

“And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. The sea gave up its dead, and death and the grave gave up their dead. And all were judged according to their deeds.” Revelation 20:11-13 NLT

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Okay, wow! This is true apocalyptic stuff here. This isn’t some Ray Bradbury, Philip K. Dick, Stephen King theories about the future with robots, flying cars, zombies and creatures from a parallel universe, this is a vision given to the Apostle John about he was told to write it down! This WILL take place. There have been thousands of theories about the when and how, but no one questions the WHY. Why? Because this world is temporary. It feels old because we have no grasp of eternity, but it is fast, fleeting and racing towards an end, then a new beginning. This is John’s soliloquy on the elements of the end. And in this discussion, as the book is also coming to an end is this phrase, “Book of Life.” What a mysterious phrase. Who keeps it? God. What’s it for? Names written down in it or those who believe are justified by faith. There also is mentioned, “deeds” and “as recorded in books.” Whoa, what’s all that? Deeds, actions, behaviors are recorded? Uh oh 😞. It’s all there. The Psalmist said even our tears are kept, literal, figurative...? God is certainly capable of physically, literally doing whatever he wants. Paul also mentions this “Book of Life” in Philippians 4:3 writing about his co-laborers in Christ. So, Paul was aware of such a thing. Jewish children were taught all about the book of life growing up. Their main concept of right and wrong was sin and forgiveness through a sacrifice. So, only the forgiven finds their name in the book. John also mentions this time of complete and total exposure to God, standing in judgment for everything we’ve ever done. Realize that sin can be dealt with through the blood of Christ, covered as though it never existed. However, deeds, that’s a whole other discussion. We are accountable and held to responsibility for our deeds, our works - not for salvation but for judgment of what is eternal (gold) and what is worldly (hay). When out to the fire, only one comes out better, the other is burned up.

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Dad,

This is both exciting and creepy to think about! A book with names and deeds. An accounting for all that was given and an expectation of what we did with it. I’m sure our past pains and issues, even shortcomings are taken into account. But none of that compares to how you transformed us into your image and what each of us did with that! Help us God! Help us all.

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rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root