

graceWORKS ! GOING DEEPER! **The Papou Study Bible** is a daily study provided by me to help



folks explore the depth and joy of the “conneXion” life of God. It’s my personal study, and is not intended as a doctrinal statement or statement of any church or denomination or congregation. It’s also my belief that “grace” works, and the servant of God should always want to go deeper. Multi-tasking as usual, I’m also calling this the “Papou Study Bible.” I’m writing it as if I were speaking to my girls Paige, Stephanie, and Ashley, and any descendant they have (particularly Nicole, Joey, Matthew, Dylan, Julianne, and Lizzie, who know me as “Papou”). And to anyone who wants to consider me a spiritual Dad or “Papou.” I want them to be able to study the Bible with Papou (grandpa in Greek) after I’m gone---and if they don’t, I’ll haunt them. The Scriptures say it’s noble to “search the Scriptures daily” to verify truth like the ancient Bereans did (Acts 17:11). My folks came from Berea. My incredible Dad (and your grandfather and great grandfather, guys), Vasil Charles Valekis taught me to do this like he did---every day until I die. He taught me and everyone I know to go to church no matter what and to put God first. While Mama (Maria Pagona Stratakis Valekis)

never really did this, she made sure we listened to Daddy on this one. She would have hit us with a spatula or frying pan or worse if we didn’t. This is a simple sharing my “daily search.” And I’d like to think it is a continuation of God’s life through my Dad through me. Both my “Dads” by the way. And a way to honor him, mama and our loving “Dad”---God. And for all of us to be together, in Spirit, even when we I join them in heaven. I like to use the Blue Letter literal, very “visual,” Greek translation a lot to help “visualize” these truths the beautiful way Greek enables you to view. And I like to share this with folks serving in an elder capacity, or any capacity, to grow them, challenge them, and stretch them. But especially share it with my girls. And when you study these, I’ll make sure to connect with you from heaven. *Ever an orthodox Greek, Jim Valekis*



**ChristIN
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Colossians 1:27 (King James Version)

²⁷To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is

Christ in you, the hope of glory

graceWORKS! GOING DEEPER
Ezekiel 13 Part 2²

So today we’ll see where Christ possibly got his “source” material for the brilliant alliterations He made. And we’ll more deeply explore the “Book of Life.” It’s fascinating to read the whole bible, line by line, and sink in God’s words with greater depth and intensity. Enjoy!

Let’s continue in Ezekiel chapter 13. Enjoy!

¹ NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR UPLOADED TO WEB WITHOUT EXPRESS PERMISSION OF AUTHOR.

² New International Version (NIV)

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(Author’s note: This translation, and the study notes that accompany it in The NIV Study Bible, Copyright 1985,1995, 2002, 2008, 2011 are also referenced throughout and paraphrased frequently in the notes.)

Ezekiel 13 New International Version (NIV)

We concluded here last time.

⁸“Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: Because of your false words and lying visions, I am against you, declares the Sovereign LORD. ⁹My hand will be against the prophets who see false visions and utter lying divinations. They **will not belong to the council of my people or be listed in the records of Israel**, nor will they enter the land of Israel.

I questioned the concept the “records of Israel.” Is this somehow connected with what is called the “Book of Life” elsewhere in the Bible?

Here are Scriptures the NIV study bible links this passage to.

Daniel 12:1	Psalm 69:28
At that time Michael, the great prince who protects your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress such as has not happened from the beginning of nations until then. But at that time your people—everyone whose name is found written in the book —will be delivered.	²⁸ May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous.

Here are some references to think about in the New Testament.

Philippians 4:3	Revelations 3:5	Luke 10:20	Hebrews 12:23
³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women . . . whose names are in the book of life.	⁵ The one who is victorious . . . I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life. . . & acknowledge that name before my Father and . . . angels.	²⁰ However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”	²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.

And consider this one:

Revelation 13:8 New International Version (NIV)

⁸All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.^[a]

Footnotes:

- a. **Revelation 13:8** Or written from the creation of the world in the book of life belonging to the Lamb who was slain

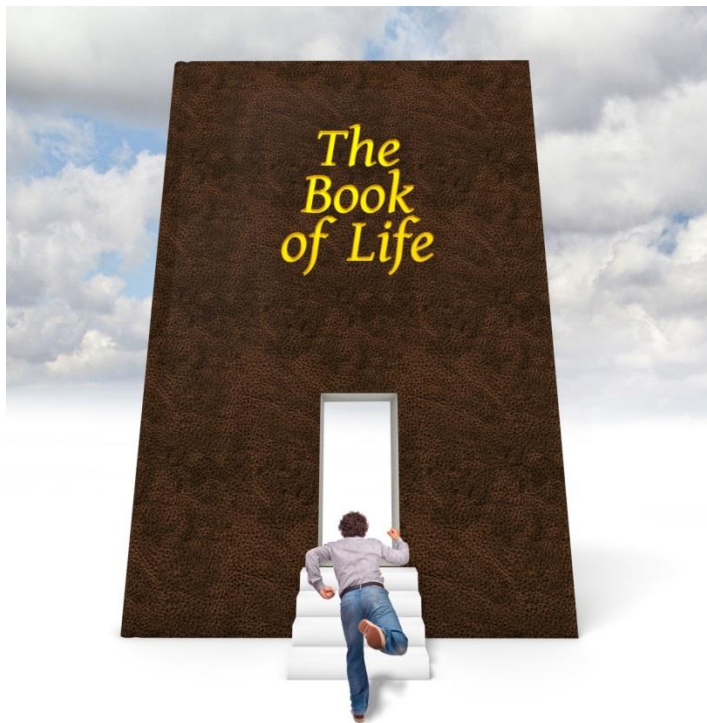


Figure 1 Photo 45560788 © Gualtiero Boffi | Dreamstime.com

There are all kinds of Scriptures about "the book" in the Bible. In some cases it's called the "Book of Life." In one case, at least, it's called the "Book of Truth." I want to go on that rabbit trail.

I'm going to look up all the Scriptural references I can find on this subject. I'm eager to know whatever I can from God's word, and this kind of research intrigues me.

So here goes.

Daniel 10:21 New International Version (NIV)

²¹but first I will tell you what is written in the Book of Truth.

The NIV study Bible says this refers to God's book of the destinies of all human beings.

Exodus 32:32 New International Version (NIV)

³²But now, please forgive their sin—but if not, then blot me out of the book you have written.”

Psalm 9: 5	Psalm 51:1	Psalm 69:28
You have rebuked the nations and destroyed the wicked; you have blotted out their name for ever and ever.	Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.	May they be blotted out of the book of life and not be listed with the righteous. (This is listed above).

These references opened up all kinds of concepts.

Psalm 9:5 spoke as if there is a register (so says the NIV) of all living persons written on a papyrus scroll. It cites these Scriptures as references.

Nu 5:23	Dt 9:14	Dt 25:19	Dt 29:20	2Ki 14:27
²³ “The priest is to write these curses on a scroll and then wash them off into the bitter water.	¹⁴ Let me alone, so that I may destroy them and blot out their name from under heaven. And I will make you into a nation stronger and more numerous than they.”	¹⁹ When the LORD your God gives you rest from all the enemies around you in the land he is giving you to possess as an inheritance, you shall blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven. Do not forget!	²⁰ The LORD will never be willing to forgive them; his wrath and zeal will burn against them. All the curses written in this book will fall on them, and the LORD will blot out their names from under heaven.	²⁷ And since the LORD had not said he would blot out the name of Israel from under heaven, he saved them by the hand of Jeroboam son of Jehoash.

The study reference in Psalm 51 says there is imagery in the Scriptures that show that God keeps records in heaven the way human kings do, and lists these Scriptures:

Ps 56:8	Ps 87:6	Ps 130:3	Ps 139:16	Ne 13:14	Da 7:10
<p>⁸ Record my misery; list my tears on your scroll³— are they not in your record?</p>	<p>⁶ The LORD will write in the register of the peoples: "This one was born in Zion."</p>	<p>³ If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?</p>	<p>¹⁶ Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.</p>	<p>¹⁴ Remember me for this, my God, and do not blot out what I have so faithfully done for the house of my God and its services.</p>	<p>¹⁰ A river of fire was flowing, coming out from before him. Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.</p>

So long story short---this study could go on much longer, and I want to continue in Ezekiel. But let me repeat what I saw in the New Testament.

Philippians 4:3	Revelations 3:5	Luke 10:20	Hebrews 12:23
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³ Or "in your wineskin"

<p>³Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women . . . whose names are in the book of life.</p>	<p>⁵The one who is victorious . . . I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life. . . & acknowledge that name before my Father and . . .angels.</p>	<p>²⁰However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”</p>	<p>²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven.</p>
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The book of life is mentioned several times in Revelation too.

Revelation 3:5

The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never **blot out** the name of that person from the **book of life**, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.

Revelation 13:8

All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast—all whose names **have not been written** in the Lamb’s **book of life**, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world.

Revelation 17:8

The beast, which you saw, once was, now is not, and yet will come up out of the Abyss and go to its destruction. The inhabitants of the earth whose names **have not been written** in the **book of life** from the creation of the world will be astonished when they see the beast, because it once was, now is not, and yet will come.

Revelation 20:12

And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the **book of life**. The dead were judged according to **what they had done as recorded in the books**.

Revelation 20:15

Anyone whose name was not found written in the **book of life** was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:27

Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s **book of life**.

So . . .the Book of Life is a big deal. Not all names are apparently written into it, based on those Scriptures above. At least the impression is that someone's name could be blotted out from it. What we have done is recorded in it. It seems to have a time when what's in it will be finalized. So cool! Hope you enjoyed this rabbit trail.