

# **“The Book of Life”**

**(Rev. 20:10-15)**

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## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Will push many of you out of your comfort zone today**

1. A new look at an old question
2. Acknowledge good teachers will disagree

### **B. The Tribulation has ended**

1. The Antichrist and the False Prophet in Lake of Fire
2. The “righteous” are all resurrected & rewarded

### **C. The Millennium has ended**

1. 1,000 years of Christ’s rule
2. Satan bound until the end

### **D. About to introduce the Eternal Kingdom**

1. Rev. 21:1-2 *“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. (2) I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.*
2. But first—one more judgment
  - a. For Satan
  - b. For Sinners

## **III. Revelation 20:10-15**

## A. The Fate of Satan (v. 10)

1. What we know about the angels
  - a. *Satan is a fallen angel*
  - b. *Angels were created by God*
  - c. *Angels were created before the creation of Adam*
  - d. *The fall of the angels occurred before the creation of Adam*
  - e. *Lucifer (now known as Satan) was the highest ranking angel*
    1. He was called the “anointed cherub”
    2. He was given rule over the earth...and more
2. When did the creation and fall of the angels occur?
  - a. Go to the other end of the Bible!
  - b. Genesis 1:1
    1. “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”
    2. The original creation out of nothing
      - a. “bara”
    3. That may have been a long, long time ago
    4. An instant when time and space began
    5. Not inconsistent with the Big Bang theory
      - a. Totally different from evolution
      - b. I’m definitely not an evolutionist
    6. Admission of **Big Bang** scientists
      - a. Yikes....it proves the need for a creator!

- b. Renowned Astronomer Dr. Robert Jastrow  
(an agnostic...not a believer)

*“For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak. As he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries.”*

*Dr. Robert Jastrow*

- c. Stephen Hawking in a Brief History of Time

*“It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.”*

*Dr. Stephen Hawking*

- c. Genesis 1:2

1. *“The earth was (had become) formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters”*

2. Looks like “water world”

3. The apparent **“Gap”** between verses 1 and 2

- a. Seen by ancient Hebrew scholars

\* *“had become”*

- b. A long but unspecified length of time

4. Many other arguments for a **“gap”**

5. Verse 2 describes the condition of the earth after the fall of Satan and the unholy angels”

6. Earth had previously been their habitat

7. Ezekiel 28 speaks of Lucifer...on earth

*(12) You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. (13) You were in Eden, the garden of God;*

*(14) You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you.*

*(15) You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you*

8. Evil angels became “disembodied spirits”

a. Awaiting their judgment

d. Genesis 1:3

1. God began the “re-creation” of earth

*(3) And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. (4) God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. (5) God called the light “day,” and the darkness he called “NIGHT.” And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.*

2. In six literal days

a. And without evolution

3. The apparent age of creation was prior to this time

3. Satan’s Past Destruction

*a. The angelic rebellion*

*b. In the Garden of Eden*

1. Adam and Eve

a. The sinless world

2. Satan slithered in

a. Sin

3. Wants to once again rule this earth

4. Will try one final time at the end of the millennial kingdom

a. Will be released right at the end

b. Will lead one final rebellion

c. But, no more!

1. Not this time, Satan

2. Revelation 20

*(10) And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*

5. Will be cast into Lake of burning sulfur

a. Literally.... “lake of fire and brimstone”

1. “brimstone” is sulfur

2. “lake of fire”

3. This is Hell

6. The Antichrist and False Prophet will still be there

a. Still alive 1,000 years later

1. Literally, “*where the Beast and False Prophet are*”

b. Tormented day and night

1. Forever and ever

2. No annihilation

7. Important to know that Satan isn’t the boss of hell

a. God prepared hell as a place of judgment for Satan and his angels

b. He will soon to be joined by a multitude of sinners

## **B. The Fate of Sinners (v. 11-15)**

*(11) Then I saw a Great White Throne and him who was seated on it. Earth and sky fled from his presence, and there was no place for them.*

1. The Great White Throne
  - a. Not for the saved
    1. They will have already been rewarded (Bema Seat)
  - b. This is for those humans who have rejected Jesus
  - c. God the Father sits as Judge
2. No place for them to hide
3. All of the dead will need to appear

***(12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.***

4. The dead, “great and small”
  - a. Most important and least important
  - b. Standing before God
5. Gathered from all over

***(13) The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them,***

- a. Those whose bodies were on the bottom of the sea
  1. Used to typify all hard to locate bodies
- b. “***death***”
  1. Refers to their physical bodies
  2. In the ground and waiting
- c. “***Hades***”
  1. Where their souls are
  2. The holding tank for condemned souls

- d. That's all for death and Hades
  - 1. No more physical death
  - 2. No more need for Hades
    - a. Now the "real thing"

6. And books were opened.....v.12

*(12) And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*

## C. The "Books"

### *1. Two types of books are mentioned*

- a. the "Diaries"
  - 1. ***"and books were opened"***
  - 2. A complete and detailed record of each life
- b. The Book of Life
  - 1. Totally different
  - 2. Also called the "Lamb's Book of Life in Revelation 21:27"

### *2. Everything a person does is being recorded*

- a. Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick
  - 1. Text messages
  - 2. From 2002
  - 3. Lied under oath
- b. Divorces and electronic evidence
  - 1. email

2. 85% use as evidence

c. In your life

1. Every good deed

2. Every evil deed

a. lie

b. evil thought

3. No statute of limitations

a. There is with the IRS

b. But not with God

c. Nothing gets erased

4. God is keeping a daily diary on all of us

**3. *Only the guilty will appear before the Great White Throne***

a. This is for sentencing, not to determine guilt

b. This is for those who have rejected Jesus

**4. *Each will receive exactly what they deserve***

a. ***The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. (v.12)***

b. No one can ever accuse God of being unjust

**5. *There will be different degrees of punishments***

a. The servants of Luke 12:47-48

1. Some will get many stripes

2. Others will get few

b. The Antichrist, the False Prophet & Satan

1. “They will be tormented day and night”
- c. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth
  1. But not by all
- d. “More tolerable” for some
  1. But Hell for all

**6. *It will be punishment....not torture***

- a. Not mindless and hysterical screaming
- b. Never more than deserved
  1. Exactly what they deserve!

**7. *Hell will be just as eternal as Heaven***

- a. Regarding the Antichrist and the False Prophet
  1. “they will be tormented day and night for ever and ever” (Rev. 20:10)
- b. They too will have resurrected bodies
  1. Capable of lasting an eternity

**8. *All will acknowledge they deserve their punishment***

- a. The rich man of Luke 16
  1. In Hades
  2. Never argued he was innocent
  3. Concerned for those yet able to decide
- b. As God reviews their lives...
  1. They will acknowledge their guilt
  2. They will acknowledge the punishment is just

**9. *Even those in the Lake of Fire will understand God's mercy***

- a. Punished only for their works (v. 12 & 13)
- b. Not for Adam's fall
- c. Christ died for all
  - 1. His death covered the imputed sins of all mankind (Adam)
- d. They will understand how much God sacrificed for their sins
  - 1. His willingness to suffer for them
- e. They will bow before Christ

**10. *All deserve to stand before the Great White Throne of Judgment***

- a. "for ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God"
  - 1. That includes you and me
- b. Based on my works...I should be there also!
- c. Every Christian has sins recorded in "the books"
- d. But—there is a second book
  - 1. And it trumps all others
- e. Records that my sins have been pardoned

**11. *All sinners will be cast into the Lake of Fire***

***(14) Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.***

- a. Was prepared for Satan
- b. Sinners will join him

**D. The "Book of Life"**

***(15) If anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.***

**1. Contains the names of all who have accepted Jesus as their Savior**

- a. Realized that their works would condemn them
- b. Realized that Jesus paid it all
- c. Also called the “Lamb’s Book of Life”

**Rev. 21:27—**““Nothing impure will ever enter it (Heaven), nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.”

**2. We all start out with our names written in the Book of Life**

- a. But those who die rejecting God’s Son are *blotted out*
- b. All start with their name in pencil
  - 1. Written in ink when you accept Christ

**3. Those who reject Christ have their names “blotted out”**

- a. “erased” at death
- b. Failure to accept = rejection
- c. (Rev. 3:5)—“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.”
- d. (Ex. 32:33)—“The Lord replied to Moses, ‘Whoever has sinned against me I will blot out of my book.’”
- e. (Psm. 69:28)—“May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.”

**4. The Book of Life will be searched for each sinner standing before God**

- a. They will be shown where their name was blotted out
- b. They will be reminded of what God suffered to save them
  - 1. ...and of their willful rejection

## IV. Summary

### A. How would you do based on “the books”

1. If your daily activities and thoughts were publicly examined?
2. Let me tell you...
  - a. We’d all be in trouble if standing before God based on our own merits
  - b. Only the sinless inherit Heaven
    1. And I’m far from sinless

### B. For those of you who have never accepted Christ...

1. There is still time
2. Even if you have rejected him in the past
  - a. There’s still time
  - b. II Peter 3:9

*The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. II Peter 3:9*

### C. My name is in the Book of Life

1. Because I accepted Jesus as my Savior
2. I repented of my sins and turned them over to him
  - a. And he covered them with his holiness

### D. Celebrating our first year

1. Watching the unexplainable happen
2. As Israel prepared to enter the “promised land”
3. Joshua 3:5

“consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you”