

THE BOOK OF DEATH AND THE BOOK OF LIFE

Turn to Genesis 5:1 and Matthew 1:1

Introduction

We are going to talk about two books tonight, authored by two different men, by two different sons of God. We are going to talk about two different books tonight: the Book of Death and the Book of Life. We are going to talk about its two different authors: Adam and the Lord Jesus Christ. Both of these men were called the son of God according to your Bible.

Upon these two men, the state and condition of the entire earth and universe has rested predominately upon their shoulders. The actions of these sons of God have literally affected the world and the universe for those who are born after their respective seeds: for better or for worse.

We shall exam and compare these two sons of God and their actions. We shall see that Adam is the author of the book of death, while Jesus Christ is the author of the book of life. And before we leave here tonight, you need to make sure your name is written in the Lamb's book of life.

Read Genesis 5:1 and Matthew 1:1

Isn't it peculiar that when a son of God appears, a book is written: and when another Son of God appears a new book is written? You ever wonder about why the New Testament opens up with the book of the generation of Jesus Christ? I'll tell you why: a new Son of God has appeared to write a new book, a book of life. Adam wrote a book of death, and those names contained therein and those after his seed have died and shall die. But Christ came and wrote a new book: and those names contained therein and those after his seed shall live for ever, even for ever and ever.

The son of God and the Son of God

Turn to Luke 3:38 and Mark 1:1

Both Adam and Jesus Christ were called the Son of God.

In Genesis 1:26-28, God wanted Adam and Eve to replenish the earth with sons of God and wanted Adam to be king over all the creation. Yet Adam and Eve lost the physical earthly kingdom (called the kingdom of heaven) and lost the spiritual kingdom (kingdom of God) because of their sin against God. Instead of Man ruling over the earth as God intended, Satan now had dominion over the earth (Luke 4:6) Paul calls Satan the god of this world (2 Cor 4:4).

-Notice: Adam *was* the son of God. He lost his status as a son of God, why? Because he sinned.

Look in a concordance and look up "son of God." That phrase appears only one time in the OT and its Jesus Christ in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. No one

is called the son of God in the OT except Adam according to Luke's Gospel and Jesus Christ.

- Look in a concordance and look up "sons of God." The sons of God are angels, the heavenly host (Genesis 6, Job 1,2 and 38) No individual was called a son of God in the OT. The nation of Israel was called God's son in Hosea 11:1, but no individual human was called a son of God in the OT. But in the NT, those that believe on Jesus Christ are called sons of God.

Why wasn't anyone in the OT called a son of God? Because God's seed wasn't in him, God's Spirit wasn't within him. What do I mean?

Turn to Genesis 5:1-3

Adam's descendants are in Adam's own likeness, and after Adam's image, and *not* God's. We are not all children of God. We are not all sons of God. Only those that have been born again of God's Spirit by believing on the Son of God Jesus Christ can be rightfully called sons of God (John 1:12-13).

God told Adam if he ate of the forbidden fruit, he would die: and he did die. He died spiritually first, then physically. Thus, the Book of Death started to be written.

The Book of Death

One might ask how can we know that Adam and Eve's spirits' died? The Scripture in Genesis says nothing of the sort. Well, we read about in the New Testament of the washing and *regeneration* and the *renewing* of the Holy Ghost. At the moment of salvation, our spirit was quickened (made alive) and we were born again spiritually. Adam and Eve died spiritually first, physically second. Why would we have to be born again if the spirit wasn't dead in the first place? Why would the Holy Ghost have to be renewed in us if we had him all along? The Scriptures are clear on this matter. The kingdom of God left the earth from that time and returned not until the advent of Jesus Christ our Lord (Discuss briefly the nature of the kingdom of God). When someone receives Jesus Christ and believes the gospel he is born again, and born of God's Spirit.

In the OT, the Spirit God came upon men and left them, usually because of sin. Except David, the Scriptures state that the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. A perfect type of the Holy Spirit indwelling the believer from the day of their spiritual birth forward: just as David had eternal security, so does the Christian. We have the sure mercies of David. David committed murder and adultery and God's Spirit didn't leave him. That is the way it is with us under this dispensation. God's Spirit will never leave us, regardless of what sins we commit.

So Adam and Eve lost the indwelling of the Holy Ghost in Eden due to their sin against God.

Those that have Adam as their father are in Adam's image and after Adam's likeness. They also have the devil as their father.

Turn to John 8:41-44.

The natural man's father is the devil and the lusts of the devil they will do. Look at our history. It's a horror story. So much evil and sin has been committed down here it's unfathomable. In Ephesians 2:1-3, "And you *hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:* Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were *by nature the children of wrath, even as others.*"

The natural man is by nature a child of wrath and walks after the lusts of the devil and his spirit is still working in those that have not been born again. But those that have been quickened by Christ, this was your past. If this was your past, why are you still living in sin? Living after the devil? Acts 26:18, "To open their eyes, *and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.*" Before salvation you were under the power and authority of the devil, and the scriptures say he was your father.

Being born after Adam's image and Adam's likeness makes us children of wrath and children of the devil.

Go back to Genesis 5:1. The book of Adam is a book of death, and Adam is the author of it. In 1 Cor 15:22, "in Adam all die." Sin enters into the world and by man came death. In Romans 5, half of the chapter is dedicated to comparing Adam and Jesus Christ. Paul says that death passed upon all men, for all have sinned. He further states that by the offence of one (Adam), judgment came upon all men to condemnation. Because of Adam's disobedience many were made sinners.

If you read the rest of Genesis 5, every third verse says, and he died, and he died, and he died. The book of the generations of Adam is a book of death. Everyone from Adam on has died. This son of God had failed the tempters test and brought a world of sin and evil that we are currently living in.

But thanks be to God, Adam was not THE SON OF GOD, thank God he was not THE IMAGE OF THE INVISIBLE GOD, but made after him, made like unto him. THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER, THE SON, would show up one day and write a new book!

The Book of Life

Matthew 1:1 starts off by saying the book of the generation of Jesus Christ. A new son of God shows up which is THE SON OF GOD, THE ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE

FATHER FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. Notice in Matthew and Luke's genealogy that it doesn't record anyone dying. Why, because when the Lord Jesus Christ shows up, death is soon to be a thing of the past, it will soon lose its power over us and men will be risen again, some to everlasting life, and some to everlasting shame and contempt. As the Scriptures saith, In Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. By this man, Jesus Christ, comes the resurrection of the dead. This Son of God is about to write a new book: a Book of Life.

Turn to Mark 1:9-13

After Jesus Christ is baptized of John and the Holy Ghost descends upon him, and God declares him his Son in whom he is well pleased, IMMEDIATELY the Spirit drives him into the desert to be tempted of Satan.

Let me pause here: Raise your hand if you have read the first three chapters of Genesis. Is it me, or does it seem like everything was perfect for like a minute and then Satan comes along and convinces Adam and Eve to sin against God and ruins a very good creation that God had made? Did you ever realize that Adam and Eve were tempted of the devil rather quickly? Take note: as soon as the son of God showed up, Adam, he was immediately tempted of the devil. The same goes with Jesus Christ: as soon as the Son of God shows up in whom God is well pleased, Satan comes along and tries to screw things up.

Turn to Luke 4:1-13.

When one exams the temptation of the son of God, Adam, with THE SON OF GOD, Jesus Christ, we find both sons of God were tempted with the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. If you know your Bible, 1 John 2:15-16 tells you these things are not of God, but are of this world. Satan is going to try and tempt Jesus Christ the way he tempted Adam. Remember God is manifest in flesh, he now has experienced humanity and suffers hunger, and thirst, and all other human desires that we have, YET WITHOUT SIN.

Back to Adam, God clearly told Adam not to eat of the tree, but he did anyway. He neglected God's word not believing what God said about the consequences that would come to pass if he did eat. But this Son of God, Jesus Christ, when tempted of the devil EXALTED THE WORD OF GOD, AND BELIEVED WHAT GOD HAD SAID AND TRUSTED GOD! Everything the devil threw at him: he replied IT IS WRITTEN! IT IS WRITTEN! IT IS WRITTEN! IT IS WRITTEN! IT IS WRITTEN!

Aren't you glad this Son of God passed the test! How did he do it? By TRUSTING GOD'S WORD, BELIEVING GOD'S WORD, AND OBEYING GOD'S WORD. Brothers and sisters, I don't know about you, but after the Holy Ghost descended and came into me I was immediately tempted. As soon as I repented of my sin and cried out to the LORD calling upon his name, I received the Holy Ghost and became a son of God, and not even a day later I was tempted and I still am tempted to this day. BUT LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING, if you ever want to be like Jesus Christ and have victory over that serpent its going to be by that book, its going to be by believing that book, its going

to be by trusting that book, its going to be by obeying that book... IT IS WRITTEN, IT IS WRITTEN, and Satan shall flee from you!

Jesus Christ is the author of the book of life because he fulfilled the righteousness of the law. He obeyed the book all his life and never committed a sin, and never had an impure thought.

So what is written in the book of life? The book of life is the book that contains all of the names of the saints of God, from both testaments, who are predestinated to be conformed to the image of God's Son. In the end, God wants us all to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ, just like Adam was. You want to know what salvation is all about, it is that right there: to be remade back into the image of God. Paul says in Ephesians 4:15 we are to grow up into Jesus Christ, God's Son. Salvation is going back to Genesis 2 and picking up the story where it went astray because of Satan and the sin of Adam and Eve.

How do we know that the book of life contains the names of the saints? Interestingly enough, the book of life first appears in the Old Testament. The first mentioning of such a book is found in Exodus 32:32-33. The children of Israel has just committed an abomination making idols while Moses was receiving the law in Mt Sinai, and Moses goes to God to see if he could make atonement for the children of Israel. And he tells God if you don't forgive sin, then blot me out of *thy book* which thou hast written. And what saith God to him? Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. It is clear that sin gets your name out of the book of life. As soon as you sin against God, you die. Well who hasn't sinned? For we know that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. So then how does one get their name in the book of life? Praise God the answer is in the Scriptures.

In Philippians 4:3, Christians are written in the book of life. These obviously were Christians because they labored with Paul in the gospel. In Luke 10:20, Jesus said his disciples' names were written in heaven. In Revelation 3:5 those that overcome shall be clothed in white raiment, and God will not take his name out of the book of life. We read in 1 John 5:4-5, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" Our faith in Jesus Christ and being born again of God guarantees us victory over the world and eternal life in the world to come because Jesus will *not* blot out our names out of the book of life.

Turn to and read Hebrews 12:22-23.

Paul tells us several things in this passage. God dwells in the heavenly Jerusalem as well as an innumerable company of angels along with church of the firstborn (that is Jesus Christ); and those that are in the church of Christ: their names are written in heaven. Bless the LORD God Almighty! Te Scriptures tell us that those in Christ, members of his body, the church are written in heaven, and are sealed by the Spirit of God until the day of the redemption of the purchased possession.

Turn to Revelation 20:11-15.

In Revelation 13:8 and 17:8, the Scriptures are clear that those who worship the beast are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. In Revelation 20 we read about the Great White Throne of Judgment. "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." Everyone is judged according to what they did in their life.

Listen all your righteousness are as filthy rags, and if you think that you can attain entrance into the everlasting kingdom of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by your works you are wrong and this will send you to the lake of fire prepared for the devil and his angels. What saith the Scripture?

REGARDLESS of what they did in their lives, "...whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." In the end, it doesn't matter what works of righteousness you have done, all that matters is if your name is written in the Lamb's book of life. The LORD says in Isaiah 57:12, "I will declare thy righteousness, and thy words; FOR THEY SHALL **NOT** PROFIT THEE." When you appear before God in judgment, unsaved, born only once, having never been a partaker of the Holy Ghost, God will judge you according to your works. Every thought, every word ever said by you will be brought into judgment: And you WILL be condemned to spend eternity in a lake of fire. But praise God you don't have to go there: God has made a way out for you. The Bible says if your name is in the book of life, you have nothing to worry about. The Scriptures tell us that Christians, those that have been born again, are written in heaven and are in the book of life.

Your name can be written in the book of life if you repent of your sins and believe on Jesus Christ from the heart and call upon his name to save you and forgive you. The Scriptures say in Romans 10:13, For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Salvation is not of works, but by grace through faith, it is the gift of God, not of works lest any man should boast. The Scriptures are clear that every mouth shall be stopped and all the world shall become guilty before God and NO FLESH SHALL BE JUSTIFIED in his sight. "I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain. Salvation is by and only by believing on the name of the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Let us summarize:

Adam and the last Adam are similar, but have many differences. Adam was the author of the book of death: and those that are of his seed (which is us all) are by nature the children of wrath and children of the devil. Death has come upon us all because of Adam's disobedience. Jesus Christ, the last Adam, is the author of the book of life: those that are born of his seed shall see life, and life everlasting. By one man's disobedience many were made sinners, but by one man's obedience, many were made

righteous. The book of Adam is a book of horrors: death, sorrow, crying, pain, and enemies of God. The book of Jesus Christ is a book of life: no more death, sorrow, crying, or pain, and sons of God.

We give all the thanks, honour, glory, and power, unto the only LORD God, and the Lord Jesus Christ: for it was he that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood. Praise ye his holy name.