

The Two Books
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
May 9, 2009

Revelation 20

- 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and **books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.** And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.
- 13 The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works.
- 14 Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- 15 And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.

Notice there are two separate and apparently very distinct “books”. One is a set of multiple books and the other is a singularly focused book. Verse 12 said, “Books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life.”

What are those books?

What is their content?

What does this verse tell us?

The set of books – the plural reference – I propose to mean the Bible – more specifically – the Book of the Law, the Torah. The first 5 books of the Bible are Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. If you will allow me to make that assumption for a while, let’s see if I can prove it. You, of course and as always, must make your own conclusions.

The Book of the Covenant and the Book of the Law

At the writing of the Books of Kings, both the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah had been taken captive. The two books were originally written as one. Now, in chapter 22 of 2 Kings, King Josiah orders the repair of the temple which has been left in a state of disarray for many years.

- **2 Kings 22**
 - 1 ¶ Josiah was eight years old when he became king, and he reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Jedidah the daughter of Adaiah of Bozkath.
 - 2 And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.

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- 3 Now it came to pass, in the eighteenth year of King Josiah, that the king sent Shaphan the scribe, the son of Azaliah, the son of Meshullam, to the house of the LORD, saying:
 - 4 "Go up to Hilkiyah the high priest, that he may count the money which has been brought into the house of the LORD, which the doorkeepers have gathered from the people.
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 - 8 Then Hilkiyah the high priest said to Shaphan the scribe, "I have found the Book of the Law in the house of the LORD." And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.
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 - 10 Then Shaphan the scribe showed the king, saying, "Hilkiyah the priest has given me a book." And Shaphan read it before the king.
 - 11 Now it happened, when the king heard the words of the Book of the Law, that he tore his clothes.
 - 12 Then the king commanded Hilkiyah the priest, Ahikam the son of Shaphan, Achbor the son of Michaiyah, Shaphan the scribe, and Asaiah a servant of the king, saying,
 - 13 "Go, inquire of the LORD for me, for the people and for all Judah, concerning the words of this book that has been found; for great is the wrath of the LORD that is aroused against us, because our fathers have not obeyed the words of this book, to do according to all that is written concerning us."
- 2 Chronicles 34-35
 - Relates the same story as 2 Kings 22

After rebuilding the temple, Nehemiah reads the law

- **Nehemiah 8:**
 - 1 Now all the people gathered together as one man in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the Book of the Law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded Israel.
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 - 3 Then he read from it in the open square that was in front of the Water Gate from morning until midday, before the men and women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.
 -
 - 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
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- 8 So they read distinctly from the book, in the Law of God; and they gave the sense, and helped them to understand the reading.
 - **There was understanding at this time!**
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- 18 Also day by day, from the first day until the last day, he read from the Book of the Law of God. And they kept the feast seven days; and on the eighth day there was a sacred assembly, according to the prescribed manner.

- **Isaiah 29**
 - 11 The whole vision has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed, which men deliver to one who is literate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed."
 - 12 Then the book is delivered to one who is illiterate, saying, "Read this, please." And he says, "I am not literate."
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 - 18 In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, And the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness.
 - The book is sealed – it cannot be understood – until “that day”
 - **Revelation 20**
 - 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened.

- **Daniel 7**
 - 10 A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.
 - Daniel is given a vision of God

- **Daniel 9**
 - 2 in the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by the books the number of the years specified by the word of the LORD through Jeremiah the prophet, that He would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

- **Daniel 12**
 - 4 "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."
 - Daniel is given understanding and is then told to seal the book – it is not to be understood again until the end time.
 - Notice that Daniel is told to shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end.
 - Revelation 20 tells us that the books were opened.

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- “Opening the books” means that the meaning of the books – not just the content – was opened. We can now understand them!

- **Revelation 10**
 - 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,
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 - 8 Then the voice which I heard from heaven spoke to me again and said, "Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth."
 - 9 So I went to the angel and said to him, "Give me the little book." And he said to me, "Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth."
 - 10 Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter.
 - **Remember the blessings and cursing – the sweet and the bitter. The “eating” of the book describes taking its contents into the person’s whole being – a complete understanding.**

- **Revelation 22**
 - 7 "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
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 - 9 Then he said to me, "See that you do not do that. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."
 - 10 And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand."
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 - 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book;
 - 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Next, we will look at the “other book” – the “Book of Life”.

Remember – it is Good News!!!!!!

The Book of Life

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May 9, 2009

- **Exodus 32**
 - 32 "Yet now, if You will forgive their sin-but if not, I pray, blot me out of Your book which You have written."
 - 33 And the LORD said to Moses, "Whoever has sinned against Me, I will blot him out of My book.
 - Moses assumes his name has been written in the Book of Life – AND it can be removed!!!!!!!!!!!!

- **Job 19**
 - 23 "Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book!

- **Job 31**
 - 35 Oh, that I had one to hear me! Here is my mark. Oh, that the Almighty would answer me, That my Prosecutor had written a book!
 - Job recognized that "my prosecutor" had written a book!!!! He knew he would be judged by some standard

- **Psalms 40**
 - 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me.
 - 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."

- **Psalms 56**
 - 8 You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book?

- **Psalms 69**
 - 28 Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, And not be written with the righteous.

- **Psalms 139**
 - 1 O LORD, You have searched me and known me.
 - 2 You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thought afar off.
 - 3 You comprehend my path and my lying down, And are acquainted with all my ways.
 - 4 For there is not a word on my tongue, But behold, O LORD, You know it altogether.
 - Everything we think, say or do is written into the Book of (Our) Life!

The Two Books
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May 9, 2009

- 5 You have hedged me behind and before, And laid Your hand upon me.
- 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; It is high, I cannot attain it.
-
- 16 Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them.

- **Daniel 12:**
 - 1 "At that time Michael shall stand up, The great prince who stands watch over the sons of your people; And there shall be a time of trouble, Such as never was since there was a nation, Even to that time. And at that time your people shall be delivered, Every one who is found written in the book.

- **Malachi 3**
 - 16 Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, And the LORD listened and heard them; So a book of remembrance was written before Him For those who fear the LORD And who meditate on His name.

- **Philippians 4**
 - 3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.

- **Hebrews 10**
 - 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come--In the volume of the book it is written of Me--To do Your will, O God.'

- **Revelation 1**
 - 11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

- **Revelation 3**
 - 5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

- **Revelation 13**

The Two Books
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- 8 All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

- **Revelation 17**
 - 8 "The beast that you saw was, and is not, and will ascend out of the bottomless pit and go to perdition. And those who dwell on the earth will marvel, whose names are not written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the world, when they see the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.

- **Revelation 21:**
 - 27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Who would not want to be in the Lamb's Book of Life – and live forever with Christ and with God?