

and the Books were Opened



Rev. 20:12



Lamb's Book
of Life

Rev.21:27

Revelation 21:27 (NASB), “and nothing unclean, and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb’s book of life.



Books of
Men's Works

Rev.20:12-13

Revelation 20:12-13 (NASB), ¹²“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 the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one *of them* according to their deeds.



Law

Gal. 3:20

Galatians 3:20 (NASB), “Now a mediator is not for one *party only*; whereas God is *only* one.”



Book of Life

Rev.20:15

Revelation 20:15 (NASB), “And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”

Remember, this is a judgment of a person's works. This is why the books are opened; within them each man's works are recorded. However, we know that salvation is not by works Eph. 2:8-9.

Ephesians 2:8-9 "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Therefore, we can say that everyone at this judgment will not find their names written in the Book of Life and will be eternally doomed and cast into the Lake of Fire.

Up to this point all the unrighteous souls have been held in Hell (Hades) waiting the time of their judgment. It is a temporary holding place until they are judged. After judgment, all who were not found in the Book of Life are thrown into the Lake of Fire (called Gehenna), the final resting place for the wicked and unrighteous.

A Judgment of Degrees

The difference between Gehenna and Hell is that there will be degrees of eternal punishment in Gehenna. This would be impossible without the measure of a man's sin being determined; this is what the judgment is for. Therefore until there is a judgment of their works the unrighteous are held in hell until the time of the Great White Throne Judgment.

Romans 2:5 "But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,"

The degree of their eternal punishment will depend on the number of times they have rejected the Gospel Message of Christ's love and their own works. The sin of the heart, is its hardness. Its condition is unrepentant, unremorseful, unapologetic and shameless, of which all are **MEASURED IN DEGREES**. In such a condition they lay up treasures of wrath reserved for them in Gehenna, called the **LAKE OF FIRE**.

This is also why, for those who know the Gospel and teach the Gospel and preach the Gospel, they will have a greater responsibility before God. They have the greater light (as God has revealed it to them) and will be held to a greater level of accountability before Jesus Christ the judge.