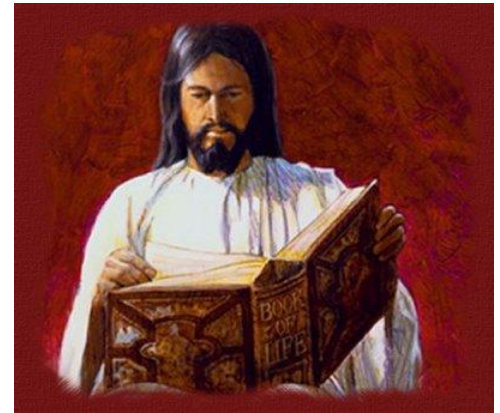


I'm Sorry, But Your Name Is Not Here

Almost every parent has begun the tradition of a baby book for each child born to them. The baby book usually contains cute illustrations, colorful art, poems and titles with spaces to fill in as the child develops, and places to keep records of baby's immunizations and growth progress. UCLA's Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library has collected more than 1,100 of them in what may be the nation's only university library baby book collection. The earliest baby book, probably published in 1882, is the oldest book in the collection. Many baby books were giveaways from companies that sold baby-related products, from Mellin baby food to bank accounts. As the books became more popular, parents began saving locks of hair, photographs and other memorabilia in the book. And a whole new industry was born.



Today, memory books and scrap books are highly popular and many families have extended their baby books into childhood and teen years. These books are considered valuable and are usually kept current and in a safe place.

God has a special book that records your beginnings and your life. It is called **The Book of Life**. The Book of Life is the book in which God records the names of every person who was created.

In fact, when David was pondering the time between his own conception and birth, he said "in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance (that is, as my days continued) were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" (Psalm 139:16). It seems that God has a book for each person who is conceived, and that all these together constitute the Book of Life, one great volume containing the names and deeds of everyone who was ever given biological life by his Maker. ¹

Paul refers to those who labored with him in the gospel, 'with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life. " Philippians 4:3

Revelation 20:12 says, "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.

But many, during the course of their lives, will reject (or simply ignore) God's provision that would also give them eternal life. As David prayed in another Psalm: "Let them be

blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous" (Psalm 69:28). "And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book." (Exodus 32:33) ²

If one dies without forgiveness of their sins their name vanishes out of the record book of life. And that will be a fearful thing, for "whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15).

Those whose names will not be blotted out of the book, of course, are those who have been redeemed "with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (I Peter 1:19). Not one person deserves to be retained in God's book, for all have sinned, but they have "beheld," with eyes of thankful faith, "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and have therefore been redeemed by the Lamb. Only these will still have their names written on the rolls of the heavenly city. God's Book of Life will have become "the Lamb's Book of Life" on which are written forever the names of all those redeemed by His blood. ³

Revelation 3:5 says, "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." We overcome by our faith which is exhibited by faithfulness.

In short, those who received Christ's work of salvation at Calvary have their name written in the Lamb's book and it is retained in the Book of Life. Those who reject him never have their name written in his book. Their name is also removed from the Book of Life, of which everyone's name is written down that ever lived.

"I'm Not Finding It"

In his book, Heaven, Randy Alcorn tells a real-life story that illustrates the importance of having our names written in the Lamb's Book of Life:

Ruthanna Metzgar, a professional singer, was asked to sing at the wedding of a very wealthy man. According to the invitation, the reception would be held on the top two floors of Seattle's Columbia tower, the tallest skyscraper in the Northwest. She and her husband, Roy, were excited about attending.

At the reception, waiters in tuxedos offered luscious hors d'oeuvres and exotic beverages. The bride and groom approached a beautiful glass and brass staircase that

led to the top floor. Someone ceremoniously cut a satin ribbon draped across the bottom of the stairs. They announced the wedding feast was about to begin. Bride and groom ascended the stairs, followed by their guests.

At the top of the stairs, a maitre d' with a bound book greeted the guests outside the doors.

"May I have your name please?"

"I am Ruthanna Metzgar and this is my husband Roy."

He searched the M's. "I'm not finding it. Would you spell it please?"

Ruthanna spelled her name slowly. After searching the book carefully, the maitre d' looked up and said, "I'm sorry, but your name is not here."

"There just be some mistake," Ruthanna replied. "I am the singer. I sang for the wedding!"

The gentleman answered, "It does not matter who you are or what you did. Without your name in this book, you cannot attend the banquet."

He motioned to a waiter and said, "Show these people to the service elevator, please."

The Metzgars followed the waiter past beautifully decorated tables laden with shrimp, whole smoked salmon and magnificent carved ice sculptures. Adjacent to the banquet area, an orchestra was preparing to perform, the musicians all dressed in dazzling white tuxedos.

The waiter led Ruthanna and Roy to the service elevator, ushered them in, and pushed "G" for the parking garage. In an instant, they were sent away.

After locating their car and driving for several miles in silence, Roy reached for Ruthanna's hand and asked, "Sweetheart...what happened?"

"When the invitation arrived, I was busy," Ruthanna replied. "I never bothered to RSVP. Besides, I was the singer. Surely I could go to the reception without returning the RSVP!" 4

Are you too busy to respond to Christ's invitation to eternal life with Him? Do you assume that your good works will qualify you to enter Heaven? Will your name remain registered in heaven in the Lamb's book of life?

There is only one way for this to occur. You must recognize Christ's sacrifice for you, admit you have sinned and need His forgiveness. Ask Him to cleanse you by His blood He shed for your sins on the cross. Then your name will be on the register forever. When we stand before God, let us not see an awful blank where the name might have been.

¹Henry Morris, Ph.D. Henry Morris, Ph.D. "The Lamb's Book of Life" Institute for Creation Research

<http://www.icr.org/article/3598/> accessed August 29, 2010

² IBID

³ IBID

⁴ Used with permission [Eternal Perspective Ministries](#)