

Election and the Book of Life

Review: the Reformation is the age of Sardis was just the beginning of God's plan.

To evangelical Christians the age of the Reformation seems an age of great victories for the faith, led by mighty men of God such as Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and many more. It is therefore ironic that when Bro. Branham speaks from Revelation 3, he has hardly anything positive to say about the Reformation. Why is that? In the Sardisean age, God began the process of pulling the Church out of the darkness and errors they'd sunk to in the Thyatirean age. **The Sardisean age was an age of beginning and much was left uncompleted. An important lesson of the Sardisean age is that we should not mistake a beginning work of God for His perfect plan.**

The elders of Israel made such a mistake when they refused to move past Moses to follow Jesus Christ. At Sinai, God met the children of Israel where they were and began the laborious task of teaching them their need for Him. That was the beginning point, not the end. Likewise, many denominations mistake the Reformation as God's completed work. It was the starting point of God's restoration, but in itself was far from being the complete restoration. That was still to come, for those who would have ears to hear what the Spirit would have to say in the future church ages!

Revelation 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.

SARDISEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.7, p.296

The possibility of the removal of a name from the records of God deserves more than a casual study, for up until now most students have merely drawn a conclusion that God places the names of those born again within the Lamb's Book of Life at the time of their rebirth; and if for any reason that name must be removed, the space on the record will simply be a blank as it was before a name had been placed there. **This is one hundred percent opposite to what the Word actually teaches.**

A "new" name written down in Glory?

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At the very start of our study, let it be known that there is NOT ONE Scripture that teaches that God is presently compiling a record of names. This was all done before the foundation of the world, as we will point out shortly. Also, it is not a question of simply involving ourselves with two groups of people both of whom had opportunity to receive eternal life, wherein one group received it and had their names placed on record while the others who refused did not have their names so placed. We will actually show by Scripture that multitudes who were not even born again will go into eternal life. As strange as this may sound, it is certainly true. We will also show that there is a group of people whose names having been placed on that record before the foundation of the world, CANNOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE THOSE NAMES REMOVED; but will also show that another group WHOSE NAMES WERE ON THAT RECORD BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES REMOVED.

Ideas have consequences. So does doctrine. When we rejoice that a "new name is written down in Glory," we do well to rejoice that are names are written in heaven, but we miss the correct causative links. Our names are written in Glory, *because God put them there, before we ever had any inkling of Him.* Our position in Christ is because of God's choice, God's will, and God's call. We were only ever able to recognize it because He sowed His seed in us *before the foundation of the world.*

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

Romans 5:8

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Ephesians 1:4-6

⁴According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

⁵Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,

⁶To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Romans 9:11

(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;)

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.

The Book of Life's categories

See p.296 and pp. 315-316 in the CAB.

When we consider the Book of Life, we are confronted with the fact that Truth is exclusive. When one comes before a judge, he is declared either *innocent* or *guilty*. One or the other. And with the Book of Life, your name is either on it, or it's not. And those are the two most basic categories of the Book, names in the Book and names *not* in the Book.

Tonight, we will attempt to look at names *not* in the Book, either because they have been removed from the Book or because they were never there in the first place.

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- 1) Names in the Lamb's section of the Book of Life, who have the righteousness of the Lamb Himself imputed to them
- 2) Names in the Book of Life who go into Eternal Life at the second resurrection (foolish virgin, the righteous of Matthew 25, and souls under the altar)
- 3) Names removed from the Book of Life
- 4) Names that have never been and never will be in the Book of Life

Of some individuals, there is no record at all on the Book of Life.

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Fourth and finally are the ones whose names have never been or will ever be written on the books.

Such are found in Revelation 13:8 and Revelation 17:8....

Jesus said that a certain group would accept one who came in his own name. That one is the antichrist. And that is exactly what it says of them in Revelation 13:8, and 17:8. These were ordained of God but not unto election. And with this group is such that are as Pharaoh.

It says of him, "Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up. Vessels of wrath fitted for destruction" (Romans 9:17 and 22).

None of these would be placed on the records of life. I am not saying that there is no record of them. No doubt there is some kind of a record of them, but NOT IN THE RECORDS OF LIFE.

Revelation 13:8 (see also Revelation 17:8)

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.

Romans 9:17-23 (Paul speaks of people like Pharaoh, who were created for destruction)

²¹ Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour?

²² What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

²³ And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

I Peter 2:7-9

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

I Thessalonians 5:9

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Proverbs 16:4

The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

It can be difficult to accept that some are actually appointed to destruction, without any record of life at all. Yet the Bible teaches that there is a perversion of life that arose in rebellion against God.

➔ Paul speaks to those who charge God with injustice, by reminding them of God's sovereignty (Rom. 9, see above).

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Since this portion of the Word is hard for the human mind to grasp, it must be accepted and believed by faith. Some will be offended by what I have set forth because they fail to understand the sovereignty of God which sets forth that GOD IS GOD, and because He is God one cannot defeat His counsels or thwart His will and purpose; but He, being omnipotent, is ruling in ALL affairs and is doing whatever He will with all His creation because all were created for His good pleasure. Therefore, as Paul says, "If God should take of one lump of clay and make of that same lump one vessel unto honor and another vessel unto dishonor, who can be offended and cry against Him?" That He has the right to do this on the grounds of creation alone, we cannot deny. Yet He went even further, for according to Romans 14:7-9, we have the irrefutable proof that Jesus paid the purchase price of the whole world, and therefore He can do as He wills with His own.

➔ Also, remember that there is spirit life upon Earth that came about outside God's perfect will. It is not a reasonable expectation that God's Book of Life would contain records of life that wasn't His to begin with! (It's like accusing your grandfather of being unloving because he only has a genealogy file on your family and not all the neighbors!)

Matthew 13:38

The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

I John 3:10

In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Ephesians 5:6

Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

THE.GOD.OF.THIS.EVIL.AGE_ JEFF.IN V-4 N-9 SUNDAY_ 65-0801M

71 Now we see that the church refused to accept God's Word to rule over them, and accepted Barabbas instead. Now, if you want the Scripture on that, it's Matthew 27:15 to 23. What did this do? What position did this do? Now think of it. When the church world, in its organized life of righteous, holy men, as they thought they were, and were in the eyes of the people, they crucified Jesus, and said, "We'll not have this Man rule over us." And Jesus was the fullness of the Word of God. First John 1, expresses it. And they said, "We'll not have this Word of God to rule over us." Yet, He was the Word, but their eyes were blinded to what He was. For He was the direct answer to every prophecy that was to come to pass in Him. Now, we all believe that, because we're looking back to see it happen. But if the world would, that is now, this present evil age, that would have been back there at that time, they would do the same thing they're doing today, because it's still the same Word, for this age, being manifested. He'll do it. They can't do nothing else. "They are children of disobedience." "Given a strong delusion, to believe a lie, and be damned by it." [II Thess. 2:11]

Lest we charge God with injustice, the children of disobedience do enjoy the grace of God in this life.

God doesn't send thunderstorm after thunderstorm upon the heads of those running from him. Dependent on the choices they make, unsaved people can actually *enjoy* pleasure during their lifetime. This is an example of God's grace, even to those who reject Him. In Psalm 73, Asaph even shares the envy he experiences when he sees how good the wicked seem to have it!

Matthew 5:45

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Psalm 73:3-5

³For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

⁴For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

⁵They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

And finally, remember that God is a righteous judge: God doesn't spend eternity executing vengeance!

Philippians 3:18-19

(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 12:47-48

⁴⁷And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes.

⁴⁸But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

The purpose of Hell is to destroy souls without God's life: that they cease to exist. Hell was created for the devil and his angels, not to torture people (Matt. 25:41).

Election is not a matter of either God or us picking and choosing.

We all probably remember Phys.Ed. classes where all the students stand on the end line and await as teams get *publicly* picked. Those who got picked last die a thousand deaths as their lack of athleticism or popularity seems to be confirmed each time their name isn't called out. When we have this image of election, we imply that some kind of goodness on our part merited God's choice, which can affect our understanding of God's love for us.

Election is a matter of *identity*.

JEHOVAH.JIREH_ PHOENIX.AZ SATURDAY_ 57-0309E

E-14 Now, notice what God did. Now, Abraham in the Bible represents election; Isaac, justification; Jacob, grace; Joseph, perfection. Then it run out. Perfection... Joseph was a perfect man; there's nothing against him in the Bible.

But on this election, God chose Abraham, not because he was an educated man, not because he was a smart man, but because that God saw something in Abraham before the foundation of the world. And that's the reason you are a Christian tonight, is because that God saw something in you before the foundation of the world and put your name on the Lamb's Book of Life, before the world ever was formed. How you going to lose? How can you do it? The Bible said...

The biggest fault that I can find with any of the churches, and especially the real church that's borned again, they don't know who they are. You don't realize what the privilege that God has given you; you're looking for something way off in some kind of a millennium. But that's one the devil has pulled over you. "Now we are the sons of God." Not we will be, we are now. And every Redemptive blessing that the Lord Jesus died for, is our personal property right now, everything that He died for--not we will be; we are now.

THE.COMMUNION_ JEFF.IN ER 21-34 THURSDAY_ 57-0418

62 Notice, we want to go back and think. Paul here is referring back to an Old Testament character. In the Book of Genesis we take up the life of Abraham from the 12th chapter of Genesis: God giving Abraham the promise, and through Abraham would come the righteous Seed. And Abraham, as believed by many to be a Jew, he was not. Abraham was a Gentile, a Chaldean from the city of Ur. **And he became God's servant, not because he was different from anyone else, but because of the election of God.**

63 You are not saved because you are a good person. You're saved because Christ chose you. No man seeks God; God seeks man. Jesus said, "No man can come to Me except My Father draws him first." And if we could stop just for a few moments and realize the great importance of that one thing, that it was God Who chose you, not willing that you should perish; but give to you the opportunity, and called you, and elected you to be His servant. Why, what could be more precious than that? Without you having a choice... It would be total impossible for any man to seek God; for he's by nature is a sinner; and he has nothing within him to give a desire to serve God.

ABRAHAM'S.GRACE.COVENANT_ MIDDLETOWN.OH FRIDAY_ 61-0317

E-24 Now, He made it to Abraham. Not, "Abraham, if you will do a certain a thing, I'll make a great nation of you and make you a father of nations." He said, "I have done it." **Remember, the promise is altogether grace and no law mixed in it at all. Not any "ifs" at all, it's absolutely God's choosing of Abraham.**

Now, even if you don't agree with some of this, let's just give it prayerful consideration. Now you see, it isn't what you done, what your desires are... It wasn't Abraham's desire; he was a heathen. It wa... He come down from the tower of Babel, down in the valley of the Shinar and the land of the Chaldeans and the city of Ur. And he was... he was just an ordinary man and... **Nothing Abraham done, not even his desires, but God, by grace and election chose Abraham. That's the way He chose you: Not nothing you done, what He done. Now remember, "to Abraham and his seed."**

E-25 You think that you've become a minister, or a Christian, because people talk good about you, or you join church, or stay in a society, or, "This is the biggest church in the city." You're just fooling yourself. That's all. You're a miserable person when it comes to Christianity.

God chooses by election. Romans the 9th chapter, 8th chapter, said that the election of God might stand sure. Esau and Jacob, before either child was born, had a way to even make a decision what they were going to do, God said, "I hate Esau and love Jacob.", because God knew what they were before the world was ever formed. God chose you in Christ before the world ever come into existence (The Bible said so.), put your name on the Lamb's Book of Life. **Not when you come to the altar, but before the foundation of the world He did it.** The Bible said so.

SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4, p.167

According to Romans 4:16 we find that God has given a Sure Promise to ALL of Abraham's seed, and Paul puts himself and all believers under that designation because he says "Abraham who is the father of us ALL." Then he goes on to not only narrow down his definition, but rather to finalize it for in Galatians 3 he identified the SEED (singular) with Jesus, and counted "the seed children" as children of promise, and promise as having to do with "election", or "the choosing of God". And that is exactly what we have been saying. These who are of the Royal Seed are the elect of God; are the predestinated, fore-known of God, and were in the mind of God and His thoughts.

In very plain language the True Bride of Christ was in the mind of God eternally, though not expressed until each came forth in the designated, decreed season. As each member came forth it became EXPRESSED and took its place in the body. Thus this bride is the literal SPOKEN WORD SEED BRIDE. And though she is feminine in designation she is also called the "body of Christ". It is very apparent that she ought to be called that for she was predestinated in Him, came from the same source, was eternal with Him, and is now manifesting God in a many membered body whereas once God was manifested in ONE MEMBER, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Now then, here we are coming to a conclusion. As the eternal Logos (God) was manifest in the Son, and in Jesus dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and that Eternal One was the Father manifest in flesh, and thereby gained the title of Son, even so we, eternal in His thoughts in our turn became the many membered Spoken Word Seed, manifest in flesh, and those eternal thoughts now manifest in flesh are the sons of God, even as we are so called. **WE DID NOT BECOME SEED BY THE REBIRTH, WE WERE SEED AND THEREFORE WERE REBORN FOR ONLY THE ELECT CAN BE REBORN. Because we WERE SEED is the reason we could be quickened. In NON-SEED there is nothing to quicken.**

Hold this carefully in mind. Now take the next step. Redeem means to buy back. It restores to the original owner. God, by His death, the shed blood BOUGHT BACK HIS OWN. He bought back the Spoken Word Seed Bride. "My sheep hear My voice (Word) and they follow Me." You always were a sheep. You never were a pig or a dog turned into a sheep. That is impossible for every kind of life produces the same kind and there is no change in specie. As we were in the thoughts of God and then expressed in flesh, there had to come a day when we would hear His voice (the Word), and hearing that voice become aware of our Father calling us, and recognize that we are the sons of God. We heard His voice and we cried out as did the prodigal son, "Save me, Oh, my Father. I am returning to Thee."

SMYRNAEAN.CHURCH.AGE - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.4, p. 169

Before I close this subject, I know there is a question in your minds. You will want to know if I believe in the doctrine of preexistence. I don't believe in that Mormon doctrine of the preexistence of souls any more than I believe in reincarnation or the transmigration of souls. Be careful here and see this. **It is not the person that comes predestinated eternally from God, IT IS THE WORD, OR SEED.**

That is it. Way back there, too far back for the human mind to grasp, the Eternal God with eternal thoughts, thought and decreed, "JACOB HAVE I LOVED, BUT ESAU HAVE I HATED,
(Romans 9:13)

AND NEITHER WAS BORN, AND NEITHER HAD DONE GOOD OR EVIL."

See, it was the THOUGHT, and then that thought became expressed, and God bought back Jacob, because Jacob alone was SEED. Jacob, alone had the seed; that is why he had respect to the birthright and covenant of God. If you are true seed, you will hear that Word; the Spirit will baptize you into the body of Christ, filling you and empowering you, and you will receive the Word for your day and age. See how clear the true evidence becomes when the Word is revealed to you? Again, note, Jesus was the Royal Seed. He lived in a human body. When the Spirit called to Him (the Word-Manifested Thought), He went to Jordan and was there baptized in water. Upon obeying the Word, the Holy Spirit came upon Him and the voice said, "This is My beloved Son, hear ye Him." The voice did not say, "This has become My Son," Jesus WAS the Son. The Holy Ghost positioned Him as that Son before them all. Then having been filled thus (and the same pattern holds at Pentecost and ever after), He went in demonstrated power, receiving the full revelation of God and from God, for that day.