

Slain From the Foundation

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Revelation 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.* The focus is the underlined portion of the scripture. Christ is pictured as the lamb slain (cf Acts 8:32-35). 'World' is from the Greek word *kosmos* ⁽²⁸⁸⁹⁾, translated that way 186 of 187 appearances. The context will determine how the word is being applied. Thus, *kosmos* can represent the physical planet earth, the universe, those who oppose God, earthly as opposed to heavenly or the population of the earth. The word for 'foundation' is the Greek *katabole* ⁽²⁶⁰²⁾, which means 'to throw, or lay down, to lay a foundation' and finally 'depositing of the virile semen in the womb.' In the following, consideration will be made from an actual, physical view, and from a spiritual, inward view.

From the foundation: There are two words used in conjunction with this phrase - before ⁽⁴²⁵³⁾ and from ⁽⁵⁷⁵⁾ as we consider our topic. 'Before' indicates eternity prior to creation, where 'from' indicates at creation to the present of whatever the context is saying. The 'foundation of the world' then, is a point of reference regarding things discussed, as existing before, or after. Here are scriptures that use this phrase: **Jn 17:24:** *Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou loved me before the foundation of the world.* **Eph 1:3-4:** 3. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly (places) in Christ:* 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:* (supplied)

There are other verses that prove without a doubt the preexistence of the Son of God. However, some take verse 4 in Ephesians to mean that humanity existed in some form or another before the world was created. But, the context gives more explanation: Verse 5: *Having predestinated [or, predetermined] us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself ...* Verse 11: *In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who works all things after the counsel of his own will:* According to God's purpose, or plan, all were chosen to be a part of God's kingdom as adopted children to obtain an inheritance with Jesus Christ. I do not find any support from scripture that anything of humanity existed before creation, except in the thoughts of God. Since He knew the end from the beginning, I assume He knows already who will accept or reject the offer

Here is another verse which lends credibility to the statements above and makes a distinction between the plan and the implementation of it: **Heb 4:3:** *For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.* The works, of course, are the all things created, whether visible or invisible (Col 1:16).

Mt 13:34-35: 34. *All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:* 35. *That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.* The things Jesus taught, of which the writers of the New Testament wrote, could not be understood by Old Testament Prophets, up until the revelation of the Son. A parable not explained is a riddle, dark saying or a mystery.

1 Pet 1:18-21: 18. *Knowing that not by corruptible things, as silver and gold, you were redeemed from your vain manner of life handed down from your fathers;* 19. *But by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without*

blemish and without spot: 20. Having been foreknown indeed before the foundation of the world, but manifested (made known, visible) at the last times for the sake of you, 21. Who by him believe in God, the one having raised him from the dead, and having given him glory; so that your faith and hope might be in God. (Bible Interlinear)
It is easier to understand verse 20 from a Greek Interlinear using the correct voice, tense, mood. The sacrifice of the Son was foreknown by the Father, as he was part of the plan to save man. But he could not have been slain, physically or spiritually, until after creation and after sin entered the world.

Physical, or outward application: Considering ‘foundation’ as applies to the physical creation, how was the Lamb slain from the beginning of the world? Peter spake to those gathered on Pentecost of the cross: **Acts 2:23:** *Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:* Here is the verse rewritten: “This one (the Son), having been deliver up by the predetermined purpose and foreknowledge of the God (the Father), having been taken by lawless hands, having been crucified, you put to death.” Again, it was God’s ‘predetermined purpose, or plan’ in which the Son was delivered, and he physically endured the cross once. Now, while the Lamb was physically slain once, he is slain spiritually, or guilty by implication, by every human being who has ever lived on this planet. So, God’s purpose or plan was in place before creation, and sin entered shortly after the founding of the earth.

Gen 3:21: *Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.* I am inclined to believe that Adam and Eve sinned in the first few hours, or, at the most, the first few days after their creation. In type, Adam and Eve, upon sinning, slew the Lamb as a type of a future event. Being covered by coats of skin is indicative of being covered by the Lamb’s sacrifice. In other words, the Father’s plan to save mankind in case of sin, was immediately implemented. In this sense, the Lamb was slain from the foundation, or founding of the earth. However, the outward view only applies to Adam and Eve, so, we look here to understand the inward.

Spiritual application: **Heb 11:11:** *Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive ⁽²⁶⁰²⁾ seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.* Allegorically, Sara is our heart in which the seed of truth is planted, which begets an understanding of God. Consider the ‘world’, as the universe, which represents every human that ever lived, or, will live on the earth. From the parable of the sower (Mk 4), the earth is a symbol for self. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom 3:23). Therefore, we have all slain the Lamb from the founding of our ‘earth’, which in a practical sense, is from the time we began to manifest the sin nature after our natural birth. The spiritual, or inward, application covers every person who has ever lived on planet earth, from beginning to the end. This is emphasized by the writer of Hebrews: **Heb 9:25-26:** *25 nor in order that he should offer himself often, as the high priest enters into the holy places every year with blood not his own; 26 since he had then been obliged often to suffer from the foundation of the world. But now once in the consummation of the ages he has been manifested for the putting away of sin by his sacrifice.* (Darby’s Bible)

Summary: Those whose names are not written in the book of the life of the Lamb are those who never repented from having slain the Lamb spiritually, by not conforming to God’s manner of thinking. They do not accept the principles of God by which we are to conduct our lives, and which principles are summed up in the two great commandments: Love God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Rev 21:27: *And in no way may enter into it anything defiling, and practicing abomination and falsehood, except the ones written in the book of the life the Lamb. **Rev 3:5:** The one overcoming, the same shall be arrayed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the book of the life, and I will confess his name before my Father, and before His messengers.* (Interlinear) Amen.