

WHERE IS YOUR NAME RECORDED?

"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; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."
Rev. 20:12

It is plain from these words and various other Scripture passages that God had been employing a system of bookkeeping all His own and that He has been keeping a complete record of everything. God is keeping books. He is making a record of your life and mine. He is writing the complete story of our lives. Some people write their own biography. Sometimes friends do it for them. But God has a better record than any man can write. And in God's record everything goes down. In these man-made records the bad is usually left out. Every once in a while we discover something about one of our greatest men that was never in his biography. But God's record is a perfect one. The good deeds are there, but the bad ones are there too.

He is keeping all of these record books which He has written in the library of heaven which is the greatest library of all. Thus far the books of this wonderful library have never been opened to human sight. While many of our libraries are very impressive because of what they represent, all of them put together are not as important and impressive as the library of heaven. One day these books will be opened and each of us will be standing before the Judge of all the earth to face our records. Everything will be a matter of record with Him. Now, let us look at some of the books that are specified in the Bible, and which will be opened when the day of the last judgment comes.

I. The Books Of Our Members

"Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being imperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned when as yet there was none of them". Psalm 139:16

When a man is brought up for trial before a human court the first you have to do is to identify the accused, and the methods of identification in the human courts are oftentime lame and faulty. The officers of the law resort to a great many expedients in order to be able to prove identity. But notice that God makes provision for the identification of everyone. Every man is fearfully and wonderfully made, and every human being that comes on the earth comes according to a preconceived Divine plan, and in God's Book is written down every member of his body. God has in His book a perfect draft and plan of every human body that is born in the world; in that book every member of that body is written, and plan existed before the structure, and is an eternal means of absolute identification.

II. The Books Of Our Words

"Then they that feared the Lord spake often one to another; and the Lord hearkened and heard it, and book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the Lord and that thought upon His name". Mal. 3:16

It is the declaration of God that words go to the judgment. Words are not idle things; speech distinguishes man from the beast; it is a wonderful endowment that one can talk. While it is an awful thought, stupendous in its magnitude and in its far reaching possibilities and responsibilities, yet it is nevertheless true that God has a system by which every word that any man speaks is recorded. It is distinctly set forth by our Saviour that every idle word is recorded. All the foolish utterances, airy nothings, whispered sentimentalities, fetid breathings and poisonous utterances of slander, and foul blasphemies that fall from men's lips, all go on record. He said, "But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give an account thereof in the day of judgement."

Malachi informs us that good words also reach the judgment as well as idle ones. When you Christian people talk together, see the need of a revival,

think about it, etc., that goes on record. When we shall stand before the judgment bar of God, a book will be brought out called the book of remembrance, that contains what pious thoughts passed through men's minds and what pious words men spoke while here upon the earth. All that will be necessary to know who are righteous and who are the wicked will be to just listen to the reading of that book and you will be able to easily discern it. Although none can tame the tongues yet God keeps an account of everything that it says. Some people are going to have an awful account to square in the judgment if they are not a bit more careful with their tongues before they get there. They tell everything they know and some things they do not know.

III. The Books Of Our Deeds -- II Cor. 5:10

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that everyone may receive the things done in his body, whether it be good or bad."

A man thinks, and after he thinks awhile he speaks, and familiarizing himself with the spoken thought, he performs it, and the deed is the crystallized form of the thought. And there is kept a record of all the deeds. For instance, here is a man who looks upon a goodly piece of treasure. Then he covets it and he says, "I wish I had it." He reaches out his hand and takes it. The thought is recorded, the desire is recorded, the speech is recorded, the deed which consummates it is recorded. Men are to be judged according to the deeds done in the body.

Be sure to remember that God is a sure paymaster. He may not pay at the end of every week, month, or year, but He always pays in the end. A godless unchristian farmer, more prosperous than his Christian neighbors, one time wrote to the editor of a Christian paper and said, "I planted my grain on Sunday, I cultivated it on Sunday; I harvested it on Sunday; and I threshed it on Sunday. It is now October; my barns are full of grain; I have more money in the bank than any of my Christian neighbors. I am more prosperous than any of them. Account for that will you?" The editor replied, "God does not make full settlement in October."

You can live a profligate and dissolute life, debauch your being, and disgrace your loved ones, but you will have to give an account to God. You can squander your wages in a poker joint or any other kind of gambling den and rob your wife and child of what ought to go to them. You can live in lust and like a beast, debauch your body and poison your offspring with your own contaminated blood, but God will settle your account some day. You can profane God's holy name and pollute the sanctity of God's holy day with needless things, but God will not hold you guiltless. You can live for society and squander time and every asset of life worth having, but one day God is going to judge you for it and when you stand face to face with your record you will be overwhelmed with the amount of sin against God.

In these books will be found recorded even the things you should have done but left undone. A young soldier on picket duty deserted his post long enough to gather a few flowers (violets) to send to his sweetheart. While he was gone a spy slipped through the lines and discovered that General Grant's forces were much smaller than the Confederate General across the river had supposed, and the Confederates attacked and captured the position. Later the soldier who had left his post for an hour to pick violets was shot. He was not shot for gathering flowers for his sweetheart but for not guarding his post. He was condemned to death not for what he did, but for what he did not do. The Bible says, "To him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not to him it is sin." It is just as wrong not to do what you know you ought to do as it is to do what you know you ought not to do.

Also the secret things will be recorded there. "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my Gospel." There is something about your life that no other human being knows, but God knows. All things that you do under cover of darkness will be brought to light in that day. "And the books were opened."

IV.

IV. The Book Of Tears

"Put thou my tears into thy bottle, are they not written in they Book?" Ps. 56:8
Every tear that ever fell from an orphan's eye through inhumanity, every tear

that ever fell from a widow's eye on account of hard-hearted injustices on the part of man, every tear that ever fell from the penitent's eye, goes to judgment.

Go gather from the sands of the beach or from the shells of crysters, the bright pearls of oceans. They are durable, brilliant, and precious. But they cannot compare in value and brilliance and preciousness with the tears that fall from sorrow's eyes, and which God bottles up and carries to justice. All tears caused to fall by wrongs, injustice, inhumanity, bitterness, and malice will be recorded in the book of tears to come up at the judgment.

V. The Book Of Curses

In Zechariah 5 we have an account of this book. An angel touched the prophet's eyes and said, "Open your eyes and tell me what you see". He says, "I see a flying book, flying with a purpose toward a destination." And the angel said, "That is the book of curses".

Men that lie, men that steal, men that are guilty of fraud, men that are murderers, have hovering them this book of the curses of God. At the judgment this book of curses will be opened.

VI. The Book Of Revealed Future Events

Revelation concerning future events has a great influence on one's preparation for the judgment. Now that the future has been unsealed, and men have been enabled to see and understand that this is not the whole of life but that this world is but the threshold of another, and that time is but the portal of eternity they are certainly responsible for the proper preparation for the great judgment day.

VII. The Book Of Life

"And another book was opened which is the Book of Life". Text.

Not a single entry is made in this book that day. If your name is not on that book when you come to stand there, it will never be there. It does not say, "And whosoever shall not be written that day in the book of life", but it says "And whosoever was not found written--already written--in the book of life, was cast into the lake of fire."

We who are now children of God can thank Him today that our names are not written in these former books but that they are now written in the Book of Life. Christ settled my account on Cavalry nearly 2000 years ago and when I took Him for myself and let His atoning work stand for me, my name was transferred from these first six books and written over on the book of life and the old record on those other books was blotted out. Whenever you repented of your sins and by Faith accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour, your name went on the book of life. The fact that some of our names are recorded on this book of life is the greatest reason for rejoicing that we have. I'd rather have my name written in that book than to have a deed on all the gold, silver, and diamond mines in the world. Money, fame, honor, pleasure, etc., are alright in their place but if I couldn't have any one of these and heaven too, I would say,---

"Lord, I care not for riches, neither silver nor gold;
I would make sure of heaven; I would enter the fold;
In the Book of Thy Kingdom, on its pages so fair,
Tell me, Jesus my Saviour, is my name written there?"

There was an old infidel out in Illinois and one day William Reynolds, the Sunday School missionary, went to see him. They told Mr. Reynolds not to speak to him about religion because it would make him very angry. The old infidel asked Mr. Reynolds to go up with him into the cupola of his barn and look at his great farm. When they got up there he said, "Mr. Reynolds, I came out here a poor boy when I was eighteen and I didn't own a cent, and now I own everything you can see in every direction. Look off in that direction; do you see those big fields of waving grain? They're all mine. Now look out in this direction; do you see those great pastures and meadow lands? They're all mine. Now look in that direction do you see that great stretch of woodland? It's all mine. Now look in that direction; do you see those great herds of cattle and flocks of sheep? They're all mine. I came out here a poor boy and now I own everything you can see in all four directions". So he spoke as he pointed to the four directions of the compass.

Dr. Reynolds said, "Well, you are a pretty rich man in all those directions, but how much do you own in that direction?" and Mr. Reynolds pointed up toward heaven. The rich old infidel farmer looked up, and then he dropped his head and said, "I guess I don't own very much in that direction."

"And the books were opened". Where is your name recorded? Heaven pity you if you are a pauper in the sight of God and the direction of heaven. WHERE IS YOUR NAME RECORDED? Whatever you do see that it is recorded in the book of life now.