

# Kingdom Vision Report

By Orlando Mostert

Teaching Topic this week:

## **Election?, Predestination?, Free Will?....My Third Option.**

Teaching series: I will from time to time in my blogs do a teaching to correct what I believe are wrong teachings from scripture. I do mostly corrections on prophecy issues but there are several doctrinal issues that I differ on which I would like to offer you alternative viewpoints.

Issue: I want to offer you a third option in the long standing debate between Calvinists and Arminians. Neither works for me. I have not read this solution anywhere so look at my proposal critically and prayerfully and see if it is scripturally sound and makes sense to you.

I attend a Dutch Reformed Church in our local community. Which is a bit new for me as I have all my life been a Pentecostal Evangelical. But I feel that is where the Lord wants me to help and make a difference. The preaching is good. They are getting more into praise and worship and the people are wonderful... a real fine fellowship.

But last week we had a baby baptismal service. Ok that is not my theological understanding of when you need to baptize a person but I don't criticize. However being a Reformed church in the Calvinist tradition I noted with interest what our minister asked the parents to confess after him during the ceremony.

He asked them (in Afrikaans) "Do you believe that your child was born in sin and that the wrath of God abides upon the child" The answer was "Yes we do".

Now this is typical Reformed theology which is why they baptize babies. However I can assure you that neither the parents nor the preacher nor anyone in the church actually believes that the wrath of God abides upon that child with the implication that should that child not be baptized and dies then that baby goes to hell to be tortured endlessly in fire.

I am not being extreme here in misrepresenting a theological position of Calvinism. If the wrath of God abides upon anyone then that person, baby or adult is lost and under judgement and eternal punishment.

Who Chooses Our Salvation?

The debate in the churches for hundreds of years since the Reformation have been this:

Calvinists (those following the traditions of Luther and Calvin) use a number of scriptures that clearly talk about "election" and "predestinated" to make the seemingly correct conclusion that it was God's choice from the foundations of the earth who He

decided would be adopted into His family or would be saved. The rest who are not chosen are destined for eternal punishment.

The other side of the argument came from traditional leaders such as John Wesley and the Methodists and after them teachers like Finney and most of the Pentecostal churches that you choose by your free will whether you wish to be a child of God. They maintain that "whom God did foreknow he did predestinate...." (Romans 8:29) meaning that God in His foreknowledge of knowing all of the future saw who was going to choose Him and on that basis He predestinated those to salvation.

Now frankly this is a fairly even argument because both sides can come up with scripture verses to prove their point.

But here is my position: They are both wrong!

To show you why I believe they are both wrong I need to give you some scriptures in both the Old and New Testament that speaks of a book that God has written. In Revelation it is called "the Lambs book of Life".

Moses knew about this book, Paul knew about this book, David knew about it, Jesus talked about it. So I am going to give some very interesting scriptures to ponder about this book and explain some things about it and then I am going to tell you why this "book of life" gives us clarity about the issue and in fact gives us a whole new and exciting different vision of the great provision of salvation that God provide for all mankind.

### **The Book of Life**

Rev.20:11-15 tells us at the last great judgment when all stand before God "***the books will be opened and another book was opened which is the book of life...and whosever was not found written in the book of life was cast in the lake of fire.***"

But what does this "book of life" mean? Whose life? How do you get written in there? Rev. 13: 1,8 gives us a fascinating clue to this question: "***...and all that dwell on the earth shall worship him(Satan) whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb, slain from the foundation of the earth.***"

If you read books on Revelation they call it "The Lamb's Book of Life". But this is not a correct translation of what John is talking about. The Emphatic Diaglot has the right Greek translation of this phrase: it should read "The Book of the Life of the Lamb". So what we have here is the amazing revelation that God wrote an autobiography of Himself entitled "**The Book of the Life of Jesus Christ**"! This not a book about life. This is the book about the Lamb of God's life. And guess what...you are mentioned in this book about the Life of Jesus Christ!

Now this autobiography of the Lord contains some fascinating details found in scripture. Firstly it was written from before the world was made and secondly your name is mentioned in the Lord's autobiography.

Paul knew this when he wrote to the believers in Philippi ***"help these women and the rest of my fellow workers whose names are in the book of life ((Phil.4;3).***

Moses knew about the book when he begged God  
"Yet now if you will forgive their sin and if not ***blot me out of the book which you have written; And the Lord said unto Moses Whosoever has sinned against me him will I blot out of my book*** ..(Ex.32:31-32)  
...if the Lord will not forgive Israel their great transgressions.

David knew about this book and that he was written there before he was born... ***"thine eyes did see my substance yet being imperfect and in thy book all my members were written...when as yet there was none of them"*** (psalm 139:16).

Jeremiah knew the same thing, the Lord told him ***"Before I formed you in the belly I knew you..."*** (Jer.1:5). And it is also why John says, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God" (Jn1:1)

But why are you part of God's autobiography? Because He intends to live out the full expression of His life through you! He has created you to share His life. Paul recognized this when he wrote: ***"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ in lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me."*** (Gal. 2:20).

So when John also says "...and the Word was made flesh" you are participating in that Word being made flesh...you are not only crucified with Christ but you live out His resurrection life. Which is why also Paul tells the Corinthians that they are the "epistles of God" to the world, to be read by all men (2 Cor.3:3).

Rev 3:5 ***"He that overcometh, 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.***

But what do these scriptures on the Book of Life tell us about who is right?

Are the Calvinists right that God from the foundation of the earth chose me for salvation when He wrote my name in the Book of Life?

Are the "free will" Arminians right when they say God looked into the future and saw who would choose Him and then wrote in His Book of Life all those in the future who would choose Him?

Can you see both sides are wrong!

Look at that last verse again above Rev. 3:5. Jesus says if you will overcome I will not blot out your name from the book of life. If your name can be blotted out of the Book of Life then why would God put it there in the first place. The Calvinists say God chose to put it there so that must mean it is not up to you and that name is secure, it cannot be blotted out.

The same problem for the Arminians who say Well God in His foreknowledge saw who would accept Him and wrote your name there. But Jesus says if you do not abide in Him you will be cut off, your name will be blotted out so if God can see the future then He should have been able to see that you are not going to abide in Christ and that your name is to be blotted out...so why write it there in the first place?

Here is my third alternative:

Every person who has ever been born into this world, every baby born into this world received the gift of life from God and that child's name was written into God's Book of Life. Every child!

In Genesis 1 we are told that God created mankind in His own image. Therefore every person born is created in the image of God. That means that every person had God's life breathed into them at conception. Life is a gift of God. It is His Spirit breathed into every person that creates that person. Jesus said of children that of such are the Kingdom of God. That every child has an angel sent by God to bring that child into the destiny that they are born to.

And what is that destiny? Romans 8:29 describes it...

***"For whom He did foreknow he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son that He might be the firstborn among many brethren"***

An acorn is predestinated to grow into an oak tree. If that child as it grows up abides in Christ and stays true to the Lord then the seed of God in that child, the life of God, the Spirit of God will grow into the image of Jesus Christ...because we are born with God's life. We are predestinated to grow into the image and likeness our Father.

However if we stray from God as we grow older then we are cut off from the life of God, from the Spirit of God and then we need to be "born again", so that we can return to our destiny that was written in Lamb's Book of Life from the foundations of the earth. Jesus warned ***us I am the vine you are the branches, if you abide in me you will bear much fruit...if not you will be cut off."***

Now let me make another clarification about election. When scripture talks about "election" it is not about salvation...it is about the calling of God on your life, that God has a purpose for each life He creates, a destiny. When you read the great election chapters of Romans 9-11 Paul is not talking about election to salvation. He is talking about some people are called to high offices and great works, others are called to seemingly menial tasks. That is why he says who are we as the clay to say to the potter why have you made me so. It is God who made us all and it is His prerogative to give tasks and duties to each person in life.

Election has to do with your work, your calling in life. That is how 2 Peter 1:10 describes it:

***"Wherefore the rather brethren give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if you do these things ye shall never fail"***

Can you see if election is about God choosing you for salvation then this verse makes no sense...how can you work and be diligent to make your election secure? If God

chose you for salvation before you were born how can you work to make that election sure? Election has to do with your calling...what God elected to call you to do in life. You are to work at your calling! That is where you will find joy and fulfillment.

This is the third option: Every person that has ever been born was born by the life of God and carried within them the potential to grow into the image of God. Their names were written in the Book of Life from before the foundation of the earth. Every person is born with a God given destiny, a God given calling. But when people grow older they drift away from God, sin and rebellion destroys the image of God in their lives, their spirits are dead, their names are blotted from the Book of Life. To find their destiny and get their names back into the Book of Life....they must be born again!