

Thursology 125: What!?! Predestination Isn't About Who's SAVED??? Then What IS It About??? (Book of Life-Pt 7)

(Thursology Live! 7/3/25)

--Election, Predestination, and "Chosen-ness":

--Romans 9:10-16: And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived twins by one man, our father Isaac; for though the twins were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to His choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, it was said to her, "The older will serve the younger." Just as it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated." What shall we say then? There is no injustice with God, is there? May it never be! For He says to Moses, "I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion." So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.

--Questions that the Reformed doctrine of "Double Predestination" CANNOT overcome:

--Question #1: What does the *Scripture* teach about God's *Election*?

--An incredibly important theological precept: The only way to have a good _____ Testament theology...is to start with a good _____ Testament theology!!!

--The Doctrine of Election in the Old Testament: The _____ people...were the _____

--Exodus 32:30-33: On the next day Moses said to the people, "You yourselves have committed a great sin; and now I am going up to the Lord, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the Lord, and said, "Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves. But now, if You will, forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out from Your book which You have written!" The Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot them out of My book."

--Key Concept #1: The _____ people who chose to disbelieve...were _____!!!

--A biblical fact that shocks some theological traditions: There isn't a 1-to-1 _____ between Election...and personal _____!!!

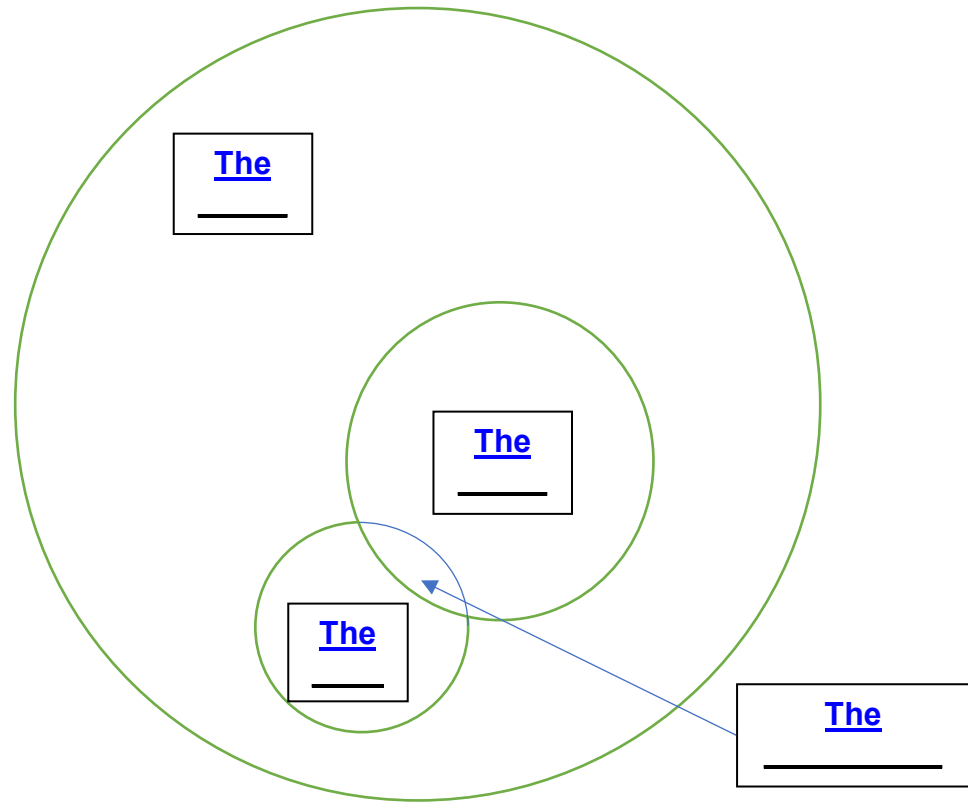
--A second biblical fact that shocks some theological traditions: _____ of people in the Old Testament experienced salvation...even though they _____ part of the _____!!!

--Key Concept #2: Lots of the Elect ended up being _____ and...lots of the Un-Elect ended up being..._____!!!

--Rom 9:15-26: As He says also in Hosea, "I will call those who were not My people, 'My people,' And her who was not beloved, 'beloved.'" "And it shall be that in the place where it was said to them, 'you are not My people,' There they shall be called children of the living God."

--Remarkable theology: God's plan is to take people who aren't part of the _____...and make them to be His _____!!!

Diagram: The Old Testament Theology of Election
The World, The Elect, The Saved, and the Remnant



--II Peter 1:10-11: Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things, you will never stumble; for in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.

--Key Concept #1: This passage reveals how to be _____ of being _____.

--Key Concept #2: The _____ of chosen-ness...and not _____...is found by those who _____ the ways of the Word.

--Key Concept #3: The entrance into the eternal kingdom isn't linked to being _____...but to being _____!!!

--**Question #2: What does the Scripture teach about God's impartiality?**

--Deut 10:17: For the LORD your God is the God of gods...the awesome God who does not show partiality...

--Gal 2:6: "...God shows no partiality..."

--Eph 6:9: "...and there is no partiality with Him."

--II Chron 19:7: "...for the LORD our God will have no part in unrighteousness or partiality..."

--Rom 2:11: "For there is no partiality with God."

--Acts 10:34-35, 43: "And opening his mouth, Peter said: 'I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the one who fears Him and does what is right is welcome to Him'...Of Him all the prophets bear witness that through His name everyone who believes in Him has received forgiveness of sins."

--John Calvin: "...our salvation flows from...God's eternal election. He does not indiscriminately adopt all into the hope of salvation. Rather, He gives to some what He denies to others."

--The problem with this statement: If Calvin was right...this is the absolute height of _____...and makes the passages about God's impartiality..._____!!!

--**Application #1: Believers aren't chosen for a special _____...we're chosen for a special _____!!!**

--Romans 8:28-29: And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose. For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...

--What did God predestine us FOR??? To _____ like _____!!!

--I Pet 1:1-2: Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those...who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood..."

--Why are chosen people chosen? To be _____ by the Holy Spirit so that they'll live a life of _____ to Christ

--**Application #2: We aren't chosen for a special _____...we're chosen for a special _____!!!**

--Zechariah 8:7-8: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'Behold, I am going to save My people from the land of the east and from the land of the west; and I will bring them back and they will live in the midst of Jerusalem; and they shall be My people, and I will be their God in truth and righteousness.'"

--Vv. 20-23: "Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'It will yet be that peoples will come, even the inhabitants of many cities. The inhabitants of one will go to another, saying, "Let us go at once to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to seek the LORD of hosts; I will also go." So many peoples and mighty nations will come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem and to entreat the favor of the LORD. Thus says the LORD of hosts, 'In those days ten men from all the nations will grasp the garment of a Jew, saying, "Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you.'"

--**Key Concept #1**: When Christians discuss the concept of Election...we nearly always focus on the theology of _____ salvation...and who gets to go to _____

--**Key Concept #2**: When the Word discusses the concept of Election...it focuses on believers being made _____...so that the Elect will draw the _____ to salvation!!!

--**Key Concept #3**: The _____ you're chosen...is to take the Gospel and the love of Christ...to the _____-chosen!!!

--Psalms 51:1-3; 10-12: Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; according to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me...Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me away from Your presence and do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and sustain me with a willing spirit.

--V. 13: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will be converted to You.

--**Take-home messages:**

--**#1**: The purpose of Election is _____!!!

--**#2**: The purpose of holiness is to _____ lost people!!!

--**#3**: True _____ will not happen until the saved aren't just _____...but they're also radically _____!!!

Thursology 124: When Do You Get Your Name in *THE BOOK*...and Can It Be *ERASED*??? (Lamb's Book of Life-Pt 6)

(Thursology Live! 6/5/2025)

--Unconditional Election/Double Predestination...and the Book of Life:

--John MacArthur: "God controls all things, right down to choosing who will be saved. God determined before time began to love and save some and He chose them without regard to anything good or bad they might do. He chose them solely because it pleased Him to do so. And His purposes for choosing some and rejecting others are hidden in the secret counsels of His own will."

--Revelation 13:1, 8: And the dragon stood on the sand of the seashore. Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names...All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

--What "Average Joe Christian" believes about the Book of Life

--"Average Joe Calvinist"

1. Only those who were elect to be saved **EVER** have their names **IN** the Book of Life.
2. Those whose names were written in the Book of Life before the foundations of the earth are predestined to **SALVATION**...are eternally **SECURE** no matter what they do...and cannot have their name **REMOVED**.

--"Average Joe Arminian"

1. When a person becomes a **BELIEVER**...their name is **WRITTEN** in the Book of Life.
2. If you "**BACKSLIDE**"...your name is **REMOVED** from the Book.
3. Children's names are **NOT** in the Book of Life...because they haven't **ACCEPTED** Christ yet...but somehow...they're "**COVERED** by grace."

"Average Joe Calvinist"

	<u>Before Creation</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Conversion</u>	<u>Life</u>	<u>Death</u>
Believer ("Elect")	IN	IN	IN	IN	IN
Non-Believer ("Un-elect")	OUT	OUT	(N/A)	OUT	OUT

"Average Joe Arminian"

	<u>Before Creation</u>	<u>Birth</u>	<u>Conversion</u>	<u>Life</u>	<u>Death</u>
Believer	OUT	OUT	IN	I/O	IN
"Backslider"	OUT	OUT	IN	I/O	OUT
Non-Believer	OUT	OUT	(N/A)	OUT	OUT

--The REAL Doctrine of The Book of Life:

--Revelation 20:12, 15: And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life...And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

--Key Concept: Fundamentally...every **SYSTEM** of salvation theology must be harmonized with what the **WORD** teaches about the Book of Life.

--The Old Testament Doctrine of the Book of Life:

--Psalm 69:27-28: Add iniquity to their iniquity, and may they not come into Your righteousness. May they be blotted out of the book of life and may they not be recorded with the righteous.

--Key Concept: Those who live in unbelief and with unrepented sin...will have their names **BLOTTED OUT** of the Book of Life

--A big biblical surprise: For unbelievers to have their names **BLOTTED** out of the Book of Life...means that their names were originally...**IN!!!**

--Hebrews 3:15-19: "...while it is said, 'Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts, as when they provoked Me.' For who provoked Him when they had heard? Indeed, did not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the wilderness? And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient? So we see that they were not able to enter because of unbelief."

--Key Concept: The **FUNDAMENTAL** sin that is relevant to the Book of Life...is the sin of **UNBELIEF**

--Exodus 32:20-21, 30-33: He took the calf which they had made and burned it with fire, and ground it to powder, and scattered it over the surface of the water and made the sons of Israel drink it. Then Moses said to Aaron, "What did this people do to you, that you have brought such great sin upon them?"

--On the next day Moses said to the people, "You yourselves have committed a great sin; and now I am going up to the Lord, perhaps I can make atonement for your sin." Then Moses returned to the Lord, and said, "Alas, this people has committed a great sin, and they have made a god of gold for themselves. But now, if You will, forgive their sin—and if not, please blot me out from Your book which You have written!" The Lord said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book."

--The OT doctrine of the Book of Life: Whoever dies in the sin of **UNBELIEF**...will have their name **BLOTTED OUT** of the Book of Life.

--The New Testament doctrine of the Book of Life:

--Revelation 3:1, 5-6: To the angel of the church in Sardis write...He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

--What we learn about the Book of Life from the New Testament: Those who live and die in unbelief will have their name **ERASED** from the Book of Life...and those who **BELIEVE** will not.

--Key Concept: Even **NON**-believers have their name **IN** the Book of Life while they're living!!!

--Perfect harmony between the OT and NT doctrines:

1. The names of **BOTH** and believers and unbelievers were written **IN** the Book of Life before the foundations of the earth.
2. Since **EVERY** person's name is in the Book of Life while they're living...no one is predestined to be **LOST**
3. Thus...there **IS** a biblical doctrine of Predestination...but there is not a Biblical doctrine of **DOUBLE Predestination**.

4. Since **EVERYONE'S** name is in the Book of Life while they're living...and since you have to die in unbelief to have your name **ERASED**...it's God's plan for everyone to be **SAVED!!!**

--Dealing With Revelation 13:8:

--Revelation 13:8: All who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.

--How to deal with complex or seemingly-contradictory biblical texts:

1. Evaluate the other scriptures that relate to the passage
2. Evaluate the passage in context...rather than in isolation
3. Evaluate where the passage fits into salvation history

--Notice three things about the Book of Life passages:

--Precept #1: In the OT era...the difference between believers and unbelievers was that God **BLOTTED** the names of unbelievers out of the Book of Life when they **DIED**

--Precept #2: In the church age...the difference between believers and unbelievers was that God **ERASED** the names of the unbelievers from the Book of Life when they **DIED**

--Precept #3: The proper theological understanding for both the OT era and the Church Age is that...**EVERYONE** can be saved...and only those who **REFUSE** to believe will have their names **ERASED** from the Book of Life.

--Revelation 13:5, 7-8, 16: "There was given to him a mouth speaking arrogant words and blasphemies, and authority to act for forty-two months was given to him...It was also given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them, and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him. And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, everyone whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain...And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead..."

--Timeline of the Doctrine of the Book of Life:

[-----OT ERA-----]-----CHURCH AGE-----]--TRIB--]

--The proper interpretation of Rev 13:8: Through all the ages...the only people who have **NO** possibility of salvation...are those who **CHOOSE** to take the Mark of the **BEAST** at the end of time.

--Key Clarification: Rev 13:8 is not the doctrine of the **OLD** Testament Age...or of the **CHURCH** Age

--Application: The biblical doctrine of the Book of Life **RESOLVES** and **CLARIFIES** several really **STICKY** theological issues.

1. Since everyone's name is in the Book...the "**ANYONE**" of Revelation 3:20 really means...**ANYONE!!!**
--Rev 3:20: "Behold I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come into him and dine with him and he with Me."
2. The Book of Life passages reveal that the biblical doctrine of "Eternal Security" is far more **COMPLEX** than most theological **SYSTEMS** make it out to be.

3. Because everyone's name was in the Book from before the foundations of the earth...God intended for every human who was ever born to live in communion with Him in **EDEN...FOREVER!!!**
4. This doctrine places the **BLAME** for sin and unbelief where it **BELONGS!!!**
5. The biblical doctrine of the Book of Life places the **TIMING** of death and judgment in proper **ORDER**.
--Hebrews 9:27: "...it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment."
--Key Concept: The doctrine of the Book of Life reveals that judgement doesn't occur until **AFTER** death...when it's determined whether a person **BELIEVED** in Christ...and only then is the name of the unbeliever **REMOVED** from the Book of Life.
6. The doctrine of the Book of Life makes sense of the concept of the "**AGE** of **ACCOUNTABILITY**."