

This **Book of Life**  
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Jewish tradition teaches that at this time of year we ask G-d to keep our name secured for yet another year in the Book of Life. We are taught that our deeds are weighed on a scale and then, according to G-d's mercy, forgiveness, and our supplications, He will determine our fate on Yom Kippur and seal it.

But this is tradition!

As for the Bible itself, here is a citation from the Tanach, by the prophet Daniel, who speaks about the Book of Life:

*“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.”* Daniel 12:1

*Who will be among those rescued?*

All living beings have their names written in the Book of Life. The Hebrew Bible confirms that we can have our names blotted out from that Book. Moses asked that his name be blotted out as a way for his people not to have to face the inevitable judgment of God. We read this in Exodus 32:32

*“But now, if you will forgive their sin—but if not, please blot me out of your book that you have written.”*

Of course G-d did not grant Moses' prayer request.

King David also asked G-d if He would blot out the names of his enemies from the *Book of the Living*.

We read this in Psalm 69:28

*Let them be blotted out of the book of the living, and not be written with the righteous.*

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So how do we keep our names in?

Here is a *quick questionnaire*:

Which of the following deeds or actions will reserve a page for you in the Book of Life?

- Fasting**
- Giving to charities**
- Doing acts of kindness**
- Praying / Repentance**

While these activities are, of themselves very good, are these truly the works that G-d requires you to do in order to keep your name inscribed in the *Book of Life*? What pleases G-d?

G-d wants to have an intimate and rich relationship with His children. However, the one thing which keeps us apart from G-d is our sin.

The prophet Isaiah wrote,

*“But your sins have made a separation between you and your G-d, and your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.”* (Isaiah 59:2)

Forgiveness and relationship however can come when we accept the means G-d provides for covering or atoning for these sins. Adam thought that a fig leaf cover-up was good enough. G-d gave him an animal skin instead. Genesis 3:21 reads: **And the LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and He clothed them.** The death of an animal (and therefore the skin) was chosen to cover or atone for the sin.

Throughout the Tanakh and especially in the first five books of the Hebrew Bible (the Torah) G-d prescribed the blood on the altar as an atonement for sin. Leviticus 17:11 reads: **For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it for you on the altar to make atonement for your souls, for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life.**

The well respected JPS (Jewish Publication Society) Commentary has this to say concerning blood atonement: *Expiation by means of sacrificial blood-rites is a prerequisite for securing G-d's forgiveness. As the rabbis expressed it, 'ein kapparah 'ella' bedam, "There is no ritual expiation except by means of blood."* Yoma 5a JPS Levine.

Today, these sacrifices are no longer possible because we no longer have a Temple, yet G-d's requirements for sin have not changed.

**Has G-d left us  
without a blood covering?**

The good news in this situation comes from the 53rd chapter of the prophet Isaiah.

There we read how our sins are covered by the Servant of Israel's (Messiah) atoning death. Citing chapter 53:4, the Babylonian Talmud, in Sanhedrin 98b agrees that the Messiah would bear our pain and our illnesses. This is what we read in the Tanakh, Isaiah chapter 53:3-5

*He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.*

Are we good enough to get into  
the Book of Life?

No, but Yeshua (Mashiach ben David), who carries our iniquities, writes our name in this Book. When reading the above passage from Isaiah 53, you might be very surprised in how closely it resembles Yeshua/Jesus. There are so many more passages and prophecies in the Tanakh which point out the character and work of the Messiah. Without these clues, how would we know who he is? If you do not have a Tanakh at home, we can offer you one for free. Simply give us a call or email us.

For more information  
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## THE BOOK OF LIFE



**ARE WE GOOD ENOUGH**

**TO GET IN?**