**Many Christian teachers err when they attempt to teach about the “book of life.” Their error comes from a failure to recognize that there are actually three different books of life mentioned in the scriptures, with each pertaining to one of the three parts of man (body, spirit and soul). The third book of life is found in Revelation. It is a book of the names of all who will rule and reign with Jesus Christ in His kingdom.**

**Three Books of Life  
By Gary Whipple of** [**Beyond the Rapture**](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf)

“Let them be blotted out of the book of the living and not be written with the righteous” ([Psalm 69:28](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+69.28&t=NKJV)).

Many Christian teachers err when they attempt to teach about the “book of life.” Their error comes from a failure to recognize that there are actually three different books of life mentioned in the scriptures, with each pertaining to one of the three parts of man (body, spirit and soul). Two of these “books of life” are found in the Old Testament, with the third book being found in the book of Revelation.

**The First Book of Life**

"Let them be blotted out of the book of the living..." ([Psalm 69:28a](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+69.28a&t=NKJV))

In the first half of this verse in Psalms we see the first of the two books of life. It is called the “book of the living.” This is the book in which every person’s name is written at the moment of conception and is blotted out at the moment of death. It is the book of all of the living, lost and saved, and pertains only to the body of man. David mentioned this book of life when he spoke of his own conception in [Psalm 139:13-16](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+139.13-16&t=NKJV). In the 16th verse he tells us that God wrote his name in this book before his bodily members were formed in the womb of his mother. Here we see that God counts us as individual persons with names at the moment of conception. The Jews recognized this truth by counting all of their children as being one year old at birth.

**The Second Book of Life**

“...and not be written with the righteous” ([Psalm 69:28b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Psalm+69.28b&t=NKJV)).

The second half of the verse that is before us, is the book of life of the righteous. It contains all of the names of those who are saved, and who will be saved (salvation of the spirit). Here, the names of the saved can only be written, not blotted out (eternal security of the believer). In the New Testament, this book is known as the “Book of Life” (depending on the context), and the “Lamb’s Book of Life” (compare [Philippians 4:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Philippians+4.3&t=NKJV); [Revelation 13:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+13.8&t=NKJV); [17:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+17.8&t=NKJV); [20:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+20.15&t=NKJV); [21:27](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+21.27&t=NKJV)). It pertains only to the spirit of man.

**The Third Book of Life**

“He that overcomes, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels” ([Revelation 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.5&t=NKJV)).

This third book of life is found in Revelation. It is a book of the names of all who will rule and reign with Jesus Christ in His kingdom. Every believer’s name will be written in this book because he is an heir. But if he is disinherited, his name will be blotted out. Where it is impossible for a believer to be blotted out of the book of life that pertains to the salvation of the spirit, it is possible for one to be blotted out of this book, which pertains to the salvation of the soul (rewards). The above verse ([Revelation 3:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.5&t=NKJV)), teaches that there is a reward for those who overcome, and a loss of reward (being blotted out of the book of life) for those who fail to overcome. Thus, this book of life is a different book from the first two books of life, in that it pertains specifically to the soul.

The contextual setting of this verse is found in the letter that was written to the Sardis church. This church represents the new Christian who does not grow in the Word, and confess his sins to God. Therefore, it becomes a fitting symbol of the average church member in these last days. Having a name by which they live, yet are dead ([Revelation 3:1b](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+3.1b&t=NKJV)). Saved, but that is about all, as these are saints who are in danger of losing their inheritance by being blotted out of the book of life. Most likely, those of this class who fail to overcome will spend their millennial life in “the outer darkness.”

(See [(4) The parable of the talents](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#(4)%20The%20parable%20of%20the%20talents.), [Kingdom Basics!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#Kingdom%20Basics!) and [“Resurrected Bodies” and “Bodies of the Resurrection”](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#%E2%80%9CResurrected%20Bodies%E2%80%9D%20and%20%E2%80%9CBodies%20of%20the%20Resurrection%E2%80%9D).)

“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and {from} the things which are written in this book.” ([Revelation 22:19](https://www.blueletterbible.org/search/preSearch.cfm?Criteria=Revelation+22.19&t=NKJV))

The context of this verse suggests more than just the representation of Sardis Christians. God here warns the apostate Christians (those falling away from God) that their punishment will be in having their names blotted out of the book of life, and a suffering of the second death. (See [First and Second Deaths!](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-one.php#First%20and%20Second%20Deaths!) that follows.)

The differences between the above two groups are as follows. Whereas, some of the Sardis Christians fail to grow in the Word, these Christians fall away from the Word, and in so doing, try to destroy it. The first group loses their inheritance. The second loses their inheritance and their body. Also notice, that all who suffer this judgment will lose their part out of the Holy City, and from the things (the inheritance) written in the book. This exclusion from the Holy City and loss of inheritance will probably last throughout eternity, even though at the end of the kingdom age, they will be raised and be given glorified bodies forever.

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Excerpted from [Bible One - Gary Whipple's Beyond the Rapture](http://www.bibleone.net/BeyondtheRapture.pdf) Ch. 11, Pg. 164.

See [The Tree of Life in Genesis, Proverbs, and Revelation](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-three.php#The%20Tree%20of%20Life%20in%20Genesis,%20Proverbs,%20and%20Revelation) in this site for the **Tree of Life** as opposed to the three **Books of Life**.

Gary Whipple's two books are available for purchase at [Gary Whipple's Books - Schoettle Publishing](http://www.schoettlepublishing.com/catalog/whipple.htm).

See [The Book of Life](https://www.koffeekupkandor.com/gods-word-two.php#The%20Book%20of%20Life) in this site for additional commentary on the subject.