

## John Bivol - Written in the Books

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I want to greet you with the words of Apostle Peter. Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of our Lord Jesus Christ. How important it is to realize how much we need the grace of God and the peace of God in our lives. So today I would like to look together into a subject and I hope it will be edifying, encouraging, hope to take some lessons, hope to learn some things more about our Heavenly Father from his plan and as Brother Joe prayed, hope something that we can apply in our lives. So we will look at this concept of written in the books and we'll look at different books mentioned in the Bible.

We'll look at definitely these are symbolic books, not literal books, books where our Heavenly Father writes in, and we'll look more into this concept. What does it mean for our Heavenly Father to write in a book? And we'll look the way try to understand how our Heavenly Father does this. We'll look at different books and what is the purpose of each book.

We'll look at the promise that comes with each book mentioned in the Bible and how can we have our name written in God's book and when is our name written in this book? And definitely different stages and different periods of time just to have a background. We'll see that. We see that the desire of many noble people in this world is to leave their names written in certain books or in the history or accomplishing or doing certain things. We know that some people are very gifted and talented and they wrote books and their names are remembered for decades.

For those that read and enjoy reading. We know that there are scientists, doctors that probably without their contributions we won't be today where we are. Because they contributed and things evolved and the world developed and we are thankful for their contribution. Their names are left for generations as well. We know that some fought for liberty rights and did great things and because of their accomplishments, again, the world changed.

The world is not the way it used to be. We know that some athletes have their names written for generation based on their records. Some records probably that cannot be broken anymore, and we know that this is something that people aspire to and they work very hard to do this. We know that some work very hard and maybe they are founders of a city or a university or something.

And by the way, not too long ago we were reading in the book that brother Carl wrote Deep Waters and a Bumbling book and there is a very good story about the Stanford University that Brother Carl includes in that book and how it came to be. Those of you that Would like to read. It's very good. You know that some may have discovered a new continent like the one that we live in, and because of their accomplishment, their name is pronounced probably daily and by millions of people.

Amerigo Vespucci, by the way, he comes from Italy, and we appreciate all of this, what people have done, and we know that to do a great thing is not a bad thing, and most of them, as we're look, they had good intentions, they had good mo, probably they had good motives behind it, and for me it's encouraging to see that after thousands of years after Adam fall into sin, we still find people that to a certain degree have a good intention or have good motives to do something for their fellow men.

And we know that naturally the flesh thinks more about itself, thinks more about what to eat, where to travel, what to do in regards to its own, and we know that some of these actions go against the

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natural disposition of the flesh. Especially we know during the Dark Ages some people actually died for their conviction, for certain inventions that probably not even were religious related, and this is something that I am sure that all these good motives will be rewarded in due time by our Heavenly Father for what they have done, and as we know, their names remain written in the books of histories and encyclopedias for years and many years to come.

I was thinking as maybe looking back at our youth and maybe there are some younger people here, we do have certain aspirations, certain goals that we would like maybe to accomplish and to do in our lives, and I think it's good because that way you work toward the goal. You work towards something that you want to accomplish and that is important. But as we grow in the spirit and in the truth, we realize how wise is Apostle Paul when he writes that everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

Now, sooner or later we realize that the true goals, peace, the peace that we are aspiring toward is anchored in something that goes beyond what this world has to offer. Otherwise, once you achieve it, it's not a hope anymore, and actually Apostle Paul says that but hope there is sin is not hope for who hopes for what he already sees. So that's why it's important, once as we have certain goals, to realize that the main goal of our is something that should be anchored beyond what this world has to offer. Now, as we said, it's very normal to rejoice in certain righteous aspirations or find satisfaction in certain righteous Things.

And I do remember when Jesus sent those 70 disciples two by two ahead of him to preach the gospel and to prepare the way he breathed into them the Holy Spirit, and when they came back, they were so full of enthusiasm and rejoicing, and they said, lord, even the demons submit to us into your name, and I was thinking, can you imagine of these men that were following Jesus, some maybe for less than a year, some for a year, or just around that, and then suddenly they can perform miracles that a natural man cannot do. This is big.

This is something that is very impressing, and Jesus looked at them and then told them, do not rejoice that the Spirit submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven. People can have their names written in the most famous books, in the highest records. But Jesus told the disciples that the true joy is when your name written in heaven, when you are in God's books, when you look beyond this earth, beyond this life. Brother Chris had a service not too long ago about hope, love and faith.

And we emphasized and we looked at this hope that enters within the veil, and that's what Jesus told his disciples. He helped them to change their perspective from something that is anchored here to something beyond the veil. So let's look at a few different books mentioned in the Bible, as we said, and then in general, we say that there is the Book of Life for the church and the Book of Life for the world.

And generally speaking, this is true, and we'll look at these two, but we'll look at a few more that the Bible mentions, and I think we'll find some very interesting aspects of our Heavenly Father's plan and character. So first, as we mentioned, these are not physical books, and we don't know what exactly means when we say that our Heavenly Father writes in these books.

But probably it has to do with the way, how he classifies or he arranges certain things and how he chooses to remember or not to remember, and just we'll take as an example Hebrews 8:12, for I will forgive their wickedness, and I will remember their sins no more. Now, this implies that our

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Heavenly Father has a way to classify certain things and remember them, and has a way to forgive and forget and choose not to remember certain things. So let's look at the first one, the Book of Life for the world, for mankind, and this is very familiar to us.

We won't spend too much time on this. The main scripture that this comes is from Revelation 20, verse 12, and I saw the dead, the great and the small standing before the throne, and books were open and another book was open, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books according to their deeds.

Now we know that after mankind will be resurrected from the dead, or to be more specific, to be awakened from the dead. The veil that covered mankind for 6,000 years will be removed as we read in Isaiah 25:7, and on this mountain he shall swallow up the covering which is all over people, and now all these people with a full knowledge of good and evil will have a full opportunity to choose obedience or disobedience, and their actions, character, progress will be in noted will be written in these books.

For during the 1000 years kingdom, and then at the end, if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life has thrown into the lake of fire. Now what a patient and loving and just Heavenly Father. We have to allow for mankind to learn evil, and then they will be able and will be presented with good.

And based on that, only then they will write their actions in these books. There is another scripture that I think it refers to this. It's in Daniel 7, 10. There are some other applications of this verse as well, but I think it does apply to this book of life for the world as well. The next book found in the Bible is in book of those living under the law.

And the scripture that comes with it is from Exodus 32, 32 and 33. But now if you will, I think it's Moses speaking here. Forgive their sin, and if not, please blot me out from your book which you have written. The Lord said to Moses, whoever has sinned against me, I will blot him out of my book.

Now this book and the specific point in this specific point in time refers to the nation of Israel. They were in a special relationship with with God. We know that through the law and through the animal sacrifices they moved from plane R on the chart all the way down. They moved to plan P, which is not on plane N but just a little bit below. But it shows that they moved a little bit more up.

And because of that they had a special relationship with our Heavenly Father, and that's they were in a special book in a special favor with him. We Read in Isaiah 43:1, do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine now.

After God, working with certain individuals during the patriarchal age, during the first dispensation. Now our Heavenly Father wanted to work with a nation and he chose them to be his children, and they were written. They were written in this book, and it required obedience to keep their name written in this book.

As we read in Deuteronomy 29, 19 and 20, we won't read this, but the concept is that they had blessings and curses, and to be blessed and to be written in this book, under the law, they had to exercise obedience. Now, the next one, it's probably a little bit more general, but I found there are a few verses that do refer to this book of living, the book of living at a certain time, and we'll read this verse in just a little bit. But the concept is that God is the only one, the only source of life, and as

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we look at so many inventions and how rapidly the technology develops nowadays and where mankind reached, we see that mankind developed robots and so many things.

And with artificial intelligence, probably they can impersonate or create new content, create new things that probably we didn't think about it. But even in spite of all of this, they, and nobody can give life to even a certain literal creation or object or death is only reserved to the Creator, to our heavenly Father, and because of this, he is the only source of life, and we read in Psalm 69, verse 28, Let them be blotted out of the book of the Living and not be written with the righteous.

Now we can understand David in his righteous desire for God's principles. He asks for those that willingly pursue evil to be blotted out from the book of the living, meaning that those that live, they have a special place in God's plan and character and writing, because God is the source of life. We read in Exodus 17:4, where the Lord said to Moses that he will utterly blot out the memory of Amalek from under heaven, and we know that later that happened when Saul went and he fulfilled this. But what a wonderful hope we have that one day all these people will be resurrected.

This blotting out was not forever, but was only for this specific time, for this specific time when they were living at that point in time. Now there are few. A couple more verses there. I think it does refer to the same book of living in Psalm 139, 16, your eyes have seen my unformed substance, and in your book we have all written the days they were ordained for me.

And in some 56, eight, as I was looking here, we won't stop too much on this, but I found it very interesting. This is almost not in context, but I found other books mentioned in the Bible. The Book of Words, Book of the law, book of the covenant, book of the Lord. Some of them are physical books, some of them are more referring to something more general. But I found it interesting and want to share with you.

The next one we'll look is the book of Survivors of Jacob's trouble, and I found a few verses and I think they do refer to something specific, and I think it's important to look at this. Now, some of you that follow the news or look a little bit more, and as events unfold, I think this becomes of a little bit more special interest for us. The base scripture for this is in Isaiah 4.

3, and it shall come to pass that he that is left in Zion and he that remaineth in Jerusalem shall be called holy, even everyone that is written among the living in Jerusalem. So we see the concept of being written among the living, being written in a book. Now the Context in Isaiah 4 speaks about a time when the Lord will wash away the filth of the women of Zion. He will cleanse the blood stains from Jerusalem by a spirit of judgment and a spirit of fire.

And then after this, the branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land will be the pride and the glory of the survivors of Israel in Israel, and you see that I underlined the common thread of these verses. Now this clearly speaks about Jacob's trouble or the time when God will gather all the nations to Jerusalem to fight against it. The city Zechariah 14:2. The city will be captured, the houses ran, Satan, the women raped.

Half of the city will go into exile, but the rest of the people will not be taken from the city. Now all of us, including many other Christians, realize that it's not by mistake that the nation of Israel is back in their land and that God is dealing with them in a special way. That God's hand is with them and he has a plan for them, and then through them for the entire world. But this nation of Israel that is there today, it's still not yet that Israel or that group of people that God can work with toward the full establishment of the kingdom. Most of the brethren expect that God will permit yet another event, a

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final one, another trial for this nation so he, our Heavenly Father, can choose from them.

Those that truly trust him, rely on him. Those humble, meek, those that look up for deliverance to our Heavenly Father and not necessarily to their independent military powers, ignoring the power that brought them back to their land. As we watch closely the events unfolding in Israel, we should pay attention how this develops how these Jews, certain Jews, realize that they will never have peace by military powers only, and that the final deliverance will come when they will look up, when they will look on me, the one that they have pierced. Zechariah 12:10. These are those that realize that it's not by might nor by power, but my spirit, says the Lord Almighty.

Zechariah 4:6. I have a short video. I was very encouraged by somebody send it to me and I want to share with you. I hope he will play. It's about 10, 15 seconds only.

But it's about. Let's watch it first and then we'll. We'll comment hope it will play.

So there is something special about the Jewish music and the way he sings, and you can see a sincere probably prayer and a sincere request in their singing. Now I put the words here on the bottom. I believe with perfect faith in the coming of the Messiah, and though he tarry, I will wait daily for his coming.

I think it's encouraging to see this kind of faith, to see God's people back in their land, singing, waiting, praying for God to deliver them. Now, as we know, some still wait for the first coming of their Messiah in their land, and when we look at this verse in Zechariah 12:10, it says they will look on me. We do not know what exactly that specific phrase means that they will look on me. We don't know.

I don't think that necessarily means that they will look and they will accept Jesus as their Messiah. Probably is the concept that they will look to our heavenly Father for deliverance and little by little they will be revealed, and this is the main concept that they will look on him, and we know that God will not despise a broken and a humble heart. Now this will be the time when they will receive the breath of life.

As we read in Ezekiel 37, I think with the parable of the dry bones, with the prophecy of dry bones. Now this group of Jews have a special place in God's plan, and they have their own book, so called, that they were written, and we notice different terms or words, but they apply to the same group or category of people. Now there is another verse very familiar to us.

And I found it interesting how brother Carl makes a beautiful application. Daniel 12:1 and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation, even to that same time. At that times thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in this book. Now we know that this verse has different application and brother Russell has a lot of comments on it, and I think there is a dual application to this verse as well. One for the spiritual Israel, one for the natural Israel as well.

And in general term, we know that this applies to the time of trouble, at the end of the age when God will deliver the church, and through the church the whole world will be resurrected. As we read in verse 2 of Daniel 12. 2. But to be specific to the context of Daniel, Daniel was praying when his people when the nation of Israel will be delivered, and God gave him all the events in Daniel 11 and then follows Daniel 12.

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And he says that when Michael shall stand up, and at that time thy people, the nation of Israel shall be delivered, and more specifically those that will be found written in the book, that book that we read probably earlier in Isaiah 4, 3. Brother Russell has a comment in Convention Reports. God is making a record of those who are true Jews. He has a book, he has an account, and you realize and I realize that our Scripture tells us that under this new regime which shall be inaugurated, when Michael shall take control, Israel will be the first to be blessed.

Now this group of Jews, as we said, are called in many places the remnant or those that will pass through Jacob's trouble. We have in Joel 2:32, even among the survivors whom the Lord called, Micah 5:7.

Then the remnant of Jacob will be among many people, like the dew from the Lord, like showers on vegetation, which will not wait for men or delay for the sons of men. Zephaniah 2:7, and the coast will be for the remnant of the house of Judah, Zephaniah 2, 9, the remnant of my people will plunder them, and the remainder of my nation will inherit them, and Zechariah 8:12 Again I will cause the remnant of these people to inherit all these things. These are those that will go through Jacob's trouble, that will be like the dew among all nations.

So looking at this, I think it gives us a deeper insight of how our Heavenly Father works with the nation of Israel, and I think it helps us to look more as we look at the events. What should we look for? Or probably more specific, what our Heavenly Father looks for? Let's look at the next book mentioned in the Bible, the Book of Remembrance.

This is a book that we're familiar with, very dear to us. We quote this verse in different services and even to each other. Then those who fear the Lord spoke to one another, and the Lord gave attention and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him. For those who fear the Lord and who esteem his name.

Now, what does this verse tell us? Probably there might be an application to the nation of Israel in the context of Malachi. But as we read that chapter, even starting with verse three, it speaks about purifying the sons of Levi, and it does. There is a very beautiful application to the spiritual Israel and probably even more to the end of the age. So what this tells me is that our Heavenly Father enjoy looking at his children, to those that fear him, to those that enjoy.

And that he, our Heavenly Father, enjoy looking at his children, looking at their interactions, looking at how they dwell together in unity, look how they work together and how they have fellowship in the Spirit, and not only that, but he writes all of this in a book, and that makes it very precious that the actions of the saints are so dear to him that he writes them in the book. We know that he said about his son, this is my son, whom I love with him, I am well pleased. This was the source of joy for him, and we are his children and we are the source of.

Of joy for him, and it makes me think, and I don't know how many of you ever think that after leaving a meeting or a certain activity or fellowship with the brethren or maybe activity or a press or whatever might be how our Heavenly Father looked upon the interaction of the saints and wrote that in his book, in his memory. I was thinking of an example, and those that have children or maybe remember when your children were younger and you look at your children and they interact and they play together and they interact well, sometimes they last a minute, sometimes more than a minute. You know how that goes.

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But that's how our Heavenly Father as well, he enjoys looking at us, enjoy looking and enjoying how we interact and how we encourage each other, and knowing that he is the perfect expression of love that he gave us everything that pertains to life and godliness and how he rejoices when he sees his children in the bonds of love and unity and how that really melts his heart and in the same time, how much patience he has with us when we might unintentionally maybe offend each other or we bring some sorrow, and we pray that he'll have patience with each one of us as we develop and as we grow in the Spirit. Now let us have in mind before we do anything on daily basis, whatever we do, is this something worth of. Is this something that our Heavenly Father will write in the book of remembrance? And we know, yeah, let's look at this verse in a little bit more detail.

Those who fear the Lord. Now this from the beginning almost tells us that this is a requirement to have reverence and to fear him, to do anything that might displease our Heavenly Father. Not only that, but the angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and rescues them, and we see how important it is that this is the foundation upon what the fellowship should be built upon. The next one spoke to one another.

Now, if we don't speak clearly, there is nothing to write. However, as we know, speaking can be manifested in different ways. Not only literal speaking, but speaking sometimes through actions may speak more than through words. So any kind of speaking, any kind of interaction that is based on principles and on the knowledge of God will be noted. Colossians 3:16 admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your heart to God, the Lord gave attention the next part of the verse.

Now our God whom we serve, we know that he neither slumber nor sleep, and he gives attention to everything, and nothing under heaven goes unseen or unnoted. It says and heard it. He fulfills the desires of those who fear him. He hears their cry and saves them.

And our Heavenly Father hears every joy, every sorrow that his children go through. We read in 1st Peter 3:12 for the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive. Give today a prayer, and then we read that a book of remembrance was written before him. What a privilege to have is to have for us a minor portion in this right in this in writing of this book.

Now the next verse, every time I read it reminds me of the admonitions that we received from and we continue to receive from brother George. Psalm 10:28, that this will be written for the generation to come. Again we find that writing that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord, the fellowship of the saints, the permission of evil, and many things that happened during this period of time. That the permission of evil was, will be written for eternity and mankind will look back how God's children today in such degraded and sinful circumstances. As Apostle Paul said, in trouble and hardship or persecution, they continued to rejoice in the Lord.

I think looking at this, at least for myself, it does motivate each one of us to write more and do more things where they've been written in this book, and let's look at the last book, the book of life for the Church.

The first verse that we'll examine is in Philippians 4:3. Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the Gospel together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, those whose names are in the book of life now. In other words, what is this book? Now we know that in Ephesians, Apostle Paul there we read that our Heavenly Father predestinated a class, a group of people, a bride for his Son. The writing in this book could not begin until Jesus Christ died on the cross and the ransom price was put in the

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hands of just.

Since then the recordings has been going on throughout this present age. This means that those whose names are therein written are not only members of a family of God, but also members of the bride class. In order to maintain this position, they must be overcomers. Reprint 5370 this takes us to Revelation 3. 5, where is a very beautiful verse.

He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments and I will not erase his name from the book of life and I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels, and what we learn here that he who overcomes this clearly tells us that it's an ongoing work. After we gave our lives to our Heavenly Father and we go through the process of sanctification, it's something that we should progress, something that we should grow, and the overcomers are not to be recognized merely as a class, but each will have the personal favor of the Lord, and I think this makes it very special, very personal that he, as we said, he predestinated a class.

But at this point we see that if we overcome, he won't look at us just merely as a class, but as individuals at a special diamond as a special each one of us having a special and having a name be cloth in white garments. The robes that we wear now are Christ robes of righteousness. We read in 2nd Corinthians 5:2 for indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven. The righteousness in the future state will be personal righteousness or holiness. In the resurrection join heirs will be granted new perfect spiritual bodies, free from sin and impurity of every kind.

April in 2159 our garment will be changed from one of imputed perfection, our justification by faith to that which represents actual perfection.

The next part I will not erase his name from the book of life. At the time of our consecration we are tentatively written in this book we are granted the privilege to be a Son of God. But we have to maintain this relationship and not to defile our garments. As we read in verse four in Revelation, and we have or we cannot keep them spotted.

Brother Russell has a very beautiful comment on this. But oh, how few of the consecrated have so great love for purity, so great a desire to keep the garment unspotted from the world, that they are thus careful to have every wrinkle quickly removed and thereafter to guard the robe more zealously than ever. Yet these, and these alone walk with the Lord in white and are overcomers who in due time shall be glorified with him and sit with him in his throne, and it is their names that shall not be blotted out of the Lamb's book of life.

And I will not, and I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels. This gives us first of all the thought that although we have been begotten of God, we have never been introduced to him in his actual presence. Our Lord is not only represented as our bridegroom, but also as our elder brother and his pictures as waiting on the other side until we, his brethren, shall pass over, and as we shall pass over, our Lord being the one to whom the Father delegated the work of instructing us in the school of Christ, it will be appropriate that he shall introduce us to the Father. This is pictured in the 45th.

He shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework. The virgins, her companion shall follow her shall be brought unto thee. Those especially confessed introduced are the bride class, and we are to hope and strive that we may have a place amongst these. The place that the Father would prefer us to have is the place we would Prefer to have.

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Reprint 5377 and our Lord said, therefore, everyone who confess me before men, I will also confess him before my Father who is in heaven.

Oh, what a special confession we see here that our Lord was speaking about to be introduced to the King and to the Creator. The true children of God realize that giving their lives to the Lord and living in his presence daily and approaching the throne of heavenly grace, this is not really something ordinary. This is something sacred, something holy, and I was thinking, as we're studying in Exodus, when Moses approached God at the burning bush, God told him, do not come near me. Do not come near here.

Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground, and God told him, you are approaching something different, something that probably you didn't experience in the past, something holy, and God prepared him. So, brethren, as we approach the holy ground, things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man. Apostle Paul said the same.

That we didn't approach a mountain like Moses, a mountain that we can touch. But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, to the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly to the Church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. We see again the writing in this special book in the book of life for the church. What a privilege is to be called to be written in this book, in the book of life.

What a beautiful concept is for each one of us and to be in the presence of God and under his wing where the evil cannot harm them. There.

A Beautiful quote from Ripra 9:57 and blessed thought. Our overcoming consists not in perfect works, but in a perfect heart or will. His will will be fully crucified, the will of Christ dwelling in his heart richly. None needed to be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of the Lord, but shall renew his strength and go on from grace to grace in the knowledge and service of his head, and finally such shall be accepted in the everlasting permanent membership in the body glorified.

May our Heavenly Father bless and help each one of us to be faithful and to be more than overcomers and keep our names in the book of life, and here we have just a few verses that speak about the same book. We won't read them, but throughout Revelation they are more described. Revelation 13, 8, 17:8 and 21:27 two quotes that all will attain life on the Spirit plan, whose names are written in the book of the Lamb. So brethren, in conclusion, we have looked at different books mentioned in the Bible and we have seen how our Heavenly Father takes note of everything that is happening and nothing happens to be unseen.

And we have seen how in different periods of time he worked and he continues to work with certain groups of people and the special actions that he had with different groups of people. He wrote them, they were dear to him and they are dear to Him, and overall we see that he is the source of life, and we are looking forward to the time when all things will come in under one arrangement, and I think you might have noticed something in common to all these books to have your name written in God's book.

All were required full obedience to our Heavenly Father and his righteousness and to acknowledge him in all their ways. If obedience was not exercised, they were blotted out or they were taken out of that book that were written in. So we're looking forward to the time when every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the glory of God the Father, and when the Son himself will be made subject to him, to put everything under him, so God may be all in all, may our Heavenly

Father be praised.