

「いのちの書」
—聖書神学的考察—

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ABSTRACT Nobuyoshi KIUCHI, “The Book of Life: A Biblical-Theological Reconsideration”. This study examines exegetically how ‘the book of life’ in the Bible is related to God's final judgment and human salvation. An examination of the relevant passages in the OT (notably Exod. 32:32-33 and Ps. 69:29[28]) leads to the following conclusions:

(1) It is possible for those listed in ‘the book’ to be blotted out from it. It is true that Revelation (13:8 ; 17:8) states that there are those who were elected for salvation before the foundation of this world and those who were not. However, it is not commendable to harmonize these two apparently conflicting facts by human reasoning.

(2) Only the righteous are registered in ‘the book.’ This implies that God’s earthly punishment, such as the Flood and the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah (Noah and Lot being righteous), is part of his final judgment. So is the punishment of the first generation of Israelites in the wilderness after the exodus.

(3) Although no one except God ultimately knows who is registered in ‘the book,’ the Bible states that it is only the righteous, that is, the ones whose sins are forgiven. This must be substantiated by the condition of one’s heart, namely, wholeheartedness and honesty.

(4) While it is imperative for all believers to maintain such a heart until the end, it is also true that they only have control over the present. Hence, it is plausible that in terms of time, the present is, in a real sense, related to eternity.