**NAMES IN THE BOOK OF LIFE**

The phrase “book of life” occurs seven times in the New Testament, an apparent allusion to Daniel 12:1, “Your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book.”

Philippians 4:3

My fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Apocalypse 3:5

The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never **blot his name** out of the book of life.

Apocalypse 13:8

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**.

Apocalypse 17:8

The dwellers on earth whose names have **not been written** in the book of life **from[\*] the foundation of the world**.

Apocalypse 20:12

Another book was opened, which is the book of life.

Apocalypse 21:27

Only those who **are written** in the Lamb's book of life.

**Two Problems**

**(A) In Apocalypse 13:8, what happened “before” the foundation of the world?**   
Were names written before the foundation of the world? (See 17:8.)  
Or was the Lamb slain before the foundation of the world?

**(B) When do names get written in the Book of Life?** At conversion? At creation?

**Get removed from the Book of Life?** Was never written? Was written, but got blotted out?

*have been written* = Greek ‘perfect’ tense, which usually implies that something happened in the past and continues to the present. Thus, “has been written” = was written and remains so.

***not*** *been written* can = (a) was never written, so is not written, or (b) was written but has not remained so, *i.e.*, was written at the foundation of the world but got blotted out (see 3:5).

(Did God create some beings to be damned? Or did he create everyone alive with freedom to reject his offer of everlasting life? Will Scripture prevail? Or will abstract theology?)

**[\*] *before*, *from* = same word in the original. The proposition *apo* uxually translates “from”.**