearance about the Book of Life is the Jews in the book of Daniel, the context is “the time of the end”. Dan. 12:1, 4
 - a. The specific context is the Jews in the Great-Tribulation period and the Anti-Christ, “At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never

was since there was a nation, Even to that time.” vs. 1a-d

- 1) The time is like no other, “time of trouble”, “never since there was a nation”.
 - 2) The worst ever on earth, “Even to that time”.
- b. The identity cannot be given to anyone but the Jews, “And at that time **your people** shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.” vs. 1e-f
- 1) The Jews will be delivered, “Everyone who is found written in the book.”
 - 2) The implication there are other Jews who are not, being blotted out.

B. The second group is found in the New Testament, one gospel and two epistles.

1. The first appearance to the Book of Life is in the gospel of Luke. Lk. 10:20
 - a. The context is the return of the seventy disciples from preaching the gospel as they rejoiced that demons had been subject to them in the name of Jesus.
 - b. The clarity of spiritual perspective is declared by Jesus, “Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.” Lk. 10:20
 - 1) The true joy is in knowing that their “names were written in heaven”.

- 2) The implication from the previous texts about the Book of Life means they are not blotted out.
2. The second appearance of the Book of Life is in the epistle to the Philippians. Phil. 4:3
 - a. The context is the exhortation to help two women be reconciled in the Lord by Clement and the rest of his fellow workers, “whose names are written in the “Book of Life.”
 - * God knows who are His!
 - b. The Book of Life again is affirmed to be the one where the names of all who will be saved are written, the spiritually alive!
 - * God knows those that will repent and abide in Christ!
 3. The third appearance to the Book of Life is in the book of Hebrews. Heb. 12:23
 - a. The immediate context is enduring and perseverance in the faith.
 - b. The author addressed them in contrast to the Old Testament saint at Sinai, they had come to Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innermost company of angels. vs. 22
 - c. And then he said,, “to the general assembly and church of **the firstborn who are registered in heaven**, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.” Heb. 12:23

- 1) The phrase “registered in heaven”, refers to Book of Life.
- 2) Affirming the names in the Book of Life.

This is the contextualization of each text of regarding the Book of life!

III. The book of Revelation regarding the Book of Life.

- A. The first appearances to the Book of Life is in the book of Revelation. Rev. 3:5
 1. The Lord Jesus is talking to the overcomers in the church of Sardis, “He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments.” vs. 5a
 - a. The overcomer will be clothed with white garments. vs. 5a
 - b. White speaks of God’s righteousness that every believer has been justified by, to stand before God by the blood of the Lamb. Rev. 4:4; 6.11; 7:9, 13; 19:8, 14
 - c. White represents purity, spotless and of a wedding, based on the righteousness of Christ. 2Cor. 5:21
 - d. White speaks of peace and heaven.
 2. The Lord Jesus then affirms their salvation, “and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life.” vs. 5b
 - a. This double negative is called a litotes, a figure of speech used to emphasize the

- positive that their name will be written in the Book of Life.
- b. The concept of being blotted out of the Book of Life troubles some as predestination and free-will has caused many to err.
 - d. The illustration was a real possibility that took place in the wool industry at Sardis regarding those citizens whose names were remove from a public list if they approached the gods in garments that were soiled or stained or if they were convicted of a crime, and very real and appropriate warning to those in Sardis.
 - e. The Scriptures tell us that God knows who are His, “Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” 2Tim. 2:19
 - 1) The problem is with our human reasoning and understanding because when we see some backslide or walk away, but God knows if they will return or were not born again. 1Jn. 2:2
 - 2) The Book of Life is for all who God created, for He died for all yet only those who come, live and abide by faith in Christ, only their name will be

- left and those who do not, will be blotted out. Ex. 32:32, 22:19, 21:27
3. The Lord Jesus then said to the overcomer's. "but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." vs. 5c
 - a. The statement is a parallel to the double negative to give assurance to the overcomer.
 - b. The word confess "exomologieo" is a strong word for confession before the courts. Phil. 2:11
 - c. Jesus said if you confess Me before man, I will confess you before My Father in heaven. Matt. 10:32
 - d. Jesus will confess that the individual has trusted in the sole work of Jesus for his standing justified before God as a faithful servant throughout life. Rom. 10:9-10

- B.** The second appearance to the Book of Life in the book of Revelation. Rev. 13:8
1. The identity of the worshippers of the Anti-Christ, "All who dwell on the earth will worship him." vs. 8a
 - a. Those rejecting the gospel.
 - b. Those continuing in their sin against God.
 2. The commentary follows, "whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb." vs. 8b

- a. Yes, God know who is going to be saved and who is not by their own choosing!
 - b. Yet the warning of being blotted out, is very valid, even though it does not make sense to us, Jesus said it! Rev. 3:5
3. The basis for one's name written in the Book of Life is given, "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." vs. 8b
 - a. John places the focus, not on the name being written from the foundation, he does that in chapter seventeen. Rev. 17:8
 - b. His focus is on the Lamb being slain from the foundations of the world.
- C.** The third appearance to the Book of Life in the book of Revelation. Rev. 17:8
1. The context is the admiration of the people over the Anti-christ, "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel...when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is." vs. 8a-d, f
 - a) The phrase is literally "earth dwellers".
 - b) Those opposed to God.
 2. The commentary about the "earth dwellers" is stated, "whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

- a. God knew from the foundation of the world who would believe on him and be saved, so wrote their names in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world.
 - 1) Due to this verse some say this verse proves names are not blotted out because they were never written in.
 - 2) Yet God directly says He will “blot out him” and God through David says, “Let them be **blotted out** of the book of the living and not be written with the righteous.” Ex. 32:33; Ps. 69:28
 - 3) Are we to say this is a contradiction or worst yet that this one verse nullifies the original declaration of God? No!
- c. The concept of being blotted out of the Book of Life again troubles some, just like free-will and predestination, yet they are biblical.
 - 1) The Scriptures says, “For whom He **foreknew**, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”, “He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love” and “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.” Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:4-5; 1Pet. 1:2

- 2) God foreknew beforehand who would repent and abide, He is Omnipotent.
 - 3) Dr. Ironside declared, “Nowhere in the Bible are people ever predestinated to go to hell, and nowhere are people simply predestinated to go to Heaven. look it up and see...predestination is always to some special place of blessing.” (In The Heavens:34)
- D.** The fourth appearance of the Book of Life in the book of Revelation. Rev. 20:12
- 1. The context is the White Throne Judgment of the unbelievers, “And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened”, “And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.” vs. 12a-d, g-h
 - a. The “books” have a record of their works, deeds and sins like in Daniel. Dan. 7:10
 - b. The judgment is based “according to their works” for the secretes and motives of their hearts. Rom. 2:16; 1Cor. 4:5
 - c. The phrase appears three other times in Revelation. Rev. 2:23; 18:6; 20:13
 - 2. There is a second book, “And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. vs. 12e-f

- a. The Book of Life, the register of those who trusted Jesus for their salvation.
 - 1) Those have allowed the word of God to transform them.
 - 2) Those who proved to be disciples of Jesus by obeying His word.
 - 3) They abided and continued in their passionate love relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - b. The title “The Book of Life” is found in the Bible seven times. Phil. 4:3; Rev. 13:8; 17:8, 20:12, 15; 21:27, 22:19
- E.** The fifth appearance of the Book of Life in the book of Revelation. Rev. 20:15
- 1. The summary statement of the White Throne judgment is pronounced confirming the absence of their names, “And anyone not found written in the Book of Life.”
 - a. Anyone refers to all who have rejected the gospel by grace through faith.
 - b. All who refused to repent of their sins.
 - 2. The solomn statement of their eternal separation and damnation is also pronounced, “was cast into the lake of fire.”
 - a. Anyone not found written in the Book of Life, everyone of them. no exception.
 - b. The Lake of Fire burning with fire and brimstone, also called “Gehenna” was not prepared not for man but Satan and

- his angels “everlasting fire”. Matt. 25:41; Mk. 9:43-48
- 1) Gehenna was compared to the Valley of Hinnom, south of Jerusalem, the trash dump where the fire was never quenched and the worm never died, Jesus used it as an illustration of the Lake of Fire, utter darkness, weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matt. 22:13; 25:30; Mk. 8:12
 - 2) The Anti-Christ and the false prophet will be the only two for in the Lake of Fire for 1,000 years. Rev. 19:20
 - 3) Satan will be cast there at the end of the 1.000 years and tormented day and night forever. Rev. 20:10
 - 4) Death and Hades will be cast into the Lake of Fire at the same time. Rev. 20:14
- F.** The sixth appearance of the Book of Life in the book of Revelation. Rev. 21:26-27
- 1. The context is the existance and purpose for the piltrimages of the nations in the eternal order, “And they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it.” vs. 26
 - a. This has already been stated. vs. 24
 - b. Both words are the same, all that man will glory in and honor will be God.
 - 2. The only one entering the city of the New Jerusalem are the glorified saints. vs. 27

- a. The purity of the Eternal State, “But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie.” vs. 27a-b
* Hebrews declares, “For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come.” Heb. 13:14
 - b. The saints in the Eternal State, “But only those who are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life. vs. 27c
 - 1) The church, who reigned with Christ during the Millennium.
 - 2) The tribulation saints martyred for their faith and those who survived.
 - 3) The remnant nation of Israel, the reconciled wife of Yahweh that fulfilled all the promises of the Old Covenant and the New.
 - 4) Those saved during the Kingdom Age and did not follow the last rebellion of Satan.
- G.** The seventh appearance of the Book of Life in the book of Revelation. Rev. 22:18-19
- 1. The context is the closing of the book of Revelation, Jesus is the speaker, “For I testify” vs. 18a
 - a. The ultimate authority.
 - b. The judge of all mankind.

- 2. The warning is all inclusive, “To everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book.” vs. 18a
 - a. No one is excluded.
 - b. Believer or unbeliever.
- 3. The warning is clear and severe. vs. 18b-19
 - a. To anyone adding to the content of the book, “If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.” vs. 18b-c
* This indicates judgment!
 - b. To anyone subtracting from the book, “and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.” vs. 18b-19
 - 1) Who are the one’s written in the Book of Life and have access to the holy city? Only believers, probably has to do with the loss of rewards!
 - 2) This is stated throughout the Scriptures. Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6; Gal. 1:8-9
- 3. The concept of being blotted out of the Book of Life troubles some, just like free-will and predestination has caused many to err, yet all three are biblical.

- a. Jesus promise the overcomer He would not blot out his name out of the book of life. Rev. 3:5
* Again this is a litotes, an affirmation of the positive by the negative.
- b. Remember Jesus gave the illustration of the real practice of the day by the wool industry at Sardis regarding those citizens whose name were remove from a public list if they approached the gods in garments that were soiled or stained or if they were convicted of a crime.
 - 1) Do not allow your human reasoning and understanding to explain away or remove the strong warning from the directed words of God, “And the LORD said to Moses, “Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My **book**.” Ex. 32:33
 - 2) It is our faith that overcomes the world. 1Jn. 5:4-5
- 3. All the warning to not be deceived, fall into sin, backslide, depart from the Living God, go back to the world or apostatize, all are to believer not unbelievers.
* To say that if someone perishes who Jesus died for insults the atonement of Jesus and makes it non-effective is foolishness, Jesus died for the whole world! 1Jn. 2:2
 - a. “And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works,

- yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight--if indeed you **continue** in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.” Col. 1:21-23
- b. “For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either. Therefore consider the goodness and severity of God: on those who fell, severity; but toward you, goodness, if you continue in His goodness. Otherwise you also will be **cut off**.” And they also, if they do not continue in unbelief, will be grafted in, for God is able to graft them in again.” Rom. 11:21-22
 - c. “For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, if they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.” Heb. 6:4-6

- * Verse six is not “if they fall away”, but having fallen away, an aorist active!
- d. “For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.” 2Pet. 2:20-21
- e. Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone does not **abide** in **Me**, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.” Jn. 15:6

This is the book of Revelation regarding the Book of Life!

Conclusion

I hope you are clear on the answer to the question, “What About the Book of Life?” from these three perspectives.

- I.** The observations regarding the Book of Life!
- II.** The contextualization of each text regarding the Book of life!
- III.** The book of Revelation regarding the Book of Life.