

The Preposition *From* in the Texts of Re.13.8 & 17.8

Re 13:8 *And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Re 17:8 *The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is.*

What a difference one little word makes. In these two texts, Re.13.8 and 17.8 you will see the preposition *from*. *From* is translated from the Greek preposition 'apo.' In this case it means *since*, and so *subsequent to*. What are these verses saying? Primarily they say that those names not written in the Lamb's book *since* the foundation of the world shall never be written in it. It is these persons that will worship the beast, take his number, or his name, or the number of his name in their right hands or in their foreheads. It is of these to whom Jesus will say in that day, *I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity.* (Mt.7.23)

What more can be gleaned from these verses? If there are those who were not written in the Lamb's book of life *since* the foundation of the world, then there are those whose names were written *before* the foundation of the world too.

Lu 10:20 *Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.* (cf. He.12.23)

Eph 1:4 *According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love ...*

The names of those which are written in heaven were not written *because* of faith, but because of God's election of grace which took place *before* the foundation of the world. (Eph.1.4) God has charged Himself with the salvation of every one of them. (He.6.17, the verb form of the word *oath* is *charged*, cf. 1Thes.5.27) He guarantees their salvation! The Father sent His only begotten Son to die for these. Jesus came to save these from their sins by His death on the cross. Salvation with God isn't a potentiality; it is a reality. Who can read the 53rd chapter of Isaiah and fail to see that Christ suffered and died for a certain people? Note the personal pronouns *we*, *us*, *our* and *their*.

The humanistic viewpoint says that this isn't fair. But the truth is, this is the *grace* of God. Think of it like this: the wonder of wonders is that God wrote a single name in the Lamb's book of life.

O how much a little preposition can say!