

Christ & His Bride

Lesson #5

From Or Before?

March 5, 2025

Goals: Book of the Living versus Book of Life Book of Life versus Lamb's Book of Life
Who is blotted out of which book? When was my name written in the Book of Life?
Before versus From: Difference in Greek What is litotes?

The Lord admonished the church in Sardis to:

- Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die
- Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent.

Question: What does the individual believer need to overcome?

- His deadness; no spiritual growth; His spiritual lethargy and complacency; decay
- His lack of watching; He needed to hold fast and repent
- He has defiled garments [I John 1:9]

Rev. 3:4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with Me in white: for they are worthy.

The remnant in the church at Sardis had not compromised with the pagan society around them, nor had they grown comfortable and complacent.

Rev. 3:5a He that overcometh...

Overcometh 3528. Νικαός: Tense describes one that is overcoming constantly.

One's commitment to be permanently and consistently undeterred in one's efforts to overcome and obtain a lasting victory: Perpetual Overcomers

- Portrays athletes who mastered their sport and reigned as champions

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.

Question: Is this a warning that a true believer might lose his salvation? NO.

Rev. 3:5 is NOT a warning! Jesus is stating PROMISES to those who overcome.

Many Scriptures indicate that those who trust Christ for salvation are eternally secure in Him and can never be lost. However, the following Scriptures speak of names being blotted out.

It does raise the question; how could names be removed?

Ps. 69:28; Ex. 32:32-33; Rev. 3:5; 13:8; 17:8

God's Book of the Living versus the Lamb's Book of Life

Renner: The KEY is Book of Life or Book of the living. Every ancient city had The Book Of The Living. If you were a resident of the city and you were alive, your name was placed in this book. You were a living citizen. Each ancient city had a Book of the Dead. When you died, your name was erased, blotted out, of the Book of the Living and written in the Book of the Dead.

Johnson: In ancient cities the names of its citizens were written on a ledger until they died. When they died their names were erased from this *book of the living*. Also, a convicted criminal

could have his name erased from a book of the living. Faithful Christians living in the Roman empire were considered traitorous and often had their citizenship removed.

Renner: The Hebrews regarded holiness as a beautiful white robe that could be soiled by sin. When a white-robed priest committed a sin that disqualified him for the duties of his sacred office, his white garment was taken from him, and he was given a black robe in its place. His name was also stricken from the sacerdotal register, a record of priestly activities.

Ps. 69 > Imprecatory Psalm: It contains fervent prayers asking God to bring judgment and punishment upon the psalmist's enemies, with vivid imagery and strong language expressing deep distress and a plea for God's intervention against those who are unjustly persecuting him. The enemies described are rebels against the Lord

Ps. 69:28 references The Book of The Living.

²⁸Let them be blotted out of the Book of the Living and not be written with the righteous.

Note: Use biblehub.org to look up any verse in the Bible.

Book Of The Living: #2416. Chay = to be alive; "living souls"; the state of being alive or living

- It appears: God's "Book of The Living" contains the names of all the living, the wicked as well as the righteous.
- A book of who is alive. He is blotted out when he dies.

David's words: *Let them die:* David is referring to earthly, physical life,

But not be written with the righteous: enemies destined for eternal judgment.

Exodus 32 records the events after Israel had sinned by worshiping the golden calf.

Ex. 32:30-33 And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses said unto the people, You have sinned a great sin: and now I will go up unto the Lord; perhaps I shall make an atonement for your sin.

³¹ 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.

Question: Is Moses saying: send me to Hell? No! Moses is a type of Christ willing to die

for the people. Willing to die if his death would give life for God's covenant people.

*Notice his use of the word atonement for your sin in verse 30.

³³And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me,

him will I blot out of my book.

God responds by saying that only those who sinned He would blot out from His book [Ex. 32:33].

God immediately acted on His statement. God's first discipline was to send a plague among the people, but we aren't told how many were killed. [Ex. 32:34-35]

Key: Your name is recorded in the Book of the Living when you are physically born.

Incorrect teaching about being blotted out of this book has led many to believe

that one can lose their salvation.

Do Not Confuse: "The Book of the Living" with "The Book of Life."

Book of the Living refers to everyone who is alive at the time.

- When a person is born, they are in the Book of the Living.
- When they die, their name is removed or blotted out from this book.

And I Will Not Blot Out His Name out of the Book of Life

Blot Out: 1813. *exaleiphó ek* = out; To wipe out, to erase, to obliterate, to rub out

Life: #2222 *zóé* life, both of physical [present] and of spiritual [particularly future] existence.

- It is often used to describe the eternal life granted through faith in Jesus Christ.
- This life is not merely an unending existence but a quality of life that is abundant and fulfilling, characterized by a relationship with God.

Book of Life refers to everyone who has Eternal Life, life in Jesus Christ.

- 8 NT references 7 of 8 are in Revelation 2 refer to The Lamb's Book of Life

Phil. 4:3 Paul refers to those who have labored alongside him as those whose names are in

the book of life. He identifies this book as a record of those who have Eternal Salvation.

In Rev. 13:8 and 21:27, we find the references to the "Lamb's Book of Life," in which also are the names of all those who have been washed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

- Since the Book of Life records all who have *eternal* life through the Lamb, it's clear that the Book of Life and the Lamb's Book of Life are one and the same.

Rev. 20:11-15 Context is the Great White Throne Judgment which occurs after

the 1000 Millennial Kingdom of Jesus Christ. Judgment of ALL unbelievers

- Books are opened - including the Book of Life
- People are judged according to their deeds recorded in the books.
- If their name is not written in the Book of Life, they are cast into the Lake of Fire.

Important Note: Names of unbelievers are never written in the Book of Life.

- Names of unbelievers will never be in the Book of Life if they die in unbelief.

Rev. 21:27 Only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life will be allowed into the New Jerusalem where God will dwell.

Conclusion: The Book of Life, The Lamb's Book of Life, is the roll of those who are saved and redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Use of litotes in Scripture: *Litotes is a figure of speech that uses a negated antonym to make an understatement or to emphasize the positive.*

Jeremiah 30:19 And out of them shall proceed thanksgiving and the voice of them that make merry: and I will multiply them, and they shall not be few; I will also glorify them, and they shall not be small.

We have an emphatic declaration that stresses the certainty of the promise.

A positive point is made by denying its opposite. This not only stresses the security of the believer—for every believer's name is written in the book of life—but is a way of promising something special to the overcomer in the kingdom and eternal future.

Recognizing litotes can help avoid misunderstanding the Bible.

A statement which is true one way is not necessarily true when reversed.

Example: *A man says, "If my wife makes me an apple pie, I will not stop loving her."*

Is the opposite true: If my wife doesn't make me an apple pie, I will stop loving her?"

Some Christians think: *I Will Not Blot Out His Name out of the Book of Life means*

He will blot out my name if I do not overcome.

Many teach: If someone does not overcome, their name will be blotted out of the Book of Life.

But Rev. 3:5 doesn't say that! It is a logical fallacy from this verse.

Such a concept is totally contrary to the analogy of the faith in the New Testament which teaches us all believers are kept secure by the power of God and the finished work of Christ. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. [John 10:28-29; Rom. 8:38-39].

Charles Stanley: Does it make any sense to say:

- Salvation is offered as a solution for our sin. Then to turn around and teach that
- Salvation can be taken away because of our sin as well?

Because so many do not understand the nature of salvation as a finished work of God in Christ, they are insecure in their faith. Verses such as this are misunderstood as suggesting the possibility of the loss of salvation, or as a proof for the doctrine of the perseverance of the saints.

His Name Confessed Before My Father and His Angels: Rev. 3:5c

When these messages were written, Christians were under the constant threat of being branded as social rebels and stripped of their citizenship if they refused to recant or denounce their faith in Christ. As a source of motivation and encouragement, the Lord personally reminds the overcomer not only of the safety of his heavenly citizenship, but of the special acknowledgment the Lord Himself will give before His Father and before His angels.

Though the overcomer may experience blame and ridicule and loss of citizenship before the world because he refuses to follow after the world or bow to its threats, the overcomer will experience special rewards in the form of a special acknowledgment or public recognition for faithfulness.

Rev. 3:5 is NOT a warning! Jesus is stating PROMISES to those who overcome.

To turn it around, state it positively. Jesus is saying that those who overcome will not only keep their name in the Book of Life because they are believers but will receive greater blessings from God and greater experience of life with God.

Two other blessings are included in the promise to overcomers. They will receive white robes and will receive special recognition before God and the host of angels.

The names in the Lamb's Book of Life are written in the permanent ink of His blood.

BEFORE The Foundation Of The World Versus FROM The Foundation Of The World
The "foundation of the world" is a reference to God's act of creation.

- Refers to the very beginning of creation, signifying a time before the physical universe existed. Before TIME began.

When Scripture refers to something that happened "BEFORE the foundation of the world," the event under discussion occurred before anything was ever created, in eternity past.

Key Point: All statements where BEFORE the foundation of the world is used are given reference to Christ. [Eph. 1:4; I Peter 1:20] Jesus is eternally existent. John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given Me, be with Me where I am; that they may behold My glory, which thou hast given Me: for thou lovedst Me BEFORE the foundation of the world.

Before: #4253. Pro > in front of, prior to

Note: It does NOT say the ones given were before the foundation of the world.

I Pet. 1:19-20 You were redeemed...But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: For He was foreknown BEFORE the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.

Foreknown #4267 proginóskó: to know beforehand; Peter made it clear that Christ's death was an appointment, not an accident; for it was ordained by God before the foundation of the world

Conclusion: BEFORE the foundation of the world, God loved the Son;

Christ as the Lamb was foreknown.

[Will discuss 3rd reference in future lesson. Eph. 1:4]

When Scripture refers to something that has been true "FROM the foundation of the world," it means "for all of human history."

Key Point: All statements where FROM the foundation of the world is used, is given with reference to man, moving us from a point of reference forward. [Luke 11:50; Rev. 13:8]

- Man has a beginning point in Genesis. Man was created.

From = Greek word: #575 = APO = out of, often used to denote separation or origin.

Signifies the source or cause of an action, the starting point of a journey,

Early Christian writers sought to articulate the believer's separation from sin, the world, or former ways of life, emphasizing a new beginning or transformation.

Question: What is the impact of adding, of changing

FROM to the word BEFORE the foundation of the world? Huge difference in your theology

Answer: Before the foundation of the world indicates before Genesis.

From the foundation of the world indicates Genesis to the present time.

Eternity Past < [TIME: GEN. 1:1 - GREAT WHITE THRONE] > Eternity Future

Conclusion: Therefore, it is incorrect to equate written FROM the foundation of the world with Written BEFORE the foundation of the world. Affects my theology!

Luke 11:49-51 Therefore, also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute: ⁵⁰ That the blood of all the prophets, which was shed FROM [APO] the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; ⁵¹ From the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias which perished between the altar and the temple: verily I say unto you, It shall be required of this generation.

Consider: If you similarly insert BEFORE [Greek: pro] the foundation of the world, then you will have to conclude that:

The prophets were martyred before they were born which makes no sense.

Note: The first recorded martyrdom in the Old Testament is Abel, and the last is Zechariah. [Gen. 4:1-15; II Chron. 24:20-27]

- Their blood was shed ~2000 years apart, but both were FROM the foundation of the world. They were after Genesis 1 but at different points in time.
- From [apo] signifies the starting point of a journey

Foundation of the World: -----ABEL -----ZECHARIAH

Question: Are our names recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life BEFORE the foundation of the world or FROM the foundation of the world? From the foundation of the world at a point in time.

Rev. 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him,

Context: The 7-year Tribulation Period

- Earth dwellers: Unbelievers; deeply immersed in worldly pursuits
- Him = the Beast who came out of the sea [Rev. 13:1]

Rev. 13:8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written FROM the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain. [NASB]

- Unbelievers names were not written FROM the foundation of the world In the Book of Life. [#2222] [at a point in time]

Rev. 13:8 All the inhabitants of the earth will fall down and worship him, everyone whose name has not been written since [#575; apo; from] the foundation of the world in the Book of Life of the Lamb who has been slain [as a willing sacrifice]. [Amplified]

Rev. 13:8 And all those who live on the earth will worship the beast, everyone whose name has not been written since [#575; apo; from] the foundation of the world in the Book of Life [2222] belonging to the Lamb who was killed. [New English Translation]

Note: None of the names of the unbelievers have been written

FROM the foundation of the world in the Book of Life. [No point in time]

Rev. 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written BEFORE the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. [ESV]

- The Greek says FROM apo [biblehub.org]
- ESV chose to translate it BEFORE pro

Note: ESV translates the verse so it appears that the names were written before the foundation of the world.

Why does the ESV translate Rev. 13:8 as BEFORE the foundation of the world instead of from the foundation of the world? [intentional or accidental?]

What can help determine the correct interpretation of 13:8? Look at Rev. 17:8 same verbiage
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 [#2222] FROM [apo] the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is. [KJV]

Context of Rev. 17:8 Refers to people who take the mark of the beast. [unbelievers]
 Their names did not make it in the Book of Life.

- From the foundation of the world. They never accepted Christ.
- 13:8 & 17:8 both refer to the Book of Life. It has been FROM the foundation of the world and names have continuously been written into it.
- 17:8 makes it clear the Book of Life was from the foundation of the world.

Question: Is the ESV consistent in their use of before and from?

Rev. 13:8 and all who dwell on earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written BEFORE the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain. [ESV]

Rev. 17:8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life FROM [apo] the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come. [ESV]

Question: Do both verses refer to: All who dwell on the earth?

Names not written in Book of Life

- In 17:8, the translators of the ESV used the correct word: FROM = apo
- But in 13:8, they chose to translate the Greek word APO as BEFORE instead of FROM.

Why does the ESV translate Rev. 13:8 as before the foundation of the world instead of from the foundation of the world?

It agrees with their theology that the names in the Lamb's Book of Life were completed by God unconditionally BEFORE the foundation of the world.

John MacArthur: "The Book of Life belonging to the Lamb, is the registry in which God inscribed the names of those chosen for salvation BEFORE the foundation of the world."

Matt. 25:34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you FROM [apo] the foundation of the world:

- Man has a beginning point in Genesis. Man was created. Greek word: APO

Context: Sheep & Goat Judgment at the end of the Tribulation period.

Those designated as sheep will enter the Millennial Kingdom.

MacArthur on Matt 25:34. "The Lord designed His kingdom from BEFORE the foundation of the world and He designed who would be in it from BEFORE the foundation of the world."

Question: Are our names recorded in the Lamb's Book of Life
BEFORE the foundation of the world or FROM the foundation of the world?
From the foundation of the world at a point in time.

Adrian Rogers: A person's name is written in the Book of Life when they are saved, or born again and have repented of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Once written, a name is never erased.

Chuck Swindoll: A person's name is written in the Book of Life when he/she puts their faith and trust in Jesus Christ as his/her Savior.

David Jeremiah: Our names are in the Lamb's Book of Life and the Father writes our name on His palms when we are Born Again!

Charles Stanley: A person's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life when they turn from sin and believe in Jesus for salvation.

Jack Hibbs: A person's name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life when they are born again of the Spirit, and trust and obey Christ.

It is reasonable to conclude that the names that were written into the Lamb's Book of Life which are said to be written FROM the foundation of the world were written as people became Christians. [in time; as a response to]

Foundation of the World: -----August, 1956 -----

- From [apo] signifies the starting point of a journey

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.

I Cor. 2:9 but just as it is written [in Scripture],

"Things which the eye has not seen and the ear has not heard,

And which have not entered the heart of man,

All that God has prepared for those who love Him [who hold Him in affectionate reverence, who obey Him, and who gratefully recognize the benefits that He has bestowed]."

What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man,

[all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him

[who hold Him in affectionate reverence, promptly obeying Him and gratefully recognizing the benefits He has bestowed].

The King is coming for a BRIDE who has made herself ready and is watching for His return.