

THE FINAL HEAD COUNT

Psalm 87:6; Revelation 20:11-15

Introduction: Census taking has been something that has been done by every country/nation since the beginning of keeping records. Throughout the Old Testament there are times when a census was taken of God's people. When Jacob moved into Egypt, there were 70 in his family. Some 300 years later when Israel was moved out of Egypt there were some 600,000 men over the age of 20 plus women, children and the aged. After 38 years in the wilderness there were some 2,000 less men for God punished Israel for being afraid to go into the land God had promised them. Later it is recorded that David attempted to do a census and was punished by God. God taught David a lesson that only HE, God counted His own. Some day God will once again count His people and it will be when Jesus comes back for His Church and then there will be a final, decisive census, head count.

I. WHAT WILL THE FINAL COUNT BE LIKE/

1. It will be individually. Not a body or a nation or a Church.
 - Not even if every family member is a Christian or related to some Christian.
 - Every person will stand alone before God. Today the Church is mixed with wheat and chaff but not so in the "day of the Lord."
2. It will be vital. It will concern one's "birth."
 - Did one's heart turn from stone to flesh? Were one's eyes opened to God's light?
 - Were one's ears ready to hear God's voice? Did one undergo a RADICAL change?
 - If not - then one's name will not be called.
3. It will be decisive. Would your name be called if it were today? There is still hope.
 - One can change today, maybe tomorrow, but there will come that moment (*Revelation 22:11*) when the final count will be made.
 - Look to the future! Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life NOW?

II. NAMES THAT WILL NOT BE THERE

1. Hypocritical Church members.
 - People in a Church for respectability, professing a lie - a wolf in sheepskin - has a name of life but are dead inside and whitewashed on the outside.
 - It's one thing to mislead the pastor, deceive the deacons, win the respect of the Church family, but it is another thing to try to escape God. There is nothing that can fool Him.
 - Except having been born again, one is damned.
2. Mere Hearers.
 - People whose ears have been "tickled" whose minds were interested, who looked upon the preacher - BUT hearing is not salvation.
 - The seed must take root, eyes must see.
 - Resting in the Church is not salvation, it is a lie, it is a sin.
 - These people's lives are built on sand and on that last day, they will cry out, "I did this - that.."
3. Those who put God off.
 - "I will" someday, maybe on a sick bed but too late at their funeral.
 - When their conscience is pricked by the Holy Spirit, "I will, but not today.."

- Remember when Paul preached to Felix and Felix said, "not right now but perhaps later.."
 - Putting God off does not get one's name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.
4. Those who live in open sin.
 - Drunkards, blasphemers.
 - God's heavenly Eden is not for thieves - God's paradise is not for prostitutes.
 - Such sinful lives guarantees forbidden entrance to God's Heaven.
 5. The morally upright.
 - Those with unstained character but still an unchanged heart.
 - Honest to people, dishonest to God, upright to everyone but God.
 - Lovers of neighbors but not God.
 - All these will be turned into hell - *"...except ye repent and believe the gospel..."*

III. THOSE WHOSE NAMES WILL BE THERE

1. If you were to take a census of your own family you would not include neighbors, friends or strangers.
 - It will be the same thing at the last census. ONLY believers in Jesus Christ, only those who reached out to touch the Lord, only those who turned to Calvary.
 - From the mightiest of prophets to the poorest believer, from the unknown to others to the well known - from the weakest in faith to the strongest.
 - Nothing shall erase the name of a member of God's family, nothing.
 - Is your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life?

IV. WHO WILL MAKE THE COUNT?

1. The Lord Jesus Christ will make the final census.
 - Not our enemies for they would use their own roll, their own methods, their own system, their own doctrines.
2. The head of the family, the head of the household does the census.
 - So, who is head of God's family? His Church? Who is the Groom?
 - Only the head knows all his family.
 - God's family cannot be numbered, and yet every family member is known personally by God.
3. It is God who decides who is a member of His family.

V. WHY MAKE THE COUNT AT ALL?

1. It will be done to show how much God values His Family.
 - Each member is like a jewel to God
2. It will be done to show Satan he has been defeated.
 - Satan and God have battled through the centuries and Satan has lost every time and God has lost not a single one of those who have believed in Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. *"...believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..and thy house..."*
 - *"...he that believeth on the Lord Jesus Christ shall be saved.."*