

THE HEAVENLY COURT ROOM PRAYERS



PLEASE NOTE:

These notes are **extracts** taken from:

1. *Operating in the Courts of Heaven*
2. *Accessing the Courts of Heaven: Positioning Yourself for Breakthrough and Answered Prayers*

by Robert Henderson

We have put together the **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES** of this teaching only. We recommend that you read both books to get a detailed understanding of how things work in the Heavenly Court Room.

THE BOOKS OF HEAVEN

If we really want to get results from the courts of Heaven, we need to know how to operate within these courts. Lawyers go to school for years to learn how to operate within our judicial systems. They learn to speak the language of the courts. Just as they must know how to address the court, present cases and briefs, so we too must learn how to present things before Heaven's court. One of the greatest mysteries to this process is to gain an understanding of the books or scrolls that are in Heaven.

Daniel 7:10 tells us that there are books or scrolls in Heaven that must be opened before the court of Heaven goes into session. Once the courts of Heaven are seated, then the books are opened and the court come into session.

Daniel 7:10 *"A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened."*

From this Scripture, we can clearly see that an understanding of 'the books' is foundational to court activity that allows God's Kingdom purposes to be done. But what are these books and what is written in them?

Types of Books

Psalm **139:16** tells us that each person has a book in Heaven.

Psalm 139:16 *"Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them."*

God wrote down in a book the destiny and Kingdom purpose for each of our lives. God 'saw' us in our fleshly form in the Earth, before we ever existed. He saw our days. Not just the number of them, but He saw the activities in them and what we would accomplish in our life. Our individual book is a written record of all, which God planned for us and the Kingdom impact He has destined for our lives. Every person has a book written about him or her. The battle is to get whatever is in the book, to manifest on the Earth.

Even Jesus had a book. **Hebrews 10:5-7** tells us that Jesus had a volume of the book that He came into the Earth to fulfill.

Hebrews 10:5-7 *"Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, but a body You have prepared for Me. In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come- In the volume of the book it is written of Me To do Your will, O God'".*

There is a Book in Heaven that chronicled what Kingdom purpose Jesus would fulfill in the Earth. Jesus came with a passion and a commitment to complete what had been written in the books of Heaven about Him. This is interesting because **John 1:14** says that Jesus is the Word made flesh.

John 1:14 *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

In other words, Jesus was the Word sent out of Heaven to be born in the flesh. His physical birth allowed what was written in the Book of Heaven to be made manifest in the flesh. He then spent the next thirty-three and a half years of His life fulfilling what had been written in His Book.

Anything God-ordained is first written in a book or scroll in Heaven. It must be sent out of Heaven and birthed into the Earth realm before it can become flesh. This is what happened to Jesus, but also to us and anything else that is ever 'born' into the Earth realm. So, it could be said that before we came into the Earth, we were a word written in a scroll. When we were born into the Earth, we began the process of living out our Kingdom purpose as it was written in Heaven in our book. Which is why **Ephesians 2:10** says that we are His workmanship.

Ephesians 2:10 *“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.”*

The word “workmanship” in the Greek means a **poem**. We are God's poem that was written down in Heaven that has now entered Earth. We are a poem with a point. Our lives carry a message that is creative and life giving. Notice that this poem was written down and the works we are to do were planned beforehand.

We were a 'scroll' in Heaven with poetic power that has now entered the Earth to cause the writings of Heaven to become flesh.

There are not just books about individuals. There are also books about churches, apostolic networks, businesses, ministries, cities, states, regions and nations. Heaven is full of books. Anything that is purposed of the Lord will begin as a book in Heaven.

The Apostle John while in Heaven was given a book that he was commanded to eat. This book was about nations. **Revelation 10:8-11** shows an angel with a little book that had the destinies of nations in it.

Revelation 10:8-11 *“Then the voice which I heard from Heaven spoke to me again and said, “Go, take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel who stands on the sea and on the earth.” So I went to the angel and said to him, “Give me the little book.” And he said to me, “Take and eat it; and it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth.” Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was as sweet as honey in my mouth. But when I had eaten it, my stomach became bitter. And he said to me, “You must prophesy again about many peoples, nations, tongues, and kings”.*

John was instructed to take the book and eat it. This book was from Heaven, was about the future and Kingdom purpose of nations. We know this because the result of John's eating the book was the ability to prophesy to peoples, nations, tongues and kings.

It was going to become the job of the Apostle John to prophesy out of the books what God had said about these nations. When John would prophesy from the books, it allowed court sessions to begin. **Revelation 19:10** tells us the "testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Revelation 19:10 *"And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy".*

The word testimony means to **give judicial witness**. Jesus, from His position as our High Priest and Mediator, is testifying in our behalf in the courts. Notice that this testimony becomes a spirit of prophecy in our mouths.

When we prophesy, we are not just speaking to the earthly realm, but we are in fact picking up and discerning the present testimony of Jesus in the courts of Heaven.

We are agreeing with and echoing the testimony of Jesus.

This grants Heaven the right testimony to render verdicts in our behalf and the Kingdom purposes of God even in nations.

Where does the Books Come From?

These books that are in Heaven came into being from the 'counsel' of the Lord. **Jeremiah 23:18** says there was a 'counsel' of the Lord.

Jeremiah 23:18 *"For who has stood in the counsel of the Lord, and has perceived and heard His word? Who has marked His word and heard it?"*

This word counsel in Hebrew is **sod**. It means *a company of persons in session, to consult, or a secret*. It comes from the Hebrew word *yasad*, which means *to sit down together, to settle and consult*. Clearly God has counsels that are held in Heaven for the purpose of planning future Kingdom events. **Genesis 1:26** says that the Godhead had a counsel about the creating and forming of man.

Genesis 1:26 *"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth".*

Notice that God said *Let Us*. In other words, there was discussion in the counsel of Heaven concerning the formation of man in the image and likeness of God.

From this counsel, books were written about the destiny of Earth, man and God's creation. That which was written in these books from the counsel of the Lord is what we are seeking to birth into a flesh demonstration.

In **2 Timothy 1:9** Paul is exhorting Timothy to fulfill what was planned before time began.

2 Timothy 1:9 " ... *who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began,*".

Notice that purpose and grace were given to Paul and Timothy *before time began*. This is really interesting. This means that purpose and grace have been waiting on us to discover them from before time began.

Purpose is what is written in the books of Heaven about them and grace was the empowerment to bring it into the realities of the Earth realm. This was given to them before time began or in the counsel of the Lord.

To understand this, we must know that before we existed in the earth there was a book about us in heaven. From the counsel of the Lord, the Lord made decisions concerning us.

The giving and receiving of counsel is for the purpose of arriving at decisions. It is amazing to realise that God Himself not only is the Counsellor (**Isaiah 9:6**) but receives counsel as well. We see this in **Isaiah 6:8** where Isaiah is cleansed from what is polluting him and then hears a "counselling" session in Heaven.

Isaiah 6:8 "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me".

Notice that the Lord is asking for "counsel" here. He wants input as to whom shall be used to carry His message into the earth. Isaiah volunteers as he is "eavesdropping" on this "counselling session" in heaven.

Clearly from this counsel, a decision was made to allow Isaiah the right and privilege to run with this message of the Lord. I believe that before the Lord releases life-impacting messages, church altering truths and/or planet changing revelation there is counsels in heaven. These counsels are for the purpose of deciding who will carry these messages forth.

Once these decisions are made, truth is revealed to the ones chosen for this assignment. This word declared has impacting effect into the spheres intended. It is quite interesting to get glimpses into the working of heaven/the spirit realm. There is much more happening there sometimes than what we are aware of.

Once decisions are made in heaven, these decisions must be completed in the earth. From the counsel of the Lord, the books of heaven are written and assignments are delegated. At this point we as people of the earth must decide if we will obey what heaven intends. Jesus spoke of this in the parable of the two sons. In **Matthew 21:28-31** Jesus talks of two sons that a father sends to work in a vineyard.

Matthew 21:28-31 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. Then he came to the second and said likewise.

And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said to Him, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the Kingdom of God before you".

The first son spoken of said he would go but didn't. The second son said he wouldn't obey but later repented and went. Jesus point was the second one did the will of God because of his repentance. The first one looked like he would obey but didn't.

There were decisions made on earth concerning the desire of heaven. Once decisions are made in heaven, we in the earth are then faced with decisions. We must choose correctly to be in agreement with the desire of God that is coming from decisions made in His counsel. When decisions in earth agree with the decisions in heaven powerful things occur.

The other significant issue here is that it would be wonderful if the first son had said yes to the father and fulfilled his desire.

This would have been the ultimate. Yet it was the son who at first rebelled but later repented that actually did the father's will. The Lord is so very merciful. Even when we get it wrong initially, He grants us more opportunities to fulfill what our ultimate purpose is.

To completely miss the intent and desire of God for our lives requires sustained rebellion in the face of God's faithful dealings with us.

We are granted opportunity after opportunity to decide in favor of the decisions of heaven. May we not squander the mercies and grace of God extended to us. For those who do His will, it is because He works in us by His grace to bring us to an agreement with Him. In **Philippians 2:13** we see this.

Philippians 2:13 "... for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure".

His grace produces in those who will allow it an agreement with His will and pleasure. We must choose agreement with Him. When we do, His grace changes our hearts to agree with Him.

Not everyone lives out what was established in the counsels of the Lord and then written in the books. We don't have to, but it is our job to discover and fulfill what is there and bring it to Earth in natural forms.

We will be judged on in the hereafter, our judgment will not be so much about this sin or that sin BUT on how closely we lived our lives to what is written in the books of Heaven.

Not to live our lives out in agreement with the books of Heaven is to waste our time here. We may get to spend eternity in Heaven, but we will not have fulfilled His Kingdom agenda for our life and times here on Earth.

All of us are a product of the counsel of the Lord. The Lord thought about each one of us and wrote a book about our lives out of that counsel. Each of us has been birthed into the Earth so that His word can be made flesh and what was written in our scrolls can be fulfilled.

When this is done, Kingdom influence comes to the Earth and Kingdom cultures that look like Heaven are revealed.

Manifesting the Books

To really understand the "counsel of the Lord" and the books of Heaven we must look at **Romans 8:29-30**. This passage unveils a five-step process of how to identify and birth the intentions of God into the Earth.

Romans 8:29-30 *“For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover, whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”*

In this Scripture, Paul lists the 5 steps - foreknew, predestined, called, justified and glorified. To operate in the courts of Heaven and get what is in Heaven into the Earth, we must understand these stages.

FIVE STEPS TO IDENTIFY GOD'S INTENTIONS ON EARTH

1. **Foreknowledge** speaks of that which occurred in the counsel of the Lord. In this counsel decisions were made about destinies in the Earth. This includes individuals, cities, states, businesses and all the way up to nations.

There were conclusions that were arrived at concerning what part of God's Kingdom agenda each would fulfill. From the counsel of the Lord, there was a foreknowing of us. This all occurred *before time began*.

2. Once these decisions were made, they were then written down in a book. Once they were written in a book in Heaven, it became a **predestined** thing. This is the next stage that Paul spoke of.

From the counsel of the Lord (**foreknowledge**), God then wrote in a book the **decisions** made that would be our Kingdom reason for existence on the planet. Anything that has a Kingdom purpose has a book in Heaven about it. The books of Heaven contain the Kingdom purposes of God.

We should only involve ourselves in that which is important to Heaven. If it is important in Heaven, there is a book about it.

It is each one's individual responsibility to discover what was predestined about them and written in the books of Heaven.

Remember that Paul told Timothy in **2 Timothy 1:9** that purpose and grace were given to them before time began. This means that when we find our purpose we will also discover grace that has been apportioned to us for that purpose. This is the chief way we know we have discovered purpose.

We realise that in this activity and life ambition there is grace. In other words, you enjoy it, you are good at it, you have success in doing it and others are influenced by your actions

It is much like Eric Liddel in the movie "Chariots of Fire" where he chose to honour God by not running on the Sabbath. He said, "When I run, I feel the pleasure of God." This statement reveals that he had discovered, for this season of his life, the purpose for which he was graced.

The two stages of foreknowledge and predestination all occurred before time began. They happened in the eternal realm of God and outside the time realm.

3. **The next stage is the "called" stage.**

This is the stage where we begin to get glimpses of what we were made for. We begin to discover what is written in the books of heaven about us.

This is the biggest question that people have. What is written in my book? What is the predestined plan of God for my life? **Psalms 40:6-8** gives us some understanding.

Psalm 40:6-8 *"Sacrifice and offering You did not desire; My ears You have opened. Burnt offering and sin offering You did not require. Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart".*

These verses are actually Jesus prophesying over Himself before He came into the planet. This verse is later picked up and repeated with some minor changes in **Hebrews 10:5-7**.

Jesus saying that He has a book in Heaven and that He is coming to flesh out that books plan in the Earth. Remember that this is our job. We are to flesh out in the Earth what is written in the books of Heaven.

Again, **John 1:14** says that Jesus was the Word made flesh. In other words, what was written about Him in Heaven in the books, He has come to bring to reality in the Earth.

Notice that Jesus said that in the scroll or volume of the book it was written of Him. He had come to do the will of the Father contained in that book. But then He makes a very powerful statement. In connection to fulfilling what is in the His book, He says,

"And Your law is within My Heart".

So, whatever is written in your book in Heaven is also written in your heart. If you want to discover what is in your book, look in your heart. What are your interests, desires, aspirations, longings and passions? These are clues to what is in your book in Heaven.

Many times, our lives become so cluttered and busy that we need the Holy Spirit to come and unveil for us what is in our hearts. When we discover the passion of our heart, we will begin to discover what is written in our books in Heaven. We will start to have glimpses of what our Kingdom purposes are.

4. The next stage is the being justified.

Justified has legal implications. The word means to *be rendered just or innocent*. In other words there are no accusations that can stick. Remember that the devil is the accuser of the brethren who accuses us before God day and night. (**Revelation 12:10**). The justified stage is where we have been into the courtroom of Heaven and every accusation the devil is using against us is silenced.

Accusations are what the devil use's to keep us from what is written in the books of Heaven about us. This is why so many people are frustrated today. They have an intuitive awareness that they were created for something more than they have become.

They sense that something is resisting them from stepping into all they were made for. That which is resisting them is the accusation of the accuser against them in the courts of Heaven.

The accuser is presenting evidence to God the Judge of all as to why He cannot legally grant to you what is written in your book.

Satan knows that if we understand what is in our book, and then we will do massive damage to his devilish empire in the Earth. He uses accusations against us to stop us from stepping into all that Heaven has ordained. [He did this to Peter.]

Suffice to say that if we want what is in our books fleshed out in the Earth, the accusations of Satan must be answered. Once this is done then God as Judge of all is free to fulfill His Father's passion toward us and grant what is in the book so heavens will concerning us.

5. The fifth and final stage mentioned is “being glorified”.

Being glorified is not talking about going to Heaven. It is speaking about us fully stepping into all that is written in the books of Heaven about us. We begin to "live the dream." We live the dream that God had about us before time begin. It is where everything we have gone through, good or bad, works together to propel us into our ultimate destiny. This is called the convergence point.

We see this in the life of Joseph where he was in his father's house, but then sold into slavery by jealous brothers. He ended up ruling over the household of Potiphar, before he was cast into prison unjustly, after which he was promoted from this most unlikely place to Prime Minister of Egypt.

He became the preserver of life that God had destined him to be as it was written in the books of Heaven. All of these things worked together and converged together to prepare and get Joseph to his appointed place. He then, from his glorified position, had the Kingdom impact that was predestined by God that he was to have.

The reaching of the convergence point of our lives can be costly and expensive but worth it. Not only do we find the ultimate satisfaction that we were built for, but also God gets His Kingdom purpose fulfilled through us.

The most critical stage of this process for individuals as well as nations, is becoming justified. Once we manoeuvre our ways through the courts of Heaven and get legal things arranged, God can freely then grant to us the passion of His Heart.

THE THRONE OF GRACE

The good news is that there is a court we can operate in, as believers, that is accessible for us all. It is called the Throne of grace. **Hebrews 4:16** tells us about this court.

Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

Everything we deal with on a personal or family level can be brought to the Throne of Grace. At this Throne or in this court we can obtain mercy and find grace to help in our time of need.

We are told that because of who Jesus is and did what He did we can approach this Throne with absolute confidence. **Hebrews 4: 14-16** tells us just some of the things that are working on our behalf before this Throne of Grace.

Hebrews 4:14-16 *“Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the Heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

We are told that we have a *Great High Priest* who is Jesus that is before this Throne of grace on our behalf.

The position of *High Priest* is a legal position before the Throne. All we have to do is look at Aaron the High Priest during the Exodus adventures of the Jews to see that his job was to provide the Lord with the legal right to bless Israel.

Priests give God the legal privilege to bless instead of curse. Aaron did this through all the sacrifices that he offered and every function of his priesthood.

This is what Jesus is doing as our High Priest now. He is before this Throne of Grace offering His own Blood so God has a legal right to bless us instead of curse us.

We don't have to be afraid to come before this Throne, because of the position Jesus has stands in as our Great High Priest.

The powers of darkness that occupy these spiritual dimensions called the heavens could not stop Jesus from taking His legal place as High Priest. Because of His absolute obedience to the Father and the Blood that He shed, they had no power to keep Him from His place.

The result is that these principalities have now lost their legal right to rule. Jesus has legally overthrown these powers of darkness.

It is our job as the Church to execute and administrate this judgment on the Earth.

Colossians 2: 13-15 shows us the legal position the Lord has granted us. It also clearly articulates the undoing of the previous position of the powers of darkness. We have now been granted, by the work of Jesus on the cross, a legal position in Heaven from which we can operate.

Colossians 2:13-15 *“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”*

We must understand that the cross of Jesus was a legal transaction. We are here to execute the legalities that this transaction put into place. A legal transaction has no power UNLESS it is executed.

For instance, a judge can issue a decree of judgment in a court, but if there is no one to **enforce** that judgment, it will have no power. When someone is saved, it is because the legalities of what Jesus did on the cross are legally put into place in their lives.

When Jesus died on the cross, He legally provided atonement for all of mankind for all ages. **2 Corinthians 5:18-19** declare to us that God in Jesus has reconciled Himself back to the world.

2 Corinthians 5:18-19 *“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.”*

When Jesus died on the cross, God reconciled Himself to the world legally. Every legal issue that separated God and man was taken out of the way through the cross.

Notice though that people that are saved have to 'be reconciled back to God'. They have to legally grab hold of what Jesus did and make it their own. **2 Corinthians 5:20** illustrates this.

2 Corinthians 5:20 *“Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.”*

In response to God reconciling Himself back to us, we must be reconciled back to Him. Just because Jesus fulfilled every legal issue separating us from God doesn't mean we are automatically saved. We must legally apprehend, for ourselves, what Jesus legally provided for us. **1 John 1:9** displays this fact.

1 John 1 :9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

GOD IS FAITHFUL AND JUST

Faithful speaks of His Covenant-keeping Nature. He will be true to the Covenant He made with us through the Blood and Body of Jesus. A Covenant is a legal entity.

This Scripture also says God is just.

This means He administers justice into place. God loves justice and hates injustice. Please notice that nowhere in this Scripture is mercy mentioned. We are not forgiven and cleansed on the basis of God's mercy.

We are forgiven and cleansed on the basis of His Covenant-keeping Nature and His justice.

In other words, God can legally show us mercy because a legal precedent has been set from the cross that allows the Lord from His Covenant and justice to be merciful. His mercy is a result of His justice.

When we meet the legal requirements of confession, God is freed to legally forgive us of our sins, because the forgiveness released to us is found in the just Nature of God.

Because of what Jesus did for us on the cross, God can now legally forgive and cleanse us when we meet the legal requirement of confession. The cross of Jesus grants God the legal and just right to forgive and cleanse.

We are, in essence, executing what Jesus legally purchased for us. Our confession and repentance legally puts forgiveness, cleansing and restoration in place, the work of Jesus is of no value without this, even though He completed His job,

Having a legal decree and executing it into place are two different things.

This is why repentance is so important. Our repentance grants God the legal right to display and show His mercy. Otherwise we live far below what Jesus purchased at the cross. Even though it is legally ours, we can only get it when we execute into place the verdicts of the cross.

Just suffice it to say for the moment that the only weapon the devil has against us and our destiny in the books of Heaven is accusation. I had a right to repent on Adam's behalf as an intercessor until Adam could do it for himself and silence the accuser.

This is what an 'intercessor' does. They take a legal position on behalf of another until the other can and will take it for themselves.

Matthew 12:36-37 *"But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned".*

The word *idle* actually means something *unemployed*. In other words, we don't mean it, but we say it anyway. These words become testimony before the courts of Heaven that can justify or condemn.

Everything is a legal matter when it comes to Heaven and the spirit realm. We must learn to get things legally in place before we march onto any battlefield.

There is a very real court of Heaven that we have been granted entrance into. From this court, we are to get legal things in place so destinies written in the Book of Heaven can be fulfilled.

YOU HAVE COME TO MOUNT ZION

In order to understand the different voices operating in the courts of Heaven we have to understand 'Zion'.

Hebrews 12:22-24 tells us where we have been positioned as New Testament believers.

Hebrews 12:22-24 *"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, to Jesus the Mediator of the new Covenant, and to the Blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel."*

In the preceding verses, we are told that we haven't come to Mount Sinai, which was the place where the Law was given.

We have not come to the place of legalism and of death.

In that place, the children of Israel were afraid to approach God and did not even want to hear His Voice. This place was necessary in that it was where the Law was given.

The Law served to bring us to Christ, but it is not the place where we stay. It was to be a part of the journey, but not the destination.

The destination was to be Mount Zion. The earthly manifestation of Mount Zion was established by King David as a place where perpetual worship was offered. It is where David set up the Ark of the Covenant and had 24-hour worship every day.

This was one of the first orders of business that David performed once he became king of all of Israel.

People think that Zion is therefore about worship. Zion is about the purpose of worship. King David commissioned worship to cultivate and host the presence of the Lord so that from that presence, he could govern a nation.

This is the purpose of worship. Out of worship is to flow the governing authority of God through His church.

When we worship, there is to be a rearranging of the heavenly or spiritual realm until Heaven is allowed to enter Earth. This is what **Psalm 110:1-2** declares.

Psalm 110:1-2 *"The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies!"*

Notice what is declared about Zion.

The Rod of the Strength of the Lord will flow out of Zion and cause the enemies of God to be subdued.

The purpose of the activity of Zion is rulership and governmental authority.

The activity of Zion is worship that allows the Lord's Rod of Strength to be wielded against His enemies.

When the Word of the Lord says that we have come to Zion, it is saying we have come to this governmental place in God. We have been privileged out of a place of intimate worship with the Lord to govern with Him. We are no longer at Mount Sinai but are now at Mount Zion, the place of His governing power.

Also, please be aware, that we are not trying to get to Zion. We have been granted as New Testament believers to be there already.

If we could simply understand the divine placement of the Lord in our life, we would begin to function in faith and see things we have been waiting on begin to happen.

Yet so often we are striving to get positioned when the Lord and His grace have already positioned us.

If we can by revelation understand this and begin to function from that place, we will begin to exercise Kingdom rule. *We have come to Mount Zion.*

THRONES AND THE COURT SYSTEM BEGIN

There is a very real court system in Heaven. Every time we read about the Throne of God in Heaven, we must understand that it is not simply referring to a place of worship, but also to the Judge's seat in the court system.

The Throne of God is where the courts of Heaven operate. There is no clearer place we see this than in **Daniel 7:9-10**.

Daniel 7:9-10 *“I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, its wheels a burning fire; A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.”*

What a powerful description of the Throne of God.

Notice that the Throne of God is central to the court of Heaven and many other thrones surround it.

The Book of **Revelation** tells us that, apart from God's Throne, there are at least 24 other thrones that also form part of the court system.

Revelation 4:4 *“Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.”*

We see here that those who occupy these thrones have a crown on their heads and play a part in the court system of Heaven.

They are humans that have overcome and won the right to take these thrones. We know this because of the crowns that they wear.

Crowns are for humans who have faithfully served the Lord and gained a place of authority in the Lord.

This includes not only those who are presently in Heaven, but also those of us who are still alive in the Earth. You can be alive on Earth and still be a part of the court system of Heaven.

In fact, if we do not take our place in the courts of Heaven, God's plans for the planet cannot come to fruition. I often say that, in the natural, my feet may be on the floor, but in the spirit, I am standing in the courts of the Lord playing a vital purpose to His Kingdom cause.

2 Timothy 4:8 says that the Apostle Paul would wear a crown as well as others who loved the coming and appearing of the Lord.

2 Timothy 4:8 *“Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only, but also to all who have loved His appearing.”*

James 1:12 promises that a crown of life will be given to those who endure temptation and love the Lord.

James 1:12 *“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.”*

My point is that those who overcome in this life win for themselves crowns and places in the court system of Heaven. Even Jesus won His place as High Priest and His other functions in the courts by virtue of His obedience to the Father.

I think it is clear that 12 of the 24 who are the elders that are wearing crowns in the courts of Heaven and occupying thrones are the original apostles. Jesus spoke to them in **Luke 22:28-30**.

Luke 22:28-30 *“But you are those who have continued with Me in My trials. And I bestow upon you a kingdom, just as My Father bestowed one upon Me, that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel”.*

Jesus promised these apostles that they would sit on twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Remember that judging is a judicial act.

Notice also that these positions that Jesus refers to, are given as a result of their faithfulness to continue with Him in His tribulation. Again, positions within the courts are won not given.

Representatives of the twelve tribes of Israel probably occupy the other 12 thrones that are mentioned in Revelation. This would be consistent with the order and language of Scripture. These 24 elders that occupy 24 thrones make up some of the thrones that are a part of the courts of Heaven.

THE GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES

I know that many people believe that Heaven is a place where we go to sit on clouds and play golden harps all day. This is absolutely untrue!

Revelation 6:9-11 gives us a picture of some of the activity going on in Heaven.

Revelation 6:9-11 *“When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, ‘How long, o Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?’ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed.”*

These martyrs (people who laid down their lives for the sake of the Gospel) are still praying and interceding. They are crying out for justice concerning their own blood that was spilled. They are requesting that the reason for their sacrifice would become a reality.

There are many in the Heavenly realm who are still crying and praying for what they spilt their blood for, to be realised on the Earth. They are a part of the great cloud of witnesses.

Hebrews 11:39-40 and **Hebrews 12:1-2** speak of this great cloud of witnesses.

Hebrews 12:1-2 *“And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us. Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”*

This great cloud of witnesses has a role in the courts of Heaven. The word witness in **Hebrews 12:1** speaks of those who give judicial testimony.

The cloud of witnesses has a voice in the courts of the Lord concerning the Kingdom purposes for which they laid down their lives.

Notice that they have a right to speak in the courts because they have won for themselves a good testimony, which is about judicial approval.

We need to understand that the saints of old are still invested in the causes for which they gave their lives. They are not just cheering us on from some celestial grand stand.

They are actually in the courts releasing their voice and testimony on behalf of those of us who must now complete the work for which they gave their lives.

This is what the term spirits of just men made perfect refers to in **Hebrews 12:23**.

Hebrews 12:23 *“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.”*

These saints of old still have a voice and are releasing testimony in the courts of Heaven. They have won a place in the courts because of their obedience to the Lord while on Earth.

Father and Judge

It is quite interesting in **Hebrews 12:23** that the Lord is revealed as "The Judge of All."

Hebrews 12:23 *“To the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in Heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect.”*

- ◆ He is not revealed as our Father, our Saviour or our King.
- ◆ He is revealed as the Judge.
- ◆ The reason for this is that these Scriptures are revealing the court system of Heaven and He as Judge has the final word and place.
- ◆ He is in fact all the things previously mentioned and much more, but He is the Judge of All because He renders verdicts, judgments and sentences that bring order and justice.

It is our job as individuals and the Ecclesia to grant God, as the Judge of all, the legal right to fulfil His Fatherly passion.

We should remember that God is a Father. In His Heart, He carries dreams, desires and longings for His family, just as earthly fathers do. He longs to see these desires of His Heart towards His family come to pass.

God is also the Judge of all who must render legal judgments in righteousness and holiness. As we have discovered, there can be legal issues that hinder His Fatherly desires being fulfilled. God will never compromise Himself as Judge in order to fulfil His Fatherly desires. To do so would make Him less than God.

Therefore, it is our job as His people, His Ecclesia, to put in place the legal precedents needed for God to legally fulfil His desires as a Father.

REMOVING THE LEGAL RIGHT OF THE ENEMY

Proverbs 26:2 says that a curse has to have a cause to alight.

Proverbs 26:2 *“Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, So a curse without cause shall not alight.”*

Curses are pictured as sparrows and swallows flying around and looking for a place to land. They cannot land unless a legal right allows them to land.

Micah 2:1-3 *“Woe to those who devise iniquity, and work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and take them by violence, also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance. Therefore thus says the Lord: “Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, for this is an evil time.”*

God says that if someone who has been granted power through trust uses that power to steal away inheritances; a disaster can come upon them that they won't be able to escape.

Remember, God cannot compromise Himself as Judge to fulfil His Fatherly passion. We must grant Him the legal right as Judge to satisfy the desires of His Heart as Father.

Otherwise the devil wins and God loses, even though His passion is always to do us good.

When we grasp this principle, we will stop asking, "Why didn't God do something?" whenever something bad happens. God cannot intervene until we give Him the legal right to do so. His passion is always to bless, heal and show mercy. This is why **James 1:16-17** tells us that it is God's passion always to do good.

James 1:16-17 *“Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

When we read in Scripture that something evil was done 'by God', my own personal opinion is that God did not 'do' it, He simply had to 'allow' it legally.

When the devil has a legal right to perform evil, God must allow it unless someone comes to the court of Heaven to contest that right.

Let us look at the example of Job. God did not kill Job's children, afflict him with sickness or take away his wealth. Satan did. God did not want this to happen, but Satan presented a case showing his legal right to afflict Job.

His accusations against Job concerned the motives of Job's heart. **Job 1:9-11** we see Satan telling the Lord that Job was only serving God because God had blessed and secured him so much.

Job 1:9-11 *"So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"*

It appears that everything is judged and evaluated in Heaven. Even when we are doing everything right, the devil can still question our motives. This is what threw Job into his tribulation.

This tells me that we need to allow the Holy Spirit to, not only empower us to walk rightly, but also from a pure and clean heart.

God had to allow these afflictions until Job set things in order and rescinded Satan's legal rights. Once Job did this, God rendered a judgment that restored to Job twice what he had lost.

When evil occurs, we should always look for the legal right that allows it. When we do, we can confidently go into the court of Heaven, deal with the legalities and shut the door on evil.

This principle explains why intercessors so often feel the passion of God in their prayer and yet nothing seems to change. It is very possible to feel what God feels, experience His desires and be unable to move anything in the spirit realm.

Knowing God's Heart and being able to administrate it legally are two very different things. If we want to see God's passion manifest on Earth, we must get things legally in place.

The devil always resists God and us with legalities. The Lord will not override His own judicial system to grant His passion. He cannot. We must step into that system and grant Him the legal right to fulfil His passion.

Knowing Your Jurisdiction

The Apostle Paul spoke of measurement of rule or the sphere he had been granted. **2 Corinthians 10:13** tells us that Paul stayed within his measurement, spheres, limits and jurisdiction.

2 Corinthians 10:13 *"We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us-a sphere which especially includes you."*

If we are to be effective and protected, we must stay within the sphere that has been granted to us by God. The word in the Greek for sphere is **metron**. It means a measure or a limited portion. We each have been granted a **metron** to function in. When we function in that **metron** or limited portion appointed to us, we have success and protection.

There are varying levels of court operations *in* Heaven. Just as there are criminal courts, small claim courts, civil courts and other expressions in Earth, so in Heaven there are different dimensions of courts.

We have to be recognized and registered to operate within a sphere of Heaven. To get outside our God-ordained sphere is unproductive and very dangerous. We open ourselves to satanic onslaught, attack and even destruction.

The good news is that we can all operate in the court that the Bible calls the Throne of grace. Every one of us as believers has rights, privileges and authorities in this sphere.

Hebrews 4:16 tell us we are to come boldly to this court of Heaven.

Hebrews 4:16 *“Let us therefore come boldly to the Throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”*

We can come and present our petitions that relate to family and personal issues in this court. It is very easy to get verdicts rendered on our behalf in this court of Heaven. From His Throne of Grace the Lord will bless us with mercy and grace for our time of need.

When we move past that which is personal and family oriented and step into intercession for churches, cities, States, regions and nations, we are entering a conflict which requires another jurisdiction.

We must be recognised in Heaven to function in the courts of Heaven concerning these things. It is one thing to pray prayers of blessings over governments, rulers and territories; it is another thing to engage principalities that rule these places.

In the courts of Heaven only those who have been granted jurisdiction should engage principalities and ruling powers.

Contending with principalities that have been empowered through multiple generations of sin, is a very deadly and dangerous thing to do, if we are not recognised in the courts of Heaven on this level.

This is why the Bible speaks of the *Church* registered in *Heaven*. The Ecclesia/Church is God's legislative, governmental and judicial people and they have been registered and authorised to operate within the court system of Heaven.

When the Church is functioning where it is meant to, we have an authority to get verdicts from the court against powers of darkness. With these verdicts in hand, we win on the battlefield every time.

The issue is we must have the jurisdiction to accomplish these things. We cannot fake the spirit realm. If we haven't been given the jurisdiction from Heaven to operate there, the spirit realm and its forces know it and will exploit it.

We are no threat to them if we do not have legitimate authority.

In fact, if we do not carry realms of authority that the spirit dimension recognizes we can be in trouble. We see this in the occasion of the sons of Sceva in **Acts 19:13-17**. These begin to seek to use the Name of Jesus as a formula for exorcism without the authority associated with it.

Acts 19:13-17 *“Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists took it upon themselves to call the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “We exorcise you by the Jesus whom Paul preaches.” Also there were seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, who did so. And the evil spirit answered and said, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are you?” Then the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, overpowered them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified.”*

These guys got themselves in trouble because they tried to engage the demonic 'without carrying jurisdiction in the spirit realm to do it. The result was chaotic and treacherous. We cannot fake the spirit realm out. They know whether we have the authority we are seeking to function in, or if we do not. It is imperative that we carry authority and jurisdiction before we seek to uproot and remove powers of darkness.

The Voice of Angels in the Court

Evidence is a very important element in any court case.

Judgments are rendered on the basis of the evidence presented in court. A judge may know that a decision should go a certain way, but if there is no evidence given to warrant that decision, the judge cannot render it.

In the court of Heaven, angels have the important task of gathering and presenting evidence. They release the necessary testimonies and evidence needed for God to render judgments.

The Judge of all also needs evidence presented that warrants the verdicts He desires.

This is why I say, it is our job to agree with the voices of Heaven and present our case until we grant God, as Judge, the legal right to fulfil His Fatherly passion.

All the voices in Heaven operate for this purpose, but it is our job to agree with them until legal precedents are in place. God will never just render a judgment; He needs the input and agreement from the Church on Earth because man has been given this authority in the Earth realm.

Psalm 115:16 says that the children of men have the God ordained authority in the Earth.

Psalm 115:16 *“The Heaven, even the Heavens, are the Lord's; But the earth He has given to the children of men.”*

The Lord will not normally overstep the authority He has granted us. If we, as humans, are in authority in the Earth realm, then it is up to us to grant God the legal right to accomplish His Will here.

We must know how to exercise this authority in the courts of Heaven to give God the legal right to intervene on Earth.

Angels are a huge part of this process. **Hebrews 12:22** declares that there is an innumerable company of angels that is a part of the court system of Heaven. The term innumerable company in the Greek actually means a ten thousand, myriad and indefinite number.

The word *angels* means *a messenger and one who brings tidings*. There are innumerable angels in the courts of Heaven that all have different jobs. Some are there to worship, some are there to declare and decree and some are there to run with messages.

FOUR ranks of angels operating within the court system of Heaven

There are at least four ranks of angels operating within the court system of Heaven. I have heard teaching that says there are ten ranks, but for our purpose we will deal with four.

Colossians 1:16 names the thrones, dominion, principalities and powers as dimensions of ranks.

Colossians 1:16 *“For by Him all things were created that are in Heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether **thrones** or **dominions** or **principalities** or **powers**. All things were created through Him and for Him.”*

People normally think of this as depicting a satanic hierarchy structure.

This is, however, a structure in the spirit realm that operates in the satanic realm, but also in the Heavenly realm. Satan is not a creator. Any structure that he uses was copied from what he had seen in Heaven.

He was a part of the hierarchy structure of Heaven and knows it well. This structure was first, and still is, the structure of Heaven.

Notice that all these things were created through Him and for Him.

All these ranks were created to assist this Lord in fulfilling his agenda. Let us look at these ranks of angels in an attempt to understand some of the operations of this innumerable company.

(1) Thrones

The first rank mentioned is thrones. This word in the Greek means to sit, a stately seat, a potentate. Anyone who sits on a throne in Heaven has a voice in the Heavenly court. Remember that there are thrones around The Throne in Heaven. (**Daniel 7:9**)

Scripture records that there are 24 thrones around God's Throne, but there are probably many more. I would suggest that archangels are some who sit on these thrones. The word *archangels* come from the Greek word *archo* and means first in rank and political power. If thrones are listed first in the spirit realm this means archangels must occupy them.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 says that archangels will accompany Jesus at His return.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 *“For the Lord Himself will descend from Heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”*

The voice of an archangel has the power to bring dead people back to life. Archangels are very powerful beings. Michael is also said to be an archangel.

Jude 8:9 tells us that Michael contended with the devil.

Jude 8-9 *“Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries. Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”*

Michael as an archangel was very careful to stay within his jurisdiction. He actually invoked the Lord Himself to rebuke the devil. If Michael, one of the archangels of Heaven, is so careful to stay within his jurisdiction, how much more should we?

Also please be aware that in **John 5:28-29** Jesus said that this voice would indeed bring people in the graves back to life.

John 5:28-29 *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”*

It states here that it is **Jesus' Voice** that will bring them from the grave and yet when Jesus comes back, it is with the voice of the archangel.

If it is in fact the voice of the archangel speaking on behalf of Jesus, it is as if Jesus Himself is uttering the words.

Suffice it to say that these archangels carry great power and authority from the Lord.

They, therefore, from the position of thrones have influence in the courts of the Lord.

(2) Dominions

The next rank of angel mentioned is dominions. In my opinion, the angels known as cherubim are in this rank.

Exodus 25:21-22 states there are two cherubs over the mercy seat that covers the Ark of the Covenant.

Exodus 25:21-22 *“You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.”*

Moses was taken to Heaven and given a 'tour' of, among other things, the Tabernacle. Then God commanded him to make a replica on Earth of what he had seen in Heaven. The above Scripture shows that he was instructed to place two cherubim (a type of angel) over the mercy seat, just as it is in Heaven.

From this place, God said, He would meet with Moses and speak with him from the Mercy Seat. I am glad that the Voice of the Lord always flows from His mercy. When we hear the Lord's Voice, it is from the Mercy Seat of Heaven. Hearing His Voice is part of the privilege of being in the courts of the Lord.

The real Ark of the Covenant is actually in the court system of Heaven. The Apostle John saw this ark and the real Mercy Seat.

Revelation 11: 19 reflects and demonstrates what he saw.

Revelation 11: 19 *“Then the temple of God was opened in Heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.”*

There are two cherubim who stand over the real ark and cover it with their wings. Scripture teaches that, prior to his being cast out of Heaven, Satan was a covering cherub **Ezekiel 28:14** declares this.

Ezekiel 28:14 *“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones”.*

There are three things revealed about cherubs here.

(i) The first thing is they are anointed.

They have a supernatural empowerment to fulfill their function.

(ii) Secondly, they cover and defend.

This is why the two cherubim are seen with their wings over the mercy seat. They guard the presence and mercy of the Lord.

(iii) The third thing mentioned is that they are on the holy mountain of God.

A mountain always speaks of government. This holy mountain's name is Zion. It is the place of government and the court system of Heaven. We have come to this place. **(Hebrews 12: 22).**

Cherubim have a function in the courts of Heaven to help verdicts come forth that fulfill the Father's passion. We choose to agree with the function of this rank of angels even when we don't fully understand. We, by faith, agree with the order of Heaven to see God's will be done on the Earth.

(3) Principalities

The third rank of angels mentioned is principalities. When we hear this word we normally think of demonic powers. There are demonic principalities, but they originally were principalities in God's order and Kingdom.

The demonic principalities fell with Lucifer before time began. They were cast out of Heaven for their rebellion against God.

They then ceased to be angelic powers in the Heavenly realm and became demonic entities against the will of God. Principalities were probably seraphim when in Heaven.

Isaiah 6:1-3 shows us one of the functions of the seraphim.

Isaiah 6:1-3 *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!"*

The seraphim declare perpetually the holiness of the Lord. This same scenario was seen by Isaiah, and by the Apostle John and recorded in **Revelation 4:8**.

Revelation 4:8 *"The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"*

The previous verses say that these living creatures had the face of a lion, a calf, a man and a flying eagle. I believe it is possible that Isaiah recorded things that John later added to. These were seraphim that are creatures before the throne and are declaring the holiness of God in Heaven's courts. The interesting thing about this is that the term seraphim actually mean ... a flying serpent.

We tend to think that serpents are always evil, yet they had their origin in the courts of Heaven. Remember that the serpent in the Garden of Eden was sentenced by God to crawl on its belly after it yielded itself as Satan's vehicle to deceive Eve.

Prior to this, it was probably a flying creature. This is what made the **judgment of God** against the serpent so strong. God again, cast Satan down from his exalted place and made him crawl on his belly in the dust.

Principalities of the demonic sort that now influence regions of the Earth are many times seen as **dragons**. These are fallen seraphim that have chosen to align with Satan in his transgression against the Lord.

The demonic powers had a legal right to deny the Body of Christ the necessary influence we should have had in the courts of Heaven. They were therefore able to do the will of Satan rather than the will of God.

We must learn how to come into agreement with the voice of the seraphim that cries out, "Holy, Holy, Holy" rather than empower the demonic principalities that are looking for a legal right to destroy. Nations and their destinies hang in the balance.

It is our job as the Ecclesia to grant God the legal right to show mercy rather than allow destruction.

(4) Powers

The final rank of angels is powers. This word means jurisdiction or authority. **Psalm 103:20** mentions angels as part of the hierarchy of Heaven.

Psalm 103:20 *"Bless the Lord, you His angels, who excel in strength, who do His word, Heeding the voice of His word."*

The word angel here means to dispatch as a deputy. This makes sense since they are the ones who do His Word. These are the angels that carry out the verdicts that come from the courts of the Lord. They come to empower us and help us execute any and every judgment from the courts of Heaven.

There are many functions of these angelic beings. One of them is to land scrolls that carry judgment of the Lord against anything that is standing in the way of God's Kingdom purpose.

We see this in **Zechariah 5:1-4**.

Zechariah 5:1-4 *"Then I turned and raised my eyes, and saw there a flying scroll. And he said to me, 'What do you see?' So I answered, 'I see a flying scroll. Its length is twenty cubits and its width ten cubits.' Then he said to me, 'This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: 'Every thief shall be expelled,' according to this side of the scroll; and, 'Every perjurer shall be expelled,' according to that side of it." "I will send out the curse," says the Lord of hosts; "It shall enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears falsely by My Name. It shall remain in the midst of his house and consume it, with its timber and stones".*

Zechariah was a prophet who prophesied during the restoration period of Israel.

There were many enemies to this restoration process. Clearly there were thieves and perjurers that were stealing away the assets necessary for restoration. Suddenly, the prophet encounters an angel that is revealing a scroll that carries judgment against these thieves and perjurers.

Judgments or verdicts against what is resisting God's will come from Heaven's court as scrolls in the spirit realm. They are scrolls or judgments that must be landed and made manifest on Earth.

We are in a process of restoration, just like they were in the days of Zechariah.

Acts 3:19-21 shows us that everything the prophets spoke of must be restored before Jesus can return.

Acts 3:19-21 *“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.”*

There is actually a four-step process revealed here.

- (i) It begins with our *repentance*.
- (ii) The next phase is God's response to our repentance with refreshing.
- (iii) Then from refreshing we move to restoration.
- (iv) Then from restoration comes the return.

Notice that Heaven is holding Jesus until the restoration of everything that the prophets spoke of becomes a reality in the Church and the world. The knowledge of the glory of the Lord will cover the Earth as the waters cover the sea. **(Habakkuk 2: 14)**

We have watched the Lord send moves of refreshing's as the Body of Messiah has repented. Part of this was the Toronto Outpouring and the Revival at Pensacola.

But now it is time for Restoration to flow out of the refreshing's. The restoration is a recovering of apostolic power and authority that sets the Church into a new dimension of operation.

As this occurs, the Earth will experience a new level of Kingdom power being administrated and experienced. The devil is resisting this restoration on a corporate and even personal level. We need scrolls/books released from the Heavenly courts to remove every hindrance holding back restoration.

The Ecclesia has two jobs. The first is to get verdicts from the courts of Heaven. The second job of the Ecclesia is to land these verdicts/scrolls until everything functionally that is standing in the way of restoration is removed.

I use the word landed, because, just as an airplane needs to find a landing strip in order to land on Earth and release its cargo, so it is with scrolls. Scrolls/Books are Heavenly instructions that should produce a tangible result in the Earth realm.

Just like an airplane, they need to find a landing strip where they can touch Earth and release the verdict so that the will of Heaven can be done on Earth.

Zechariah sees the scroll as a result of an angel showing it to him. When he sees it, he can read it, receive the instruction and carry it out on Earth. I am convinced that our prayers and activities in the court of Heaven have resulted in many scrolls / books being released. The problem is we haven't seen them to land them. This has hindered Kingdom order coming into the planet.

The job of the Ecclesia is to grant God the legal right to fulfil His Kingdom passion. Once this is granted, we must land the scrolls / verdicts / judgments that come from the courts of Heaven. This requires angelic help. We need the angelic powers that have been deputised from Heaven to open our eyes and help us land the scrolls.

Until these scrolls / books from Heaven are landed that which is standing in the way of God's will being done, will continue to resist. We need angelic and prophetic help to be able to move out of the way all that is resisting God's will from being done.

May the Lord open our eyes to the angelic powers that operate out of the courts of Heaven? I am convinced that much has already been released and simply needs to be landed. Once this occurs we will see Kingdom order and justice come to the Earth. Nations will shift and come into Kingdom destiny because we as the Ecclesia are accomplishing our mandates from Heaven.

We are granting God the legal right to fulfil His passions and then with angelic help we are landing His righteous judgments in the Earth. "Come Your Kingdom, be done Your will, on Earth as it is in Heaven!"

PRESENTING CASES IN THE COURTS OF HEAVEN

Now that we have a better understanding of the courts of Heaven, let's learn to present our petitions and cases before the Lord. I want to seek to bring everything together so that at the conclusion, you can step into this dimension and see God's passion toward you fulfilled. The entire purpose for these final thoughts is to empower us to move with boldness and confidence before the Lord.

Get Off the Battlefield

The first thing we must do to step into the courts of Heaven is to get off the battlefield. We have to recognise the need for legal precedents to be set before we run to the battle. We are in a conflict, but it is a legal one. Remember that Jesus never pictures prayer in a battlefield context.

He did put prayer however in a courtroom or judicial setting in **Luke 18: 1-8**.

In this parable, a widow is seeking a verdict of justice from an unrighteous judge. Among other things, one glaring aspect of this story stands out. This woman, in her efforts to deal with her adversary, never spoke to her adversary, but only to the judge. She understood that when a rendering could be obtained from the judge, then her adversary became of no consequence.

The adversary's legal footing for hurting, harming, stealing or otherwise tormenting her would be removed. The adversary would have to bend the knee to the verdict of the court. Once the court rendered a verdict then it could be executed into place. The verdict from the court is the legal wrestling; the executing it into place is the battlefield part. We have tried to run to the battlefield without verdicts from the court. We have found ourselves ineffective or even soundly defeated. Those days are over as we get off the battlefield and into the courtroom.

This is what the Apostle Paul was referring to in **Ephesians 6:12**.

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the Heavenly places (**Ephesians 6:12**).

The term wrestle is a very apt term for what goes on in the courts of the Lord. Through our manoeuvring in the courts we actually put into place the legalities necessary for God's Kingdom will to be done. If you have ever been in a natural court setting you will attest to this.

Attorneys manoeuvre, operate and wrestle with each other to get the legal upper hand. The same is true in the court of Heaven, especially when dealing with principalities over regions. It is our job to enforce the legal judgment that Jesus won at the cross, on the powers of darkness, stripping them of all illegitimate authority that they hold over us individually and corporately. It takes some legal wrangling to set this in place.

Once it is done, we can march onto the battlefield and win every time. The battle in the courtroom always precedes the victory on the battlefield. This whole book is about learning to win in the courtroom so we can win on the battlefield. Once we have had a change of perspective and see the primary place of conflict as a courtroom, we are ready to present our case.

Presenting our Case

We can only present our case once we have read from the Books in Heaven. **Daniel 7:10** sets the scene.

Daniel 7:10 *“A fiery stream issued and came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, and the books were opened.”*

The good news is that the books are open. The books are not closed, locked, or sealed. This means we can discern and understand by revelation what is in the books. On a personal level, the books reveal our Kingdom purpose and destiny. This is not a once-off revelation, but rather an ongoing journey of discovery.

When we are dealing with cities, states, or nations, prophets will help us understand God's Kingdom will as it is written in the books. When a prophet prophesies, they are simply reading out of the books of Heaven. They are unveiling the secrets contained in the books.

Once this is done, apostles with jurisdiction in the given sphere can begin to present the case before the courts. We present the city, state, or nation in the court and remind the Lord of what He wrote about it in the books. We are presenting our case and putting God into remembrance. (**Isaiah 43:26-27**).

This operation sets the court in motion. Just as in a natural court, the proceedings start with the prosecution presenting its case. It is a powerful thought that we as mortal people have the authority to set in motion the courts of Heaven, but it is true.

When we present from the books what has been written before time began, court comes to session. This is why in **Daniel 7**, the court is seated, and the books are open. The court is going to make decisions based on what is presented from the books of Heaven by us as individuals and as the Ecclesia. It is an awesome place God has given us.

Agreeing with our Accuser

Once we have presented the case for what has been written in the books, we will almost always encounter the accuser seeking to deny us what is in the books. (**Revelation 12:10**)

Any and all accusations that he brings to seek to disqualify us from getting what is in the books must be answered. This will require us to repent and humble ourselves before the Lord for nations and ourselves.

It is interesting that right after the Lord speaks the parable in **Luke 18:1-8**, that His next teaching launches into two men who went up to pray. The one was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. This parable is in **Luke 18:9-14**.

Jesus contrasts how the Pharisee was self-righteous and very arrogant, while the tax collector was very humble and surrendered. The end of the parable was that the tax collector went down to his house "justified" rather than the religious Pharisee.

Luke 18:9-14 *"Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men-extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted".*

Jesus spoke this parable in connection to or as an extension of His teaching on praying from a judicial place. To be justified means to render as just or innocent. To be justified is a legal position of being found not guilty and innocent.

One of the things Jesus is teaching in connection to operating in the courts of Heaven is that God responds to humility and surrender. I have found that humility and surrender carry great weight in the courts of Heaven. If we want to have an audience in the courts, we must appear there with a humble spirit and a broken and contrite heart. These sacrifices, God will not despise. (**Psalm 51:17**)

Through repentance we set in place the voice of the blood of Jesus and every other voice releasing testimony. Remember that there are nine voices that can speak in the court system of Heaven.

We can agree with these voices in several ways. One of the primary ways we can agree is through our repentance. When we sense accusations being used against us, we should simply agree with them.

Matthew 5:25 says we are to agree with our adversary quickly.

Matthew 5:25 *"Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison."*

To agree with our adversary simply means that we are quick to repent of anything being used against us in the courts. I have no need to answer for myself. I don't justify myself. I allow the Blood of Jesus to justify me. I also draw from any/or all of the other voices in the courts that would speak as well. They will speak on my behalf when I have repented and accessed the blood.

My attitude is that I can never go wrong with repentance.

Self-justification can destroy me, but repentance will cause me to be accepted. My experience has been that as I repent for anything in my history or even bloodline issues, the Holy Spirit will grant me repentance. **(2 Timothy 2:25).**

Confessing our Sin

Our words before the Throne of God are very powerful.

In **Hosea 14:1-2** the prophet is urging the people to use 'words' to return to the Lord.

Hosea 14:1-2 *“O Israel, return to the Lord your God, for you have stumbled because of your iniquity; Take words with you, and return to the Lord. Say to Him, “take away all iniquity; Receive us graciously, for we will offer the sacrifices of our lips.”*

Right words before the courts of the Lord are very powerful. Because of our words, God will forgive us. The sacrifices of our lips in departing from iniquity and returning to the Lord, give God the legal right to forgive us. This is why John told us to confess our sins.

1 John 1:9 declares that our confession, or saying what God says about something, grants the Lord legal right to forgive and cleanse us.

1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

Our words set legal things in motion. Our words become testimony and agreements with the courts of Heaven.

Our words grant the Lord the legal right to fulfil His passion toward us, which is always mercy and goodness. This is a part of what overcomes the accuser of the brethren, the word of our testimony.

Revelation 12:10-11 declares that the word of our testimony in agreement with God's purposes overcomes and silences accusation.

Revelation 12: 10-11 *“Then I heard a loud voice saying in Heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”*

Part of the word of our testimony is to 'confess' and use words to grant God the legal right to be merciful to us.

Another thing that allows us to come into concert and agreement with the voices of Heaven and silence the accuser is our offerings. As I shared in the previous chapter, our finances have a voice.

When we bring finances with a clean heart and full of passion toward the Lord, these finances add a voice of agreement with Heaven. It is appropriate to offer finances and then prophesy over them and with them into the courts of Heaven. When we do, we are becoming a part of the operation of Heaven to see His will done on Earth.

Resisting the Devil

Once the accuser has been silenced and the wrestling match in the courts is finished, we are now set to rebuke any and all demonic forces. This may include the rebuking and renouncing of any and every demonic activity.

It is amazing how quickly the operation of the devil is stopped and removed once his legal rights are thwarted.

When we have put in place through our repentance the legalities of Heaven, the devil will have to stop and desist any and all operations. The legal right has been removed and the rights of his operation are broken. If we have rebuked the devil and it hasn't moved, it is because he still has a legal right to be there.

Colossians 2:13-14 shows us that Jesus set in place every legal thing necessary to break satanic holds.

Colossians 2:13-14 *“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.”*

Every bit of 'paperwork' against us in Heaven, Jesus nailed it to His cross and took it out of the way.

The words handwriting of requirements actually means a legal document and/or a law, ordinance or decree. In other words, positionally Jesus dealt with every accusation or bit of 'paperwork' that the accuser can use to resist us in the courts of Heaven. It has been removed.

This doesn't mean that the devil will not try to use it. Whether it is our sin or the sin of our bloodline. Just as we had to appropriate what Jesus did for us when we were born again (and it wasn't just automatic), there are times where, in specifics, we must appropriate or execute it into place.

The devil will seek to use things against us. We must take the blood of Jesus and with our repentance and faith put what Jesus did for us in place in that given area. We verbally and with faith accept and forcibly put into place the work of Jesus on the cross in our behalf. When we do, we: have taken away any legal footing the devil tries to use.

The word contrary in these verses means covertly. The sacrifice of Jesus deals with even the 'hidden' things in our bloodline that are standing against us. When, by the Spirit revelation, these bloodline issues come to light, we repent of these things, apply the Blood of Jesus and break any place the devil might be trying to exploit.

When we do, we become positioned to functionally get verdicts from the courts of Heaven. The accuser has been silenced and God is now free to answer our prayer from His Father's heart. Any legal place Satan has been using against us is taken away.

I have found that once the legal right is broken, he will go when he is resisted.

James 4:7 is very clear.

James 4:7 *“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”*

Submitting to God involves humility, surrender, repentance and submission to the Lord. Once this is in place and any and every place of rebellion is out of us, we will resist and he will flee.

The devil no longer has a legal right to stay. Our rebuke now carries power and he will flee.

Making Decrees

The last thing we do as legal things have now been ordered is we are free to make decrees that carry the authority of the court of Heaven.

Our decrees are based on what is written in the books. Every objection has been removed and the Judge is now free to fulfil His Fatherly passion and release His kingdom will in our lives. Nothing is resisting us legally and the decrees now have power.

To get the full effect of this understanding we should look at our position as kings and priests. We are told that we are kings and priests to our God. (**Revelation 1:6; Revelation 5:10**)

This speaks of our spiritual positioning in heaven. These are places given to us by and through the work of Jesus on the cross.

- ◆ The job of a priest is to intercede.
- ◆ The job of a king is to decree.

When priests intercede, they grant God the legal right to show mercy.

This is most clearly seen in the priest taking the blood into the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement. The priest would offer the blood of the Passover lamb in that holy place as prescribed by the Lord.

The offering of that blood would grant God the legal right to roll the sins of the people and a nation back for one more year. The Lord by His own mandate needed the function of the priest administering the blood so He was granted the legalities He needed to bless and show mercy.

The job of priest is to strategically intercede so that legal things are in place. Once legal positioning is obtained, and then kings, from that place in the spirit, can make decrees. This is why we are to be priests and kings to our God.

This is best seen in Jesus coming to Lazarus' tomb in **John 11:41-44**.

John 11 :41-44 *"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go".*

Jesus comes to the tomb of Lazarus and says to the Father that He has already prayed. Jesus has been functioning in His priesthood on the journey to Lazarus' tomb. He has dealt with every legal reason why Lazarus has died prematurely. He has been in the courts of Heaven and dealt with the accusations of the devil that allowed Lazarus to die in an untimely fashion.

He knows everything is in place legally for what He is about to do. When Jesus comes to Lazarus' tomb, He steps from His priesthood into His kingship.

Now He is no longer interceding, now He is decreeing. With authority, He simply decrees, "Lazarus come forth."

The dead man rises and comes out of the grave full of life and resurrection power. This is a perfect picture of our function as priest and kings in the courts of Heaven. Once we, from our priesthood, have things legally in place, we can then step into our kingship and make decrees the courts of Heaven back up. Things shift and change in these times by executed verdicts from Heaven put into place.

As we utter the words of governmental decrees, the Heavenly realm is reordered and things come into place for Heaven to invade Earth. There is now a contract and verdict in place from the courts that allows Heaven to manifest on Earth. What a powerful thing!

The Holy Spirit will help us in our weakness to manoeuvre in the courts of Heaven. As we do, we become a part of God's agenda in the planet.

My heart's cry is that this article will help to deal with all the frustration and even skepticism among God's people regarding prayer. I pray that all the prayers that have been prayed in true sincerity but seem to have been unanswered will fade into history as we learn the secrets of the courts.

He has not been an uncaring God, or One that is distant. The problem has been that we haven't understood that we must grant God the legal right as Judge to fulfil His fatherly passion. He longs to answer and bless.

We must grant Him the legal right to do so by operating in the courts of Heaven, agreeing with the voices that speak on our behalf and see verdicts rendered from His Throne that establish Kingdom order.

When this is done, Heaven will truly invade Earth. Our lives will come to new levels of living, nations will be disciplined and Kingdom cultures put into place.

There will be an escaping of the destructive schemes of the devil as his legal rights of operation will cease and desist.

He will flee at our rebuke because his legal footing has been taken away in the courts of Heaven. Let's move forward and see God's will done. Let's go to court! The verdicts of Heaven are waiting for us.

UNLOCKING DESTINIES FROM THE COURTS OF HEAVEN

- ◆ Iniquity not dealt with will ruin our future.
- ◆ Iniquity allows curses the legal right to land.
- ◆ Iniquity has at least four devastating effects against us.

1. The first effect is iniquity grants the devil the legal right to tempt us in a given area

When someone in our family history gives himself or herself over to a certain sin, this grants the devil the legal right to tempt us with that same thing. The source of the temptation is the failure of those from our family history.

Every family has iniquity working in its family history. Iniquity is the result of sins operated in from the ancestry. This can make these temptations very powerful. This is why we see the same sins committed from generation to generation where they were "unlearned." We see this is the life of Abraham and his son, Isaac.

In **Genesis 12:10-13** Abraham concocted a plan to have Sarai say she was his sister for fear of him being killed, so they could take her to be his wife. It is recorded that Abraham actually did this twice.

Genesis 12:10-13 *"Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land. And it came to pass, when he was close to entering Egypt, that he said to Sarai his wife, 'Indeed I know that you are a woman of beautiful countenance.' Therefore will happen, when the Egyptians see you, that they will say, 'This is his wife;' and they will kill me, but they will let you live. 'Please say you are my sister, that it may be well with me for your sake, and that I may live because of you'".*

We find it again in **Genesis 20:2**.

Genesis 20:2 *"Now Abraham said of Sarah his wife, 'She is my sister.' And Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah."*

Abraham's fear caused him to place Sarah in a very perilous position, as they entered different nations and kingdoms. This was a sin that was born out of fear. It was full of selfishness and disgrace.

God always protected Sarah in these situations, but that didn't alleviate the sin of Abraham.

Many decades later, after Isaac was born, he committed the same sins with his wife, Rebekah.

Genesis 26:6-7, shows Isaac doing the same thing.

Genesis 26:6-7 *"So Isaac dwelt in Gerar. And the men of the place asked about his wife, And he said, "She is my sister;" for he was afraid to say, "She is my wife," because he thought, "lest the men of the place kill me for Rebekah, because she is beautiful to behold."*

Isaac was not alive when Abraham placed Sarah in the dangerous position by his lies; yet, he repeats the same error. Without being instructed, influenced or persuaded in the natural in any way, Isaac falls prey to the same sins as his father.

He repeats his father's sins. This is what iniquity does. It causes generations to repeat the sins of the fathers over and over. It gives the devil the legal right to tempt successive generations with the same sins the fathers fell pray to.

If we can understand this, we can take the Blood of Jesus and deal with the powerful force of iniquity that wants to work against us. David spoke of this when he said he kept himself from iniquity.

Psalms 18:23, declares that David had a confidence that God would answer his prayers because he had not yielded to the power of iniquity working against him.

Psalms 18:23 *"I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity."*

The temptation of the devil had a pull on David as a result of the iniquity of his family lineage. David in these moments withstood the power of these temptations. When the iniquity is broken, it doesn't mean we will not be tempted. It simply means we have the ability to say, "No!" to the temptation.

Even Jesus was tempted, yet without sin. Jesus had no sin nature or iniquity working in Him from His bloodline. His bloodline is perfect because it is from the Father. Yet, Jesus was tempted.

The sign of a sin nature or iniquity is not temptation. The sign of a sin nature working in us is the inability to say, "No" to sin. When we take the Blood of Jesus and deal with not just sin and transgression, but iniquity as well, we can dissolve the power of temptation against us.

2. A second thing iniquity does is it shapes our identity

My definition for identity is, "the inner most thoughts I think about myself." A proper identity will believe the things God believes about us. The problem is that iniquity shapes our beliefs about ourselves. We see this in the life of Isaiah.

In **Isaiah, chapter 6, verses 1-8**, we see God graciously dealing with the iniquity that is fashioning the way Isaiah thinks about himself.

Isaiah 6: 1-8 *"In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!" And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth with it, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin purged." Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."*

Isaiah saw himself as sinful, undone and unworthy. Notice that it was iniquity that the angelic being cleansed him from with the coal.

The iniquity that was operating against him caused him to see himself as unworthy. Once the iniquity is cleansed two main things happened. He was able to hear the Lord and feel His passion. Iniquity and its effects block us from perceiving spiritually what is happening.

We do not see the way God really feels about us. This leads to the second thing that happens.

When the cleansing occurred it also dealt with the unworthiness Isaiah was feeling. Isaiah is declaring himself to be unclean, undone and unworthy. He is feeling as if he can't be used of God. Once the iniquity is purged, he has a new sense of identity that propels him to volunteer to go for the Lord.

He no longer sees himself as an unworthy vessel, but as one qualified to go for the Lord. This is a picture of what happens once our identity is free from the shaping of iniquity. We see ourselves the way God sees us and are free to be his servants.

The bottom line is that iniquity operating against us is used by the devil to lie to us about who we really are. People believe these lies all the time. They become sexually unclean. They become alcoholics and substance abusers. They become controlled by poverty. They end up living a life far below the intent of God for them and their families. Once the power of iniquity is broken, they are transformed in their thinking. They are free to be who God made them to be.

3. The third thing that iniquity does is it warps the original intent of God and what is written in the books of Heaven about us

Psalm 139:16, states that all of us have destinies written in books in Heaven.

Psalm 139:16 *“Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.”*

The length of our days and what we are to accomplish in them were written in books or scrolls in Heaven. Our purpose is to discover what is in our Heavenly book and flesh it out in the earth, Because our destinies are written in books or scrolls in Heaven, on the day that we were born, a scroll from Heaven landed in a fleshly body. We are to spend the rest of our days discovering what is written in the scroll and fleshing it.

The problem is what originated from Heaven in the scroll landed in a body connected to a bloodline. The devil uses the iniquity of the bloodline to seek to warp and detour us from what has been written in the books of Heaven about us. He uses iniquity to take us off course from our God-intended purpose.

To make the point concerning this, I wonder how many homeless people living under bridges were destined to bring breakthrough to the human race. Perhaps one who was intended to cure cancer, instead found themselves ravished through alcoholism, mental illness, drug addictions or other personal trauma. The devil used the iniquity of their bloodline to stop the destiny intended for them in their scrolls. Not only did they suffer, but mankind was denied the breakthroughs and the purposes of God were frustrated. This is one of the results of iniquity at work.

4. The fourth thing iniquity does is grant the devil the legal right to build cases that result in curses operating against us

Curses are the result of legal cases against us in the spirit realm.

Only at the millennial reign of Jesus will there be a wholesale removal of curses. Up until this time, we must take the legal, finished work of Jesus on the cross and execute that verdict into place personally. When we do this by faith, through our repentance, decrees and spiritual activities, we become free from curses and their effects. We possess the abundant life that Jesus said we were to live. Success and prosperity in every dimension of our lives begins to manifest.

To deal with curses we must learn to recognise their existence. Let's take a look at **Deuteronomy 28**, and see some of the characteristics of curses at work.

THERE ARE TWELVE TRAITS THAT HELP US DETERMINE A CURSE OPERATING AGAINST US.

1. The first thing a curse does is it creates a negative mindset and mentality.

Instead of expecting good to come and having a positive outlook on life, we anticipate evil.

Deuteronomy 28:66, shows a pessimistic view of our future as a result of a curse.

Deuteronomy 28:66 *“Your life shall hang in doubt before you; you shall fear day and night, and have no assurance of life.”*

A curse causes us to live life without vision for the future. We can actually expect evil to come, rather than good. This is because a curse has fashioned the way we see life. This mindset can beset a whole family line. There is a negativity that saps any real faith for the future. As a result of this nothing exceptional is attempted. The pessimistic view of life sentences us to live well below what God intended. To see this reversed, we must deal with the curse that is allowing this mindset to operate in the family. Once the curse is broken and dissolved, vision will ignite, faith will arise and devilish limitations will come off.

2. A second trait connected to a curse is you can't seem to escape it.

No matter where you are you can't get away from it. Bad things seem to chase you down.

Deuteronomy 28:19, says whether you are going out or coming in there is a curse there.

Deuteronomy 28:19 *“Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.”*

It seems nothing works for you. No matter how promising things seem to be, they always fall apart. There seems to be something that sabotages every hopeful thing concerning your future.

There is an invisible conspiracy against you that will not allow you to succeed. This is a sign of a curse. Once it is removed, the same efforts will bring success that have failed in the past.

It isn't an issue of effort. It is a curse in the unseen realm, that when removed, can no longer stop your destiny from happening.

3. A third sign of a curse is no vision for life.

Deuteronomy 28:29, shows that a curse causes there to be no vision or purpose for life. You literally live life as one who is blind and gropes in the darkness.

Deuteronomy 28:29 *“And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you.”*

People who are beset by curses have a problem living life with vision. They have no sense of destiny. They live with aimlessness. That is, they have no real target they are shooting for.

Throughout my years in ministry, I have had people come to me who wanted me to tell them what their destiny and purpose was. They had no real sense of purpose for their life. -- this is a sign of a curse being over lives.

The curse that was on their lives actually created a blindness that would not allow them to discern destiny. The word *blind* from the root in the Hebrew means to have a film over the eyes. This is what a curse is. It is like a film over the eyes, stopping vision from developing.

The answer is to dissolve the curse. Once this is done a progressive revelation of destiny and purpose will manifest. They will begin to see with new eyes the reason they exist. Destiny and vision will explode from their spirit.

4. The fourth trait of a curse is a breakdown of marriages and homes.

Deuteronomy 28:30 shows that a curse causes broken hearts and destruction of marriages.

Deuteronomy 28:30 *“You shall betroth a wife, but another man shall lie with her; you shall build a house, but you shall not dwell in it ...”*

Divorce and drama in homes are curses that move from generation to generation. They leave in their wake shattered lives and broken people. When there is divorce and unfaithfulness in marriage, it can have generational impact.

We must undo the curse in the Courts of Heaven that would allow the enemy the right to keep propagating divorce in family lines. This devastating issue that plagues so many homes can be stopped when we recognize it to be a curse. We can see it removed and the heart of God for homes and marriages to be established.

5. A fifth trait of a curse is children being taken captive.

Deuteronomy 28:41 shows that children can be lost to someone or something else.

Deuteronomy 28:41 *“You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity.”*

There is nothing as heartbreaking as watching children become captive of something else. Whether it is drugs, alcohol, gangs, sexual immorality, peer pressure, depression or other influences.

This verse says they cease to be yours. In other words, the children you raised are not the ones they have become. This is because there is a curse working against them.

One of the chief things the devil wants to do is steal our children. He uses the legal right to land curses to accomplish this. If we want to bring our children out of captivity, we must remove the legal cause and right of the curse to operate.

This is absolutely essential to getting children back to their destiny and what God has intended for them. Once this is done, they can move into all that God desires.

6. A sixth sign of a curse operating is no prosperity.

Deuteronomy 28:38, shows a lack of harvest from efforts to produce.

Deuteronomy 28:38 *"You shall carry much seed out to the field but gather little in, for the locust shall consume it."*

A curse can result in no harvest from the seed you have sown. The curse can be much sowing and only a little harvest. In other words, the harvest is not commensurate to the seed that has been sown. The reason is because a devouring force eats it up. I think it's interesting that we are not talking about a supernatural harvest, but just something that should naturally occur. The sign of the curse is you don't even get what naturally should occur.

When I speak of sowing and a harvest, I am primarily speaking of what is done to make a living. Whether you own a business or work for someone else, the curse will not allow you to prosper on the level of what should naturally happen. You work hard, but the results are not equal to your labours. The answer is not more hours or even working harder. The answer is to remove the curse.

When Adam fell in the Garden, the curse that came on him was one of diminished results from their labours.

Genesis 3:17-19, tell us that Adam would work hard, but get smaller results from his labours.

Genesis 3:17-19 *"Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it' "Cursed is the ground for your sake; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; For dust you are, And to dust you shall return."*

Adam would labor and sweat, but see thorns and thistles come, instead of great fruitfulness.

This speaks of curses operating and causing a lack of prosperity, rather than fruitfulness from the labor of the hands.

In Jesus Christ this curse is removed. Yet, if we see it still operating in lives, we must move into the Courts of Heaven and take away its legal right. When we do, the curse of lack and diminished returns is removed. The blessing of prosperity and increase is now free to come. Years of frustration and hard labor can be replaced with fruitfulness and prosperity.

7. A seventh sign of a curse operating is sicknesses that cannot be healed.

Deuteronomy 28:27, 35,60-61, shows that sickness that cannot be healed are the result of a curse.

Deuteronomy 28 :27 *“The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumours, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed.”*

The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head. **(Deuteronomy 28:35)**

Deuteronomy 28:60-61 *“Moreover, He will bring back on you all the diseases of Egypt, of which you were afraid, and they shall cling to you. Also every sickness and every plague, which is not written in this Book of the Law, will the LORD bring upon you until you are destroyed.”*

Notice the phrase in the first two verses. It says from "which you cannot be healed." Sicknesses that doctors can't heal and which don't respond to prayer for healing are a sign of a curse.

There is something legal that will not allow these diseases to be healed. The purpose of the malady with a curse at its root is to destroy you. The curse that is legally allowing the disease must be removed before the sickness will leave. There can even be an anointing that is present. It will not have the desired effect until the curse is lifted.

When we read these verses we see that "The Lord" is said to be afflicting with these curses. Of course, I do not believe that "The Lord" is personally doing this. **James 1:17**, is very clear about The Lord's nature.

James 1:17 *“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.”*

There is no darkness or even shadows in Who The Lord is. He is kind, good, compassionate and loving in all His ways. He desires only good for us. So why is the Scripture saying The Lord is bringing these curses?

We must realise as Judge, The Lord will allow the devil legally to bring destruction when he has a case against us. This is not because He desires it, but because legally He can't stop it until we deal with what is allowing it.

Hebrews 12:23, shows The Lord is Judge.

Hebrews 12:23 “... to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, ...”

As Judge, our God and Father, must honor the legality of the spirit realm. When Satan, as the adversary, (**1 Peter 5:8**) discovers a legal right to devour from, God cannot stop him. Remember the word *adversary* in **1 Peter 5:8** is the Greek word *antidikos*. It means "one who brings a lawsuit." If we do not remove the legal right of Satan, he can land curses against us to destroy with. He has a case against us that he is bringing a lawsuit from in the spirit realm.

God, as Judge, cannot stop this until we give Him the legal right to. He desires desperately to stop the ploys of Satan, but can't without the "case" against us being dealt with in the Courts of Heaven. This is the reason a curse is moving against us.

A curse is always a result of a case against us in the spirit realm. The case allows the curse to light upon us. (**Proverbs 26:2**) It has a legal right to.

As a result of this, when the Scripture says "The Lord" is doing something evil or bad, it is looking from a large overview. It is Satan that is stealing, killing and destroying (**John 10:10**). It is God as Judge, who is legally allowing it, until we take the work of Jesus on the cross and stop it.

In other words, Satan is destroying and God is HAVING TO ALLOW IT. The Lord will only allow it until we take what Jesus did on the cross, step into the Courts of Heaven, and remove the legal right of the devil. The moment this is done, The Lord moves in our behalf and Satan's rights are revoked and curses are dissolved. When we operate from a legal perspective in the Courts of Heaven, we grant God the legal right He passionately desires to move for us.

8. An eighth sign of a curse is no anointing or diminished effects of the anointing.

Deuteronomy 28:40, says we will not get the benefit of the anointing.

Deuteronomy 28:40 “You shall have olive trees throughout all your territory, but you shall not anoint yourself with the oil; for your olives shall drop off.”

Even though the source of the anointing is available, there will not be oil to anoint with. I have seen when there is a curse operating, you can pray with the anointing, sense the anointing and encounter the anointing, yet nothing will change.

The reason is the curse legally has a right to stop the anointing from breaking the yoke. If we want the anointing to have its power manifested, we must deal legally with the curse. Once we take away the legal right of the curse, the anointing will bring the desired results. Yokes will be broken, sickness will be healed, deliverances will come and breakthroughs will occur.

9. A ninth sign of a curse is mental and emotional issues.

Deuteronomy 28:34, shows people with mental/emotional issue because of curses.

Deuteronomy 28:34 *“So you shall be driven mad because of the sight which your eyes see.”*

So often mental/emotional struggles can be traced to curses operating in a family line. The devil has discovered a legal place in the history of a family to cause a curse of mental illness to operate. When this history is discovered and dealt with through the Blood of Jesus, the battles of mental/emotional illnesses can be won. Jesus is the One Who sets people free and delivers from torment.

10. A tenth trait of a curse is being stolen from.

Deuteronomy 28:31, says that the enemy will steal what is rightfully yours.

Deuteronomy 28:31 *“Your ox shall be slaughtered before your eyes, but you shall not eat of it; your donkey shall be violently taken away from before you, and shall not be restored to you; your sheep shall be given to your enemies, and you shall have no one to rescue them.”*

There is nothing more frustrating and even angering than being stolen from. Whether it is something you possessed or something that was supposed to be yours and someone else took it away, being stolen from is greatly upsetting.

This is a result of a curse that is allowing the devil a legal right to deny you what is rightfully yours. Notice also that because of this curse there is "no one to rescue them." In other words, not only do you lose it, but there is no hope of getting it back.

I know many people who have lost things, their finances, marriages, health, children, job, reputations and many other things have been ripped away from them. They keep thinking that if they just pray long enough and wait long enough that restoration will occur.

The problem is if their loss is a result of the legal right of a curse, nothing will be restored until the legal right of the curse to operate is revoked. There is a need for discernment as to what the enemy is legally using to steal their lives away. Once this is recognised, they are now ready to go "to Court" and get things in place for restoration to come. Any delay of restoration so often is not a result of the "timing of the Lord," but of still having legal issue against us in the "Courts of Heaven." The moment we get the legal issues resolved, things begin to move for our restoration to come.

We must be very cautious about how and to whom we are connected. Depending on the life of the ones who lead apostolic connections, futures can be determined. These connections in the spirit are legal in nature and allow either blessings or curses to operate. In my case, there were still things in my bloodline or Henderson house that needed to be legally dealt with.

If we are to stop the thievery of the devil, we must remove any and all legal right he is using to land curses. Once this is done, not only does the stealing stop, but restoration can come to our dreams and God's purposes.

11. An eleventh trait of a curse is you miss promotions!

Deuteronomy 28:43, says others will be promoted ahead of you.

Deuteronomy 28:43 *“The alien who is among you shall rise higher and higher above you, and you shall come down lower and lower.”*

Whether it is in business, government, church or other realms, God needs His people to succeed. He wants and needs His people in places of influence. Yet, so often, others get the promotions, instead of God's own. The reason for this is curses. The enemy uses the legal right of curses to keep God's people out of places of importance and influence. We must deal with the legal issues before the Courts of Heaven that are being used to deny and delay these places of influence.

Daniel was a man who was granted a great place of influence in Babylon. **Daniel 6:3-5**, shows how those who were against Daniel sought a charge or case against him to stop him from being promoted.

Daniel 6:3-5 *“Then this Daniel distinguished himself above the governors and satraps, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king gave thought to setting him over the whole realm. So the governors and satraps sought to find some charge against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find no charge or fault, because he was faithful; nor was there any error or fault found in him. Then these men said, “We shall not find any charge against this Daniel unless we find it against him concerning the law of his God.”*

There were those who were looking for a reason to bring a charge against Daniel to stop his promotion. They could find none. Wow! I pray, "Lord, let that be me." They could not find anything to resist him with so they convinced King Darius to set in place an edict to forbid anyone from seeking any God. Of course, Daniel did not let this stop him. The result was he was thrown into the lion's den, and God delivered him.

My main point is that the devil and his forces will use cases and charges against us to seek to deny us promotions we should have. As these cases are answered in the Courts on-leaven, promotions will come to those God has greatly loved.

12. The last trait I will mention of a curse, is it causes prayers to not be answered.

Deuteronomy 28:23, says the heavens will be as brass and the earth as iron.

Deuteronomy 28:23 *“And your heavens which are over your head shall be bronze, and the earth which is under you shall be iron.”*

I realise this is also talking about a literal ram not falling on the earth. It also can be applied to the spirit realm. When there is a curse operating against us, prayers that should be answered seem to go unnoticed.

Again we see this in **2 Samuel 21:14**, where God is said to have heeded the prayers for the land.

2 Samuel 21:14 *“They buried the bones of Saul and Jonathan his son in the country of Benjamin in Zelah, in the tomb of Kish his father. So they performed all that the king commanded. And after that God heeded the prayer for the land.”*

This is the account where David "fixes" the broken covenant with the Gibeonites that Saul had violated. This was what was causing the land to be in a famine and for there to be no rain.

The other part of the story is David commanded the bones of Saul and Jonathan to be put into their proper burial place. This was an act of honour toward those who had been the anointed of the Lord and David's own covenant. Through repairing the covenant with the Gibeonites and walking in a spirit of honour toward his predecessors and those he was in covenant with (Jonathan), it moved things in the spirit realm.

The result was God heeded the prayer for the land and the famine was broken. The issue of honouring covenant is a huge thing to having issues legally in place. The result will be famines removed and prayers answered.

Anytime we are praying prayers that are in agreement with God and His word, yet they go unanswered for an extended time, something legal is resisting us. A curse has found a legal right to land against us. Once the rights of the curse are lifted and revoked, prayers will be answered and the heavens will be opened.

The earth will soften as the influence of Heaven begins to touch it. When the heavens open and are no longer brass, the earth will be softened with the rain of His grace. Our prayers begin to touch Heaven, which in turn touches earth. Curses legal right to land must be revoked. When an abundance of prayers begin to be answered, the favour of God comes to the earth.

My prayer is that we may discern the operation of any and all curses. May we not just accept things as naturally normal when they are being caused and allowed by curses legally operating against us. Once we recognise the curses operation, we will move to remove them.

RENUNCIATION OF CURSES: DEUTERONOMY 28:15–68

With this understanding we can now carefully examine the passage in **Deuteronomy 28:15–68**. The Hebrew word translated as curse in the New King James Version in **Deuteronomy 28:15** is *qualet*.

*But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the Voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these **curses** will come upon you and overtake you.*

Rather than translating *qualet* as curse, a more accurate translation for *qualet* is misfortune, disaster, or harm. In other words, the evil that would come down the family line could result in generational misfortune, disaster, or harm.

Deuteronomy 28:20 uses another Hebrew word, *arur*.

*The LORD will send on you **cursing**, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.*

In this passage the Lord is saying that because of your sin, He will “ban” you from enjoying the benefits of His blessings.

An accurate reading of the Deuteronomy passage is that evil in a generational line will be passed down as an **iniquity** rather than as a curse. The Old Testament word for **iniquity** is the Hebrew word *avah* meaning to bend or twist. The sin in a family line starts a twisting in that line, and that twisting is carried down through the line until it is broken by the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ.

What happens when this generational iniquity is broken? The good news is that breaking this generational evil through the power of the Blood of Jesus Christ releases the generational blessings given to the family line. The word “**bless**” is a translation of the Hebrew word *bārak* which means “to endue with power for success, prosperity, fecundity, longevity.”

The generational iniquity covers up the blessings, which are available for thousands of generations.

Now is the time to renounce all the generational evil and to ask the Lord to release the generational blessings given to your line.

The Prayer: Renunciation of Curses Deuteronomy 28:15–68

In the Name of Yeshua /Jesus,

I break off all evil that has come against me from generational iniquity committed in the city and from all curses in the country.

I break all generational iniquity that has come against my provision for a healthy life.

I break off all generational iniquity that has come against my creativity, my ability to produce and reproduce, my need for food and shelter, the work of my hands, and the capital I have invested.

I break off all generational iniquity that has come against me and against my family in the areas of travel and transportation.

I repent for any evil we have done in our family line in forsaking the Lord Jesus Christ.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in **confusion**;
I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in **rebuke**; and
I renounce all generational iniquity that has brought **destruction** and sudden ruin.

Father, will You remove all confusion, rebuke, destruction, and ruin that has touched my family line and the things we have put our hands to do.

I repent of all generational sin and iniquity that has resulted in my family line being plagued with diseases and that has brought destruction to my family line to prevent us from taking the land the Lord wants us to have.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has brought wasting disease, fever and inflammation, scorching heat and drought, and blight and mildew to plague us until we perish.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in the sky above us being bronze and the ground beneath us being iron, so that God does not hear our prayers and our work becomes fruitless toil.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in the rain upon our country turning into dust and powder.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in the rain coming down from the skies until we are destroyed.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in defeat before our enemies. I renounce all generational iniquity that has allowed our enemies to come against us from one direction and caused us to flee in seven directions.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has caused my family line to become a thing of horror to all the kingdoms of the earth.

I renounce all generational iniquity that would cause our carcasses to become food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth with no one to frighten them away.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in boils like those of Egypt and in tumors, diseases, festering sores, and the itch, from which we cannot be cured.

I renounce the all generational iniquity that has resulted in the affliction of madness, blindness, and confusion of mind.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has allowed, at midday, the groping about like a blind man in the dark. I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in being unsuccessful in everything we do, day after day being oppressed and robbed, with no one to rescue us.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in times when the woman we were pledged to be married to was taken and ravished by another.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in building a house without being able to live in it. I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in planting a vineyard but not enjoying its fruit.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in our oxen being slaughtered before our eyes and not being able to eat any of it.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in our donkeys being forcibly taken from us without being returned. I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in our sheep being given to our enemies with no one to rescue them.

I renounce all generational iniquity that has resulted in our sons and daughters being given to another nation and the wearing out of our eyes watching for them day after day, powerless to lift a hand.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in people whom we do not know eating what our land produces.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in our ancestors having nothing but cruel oppression all of their days.

I renounce all generational iniquity that caused many seeds to produce little harvest because locusts devoured the crop.

I renounce all generational iniquity that caused my ancestors to plant vineyards and cultivate them but not to drink the wine or gather the grapes because worms ate them. I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in my ancestors not benefiting from their labor.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in the alien who lived among us rising above us higher and higher, and resulted in our sinking lower and lower.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in others lending to me, and my being unable to lend to them; I renounce all generational iniquity that made others the head, and me the tail.

I renounce all generational iniquity in my family line that resulted in others coming upon me to pursue me and overtake me until I was destroyed, because I did not obey the Lord my God and observe the commands and decrees he gave me.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came upon me because my ancestors did not serve the Lord their God joyfully and gladly in the time of prosperity, and as a consequence, they had to serve the enemies the Lord sent against them in hunger and thirst, in nakedness and dire poverty,

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in an iron yoke being put on my ancestors' necks until they were destroyed.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came against my ancestors and me causing fearful plagues, harsh and prolonged disasters, and severe and lingering illnesses.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came against my ancestors and me causing all the clinging diseases of Egypt.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came against my ancestors and me to destroy us, and all generational iniquity that brought any kind of sickness and disaster that was not recorded by Moses in the Book of the Law.

I renounce all generational iniquity that caused our family not to be as numerous as the stars in the sky but caused us to be few in number, because we did not obey the Lord our God.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came upon my ancestors and has come upon me to ruin and destroy us and to uproot us from the land that we were to possess.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came upon my ancestors and me so that we would be scattered among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came upon my ancestors and me so that we would find no resting place for the soles of our feet.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came upon my ancestors and me so that we would have an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart.

I renounce all generational iniquity that came upon my ancestors and me so that we would live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of our lives.

I renounce all generational iniquity that resulted in saying in the morning, "If only it were evening!" and in the evening, "If only it were morning!"—because of the terror that would fill our hearts and the sights that our eyes would see.

AMEN

BUILDING CASES TO LAND CURSES

Once I saw this, I understood I needed to do four things to undo the words of those who carry spiritual authority.

(1) First, I had to repent for all the places I have spoken critically about others with no redemptive purpose.

I cannot ask for negative words about me to be undone when I am guilty of speaking negative words about others.

(2) The second thing I did in the Courts of Heaven was I forgave those who spoke these words.

The Scripture is clear that I cannot be forgiven and justified if I don't forgive others. **(Luke 11:4)** I had to be willing and empowered to forgive these people. As I forgave them, I asked the Lord to bless them, their family, their children, their future, their ministries and their businesses. When you really forgive, you now wish no harm or hurt to come to them—only blessings.

(3) The third thing was I spoke off of myself the words they had spoken.

I asked in the Courts of Heaven that every word that the accuser was using to bring a case against me would be annulled. I asked that these words would be stricken from the records of the Court because they are not in agreement with God's heart toward me.

At this point, anything I am guilty of that they have accused me of, I need to repent. I cannot ask the Court to justify me, if I am guilty of the accusation and have not repented.

This may mean that you have to bring restitution or whatever is necessary in agreement with God's Word. There have been times when I have been dealing with significant accusations against me that I have had to make my case.

For instance, I have been before the Courts of Heaven and known that someone was accusing me of stealing something from them. Not material things, but issues of the spirit. I had to make my case before the Courts and call into remembrance certain issues. As I have done this, the Court has justified me and rendered me blameless. It required a little more in-depth wrestling in the Court, but the accusations against me that would have resulted in a curse were removed.

(4) The fourth and final thing is to begin to declare your destiny as it is written in the books of Heaven.

As you do this, you are replacing the verdict of their words with the destiny of God for your life. Word curses are real. This is especially true for those that are spoken by ones who carry spiritual authority.

Again, our New Testament mandate is **Romans 12:14**. We are called to bless and not curse.

Romans 12: 14 *“Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.”*

We are set to give God the legal right to bless. We are here to lift and dissolve curses, not enact them. When we understand this, we are ready to move into the Courts of Heaven and unlock destinies.

STRATEGIES AND PROTOCOLS FOR UNLOCKING DESTINIES FROM THE COURTS OF HEAVEN

As we finish this article on unlocking destiny and dissolving curses, I want to be as practical as possible. The truths I have outlined in this article are secrets for breakthrough. I can say this because I not only see it in the Scriptures, but I have also experienced it in my own life. These principles and truths have changed my life.

This article is about principles that are for both individuals and families, but it is also for cities, states and nations.

I believe God wants to lift curses off of every sphere of society and see His Kingdom revealed in the earth. The whole earth will be filled with the knowledge of His glory (**Habakkuk 2: 14**) and the kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ (**Revelation 11:15**).

I realise that only the Holy Spirit can teach us to pray. We must follow His direction as we seek to engage the spirit realm and move into the Court of Heaven. **Romans 8:26**, tells us that He helps our weaknesses.

Romans 8:26 *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

The Lord realises our limitations, as we seek to step into this world of the Courts. It pleases the Lord greatly that by faith we go here and attempt to function. Our trust and confidence that He will undergird us and secure us, as we endeavour to approach Him stirs His heart toward us.

So, do not allow any sense of insufficiency hinder or stop you. Go ahead and go for it, and learn as the Spirit teaches you.

As we approach the Courts of Heaven to unlock our destiny and dissolve any curse that is set to hinder it, we must use the proper protocol. Remember, we approach God in three realms.

- ◆ We approach Him as Father (**Luke 11 :2**).
- ◆ We approach Him as Friend (**Luke 11:5-8**).
- ◆ We approach Him as Judge (**Luke 18:1-8**).

- (i) When we come before Him as **Father**, there is no real protocol. He is your Abba Father, and He receives you.
- (ii) When we approach Him as Friend, there is no necessary protocol. Real friends do not need protocol to relate.
- (iii) But when you come before Him as Judge, there is protocol in His Judicial system.

Every Court has a realm of behaviour and procedure that must be abided by. We must learn that protocol and walk in it, and allow it to govern us as we function in the Courts of Heaven.

As we approach the Lord as Judge, we should ask for the Courts to open. I use to think this wasn't necessary. I have since learned that it is. There is a Fear of the Lord associated with coming into His Courts. Not a fear of us being judged, but a Fear of the Lord that He is the Great King. We must honour Him as such.

When we come into a natural courtroom there is seriousness about the place. We wear certain clothing, and we act a certain way. This is because we recognise the weightiness of where we are.

How much more the Courts of Heaven? I have found it is helpful to honour the Lord as the Judge of all to ask the Courts to open and us to be granted entrance. It is very much like Esther waiting on the king to extend his sceptre and invite her into his courts. **Esther 5:2**, shows this happening.

Esther 5:2 *“So it was, when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, that she found favor in his sight, and the king held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand. Then Esther went near and touched the top of the scepter.”*

She waited until she was invited into the courts of the king. As we approach the Courts of Heaven in humility and yet boldness, The Judge of All will open His Courts and invite us in.

Once we are in The Courts, we can prophetically present our case. This is based on what is written in the books of Heaven about our destinies.

We, through prophetic praying, prophetic decrees and prophetic petitions, state what is in our books. Perhaps it is something you know by revelation about your destiny. It can be prophetic words that have been spoken over you that you know are in the books. This is putting God in remembrance, according to **Isaiah 43:26**.

Isaiah 43:26 *“Put Me in remembrance; Let us contend together; State your case, that you may be acquitted.”*

This is the way we begin to deal with whatever is God's destiny for our lives. For me, I have several significant prophetic words. I have words that God has spoken to me in dreams. I have words spoken into my own spirit. I also have prophecies given to me.

One of the chief means of presenting our case for our destiny in the Courts is to bring it on the basis of His Purpose and not our need.

This is a critical piece to know in getting answers from the Courts of Heaven.

How we present our cases for destiny is critical. I have learned and am learning to present my case on the basis of His Purpose and not my need.

Exodus 32:0-14, shows Moses presented his case before God on behalf of Israel.

Exodus 32:10-14 *“Now therefore, let Me alone, that My wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them. And I will make of you a great nation. Then Moses pleaded with the LORD his God, and said: “LORD, why does Your wrath burn hot against Your people whom You have brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians speak, and say, ‘He brought them out to harm them, to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth?’ Turn from Your fierce wrath, and relent from this harm to Your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, to whom You swore by Your own self, and said to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven; and all this land that I have spoken of I give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever. So the LORD relented from the harm which He said He would do to His people.”*

Moses, in no place in this Scripture, presents Israel's need to God. He makes his appeal in the Courts of Heaven based on three things.

1. He appeals to God **on the basis of His purpose in Israel**. Moses reminds God that they are His people. This implies your purposes in the earth are locked up in them. If you destroy them, you destroy your purposes with them.
2. The second thing he appeals to God **for is His reputation**. He lets God know that people will say that He only brought them out to destroy them and do them harm, His reputation and Name would be ruined in the earth.
3. Third, he reminds God **of the Covenant and promises He made to Abraham, Isaac and Israel**. He pulled the covenant card out. He appealed to God on the basis of His character and integrity.

These are the three things Moses used to present his case before God. He did not mention need or even ask for mercy. He simply pointed out to God that if he destroyed this nation in His anger, He would be the One Who would suffer. On the basis of this courtroom activity by Moses, God relented and spared Israel.

We must learn how to present our cases on the basis of His Purpose, His Reputation and Name and His Covenant-Keeping Nature. We must stop whining to God about our need and start appealing to God about His interest in the matter. When we do, verdicts can and will be rendered on our behalf.

The reason we want our destiny is not so we can be happy. We want our destiny for His purpose to be done in the earth. This is the basis of presenting our case in the Court of Heaven!

We should come before His Court and remind Him of what is written in our book that is connected to His purpose in the earth. This is the right way of presenting our case before The Lord.

Once the request and prophetic declaration has been made, the accuser will usually rise to bring his case against you.

It will be connected to your sin, transgression and iniquity, or perhaps the accusations others are making against you. If there is no case presented you should ask that the accuser be made to bring anything against you to light. He loves to hide things and use things in secret. You must force him to bring his accusations into Court.

Even in the American court, there is something called "discovery." One side must show the other side the evidence they have. They are made to manifest whatever they would use against someone. In the Courts of Heaven we should demand "discovery." We want to see whatever the accuser is using to resist the destiny and even cause curses to land.

Those who carry spiritual authority in God need to especially be careful. Our careless words and attitudes can give legal reason for curses to land. We must listen and discern, when in the Courts of Heaven, for what the case is against us. It can give the enemy legal rights to bring curses.

Once the legal accusations are removed, then there must be a speaking off of any curse that is there because of them. **Isaiah 54:17**, tells us to condemn tongues against us.

Isaiah 54:17 *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is from Me," Says the LORD.*

This point was mentioned earlier in the book, but the tongue is what is speaking against us in The Courts. From our position of righteousness, granted by the Blood of Jesus, we speak off and condemn every curse that is trying to cling to us. *Condemn* is the Hebrew word *rasha*, and it means to do or declare wrong. It also means to disturb or violate. When we declare the judgments that have allowed curses to be wrong, we violate and interrupt them from operating.

Our righteous position in the Courts of Heaven and our heritage or birthright as His servants gives us the necessary place to dissolve the judgments that are allowing curses. We should continue to speak and remove these spiritual forces until they are completely annulled. **Mark 11:23**, tells us to speak to the mountain until it is moved.

Mark 11:23 *"For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says."*

We should believe the spiritual position we have been granted. From this position, we aggressively refuse to allow any negative, spiritual force to fashion our destiny. We remove every legal right of it to operate from our bloodline and any other source.

Then we command it to go until every aspect of the curse is no longer operating. This is our heritage as the servants of the Lord, to live in absolute victory and destiny.

The last thing I will mention to practically come into destiny from the Courts of Heaven is to walk out the process, knowing things have been arranged in the spirit. **Luke 22:31-32**, shows that Jesus dealt with Peter and his destiny in the Courts of Heaven. Yet, Peter was going to go through a natural process to enter into all that had already been arranged for him in the spirit.

Luke 22:31-32 *“And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.”*

Peter was going to deny Jesus, be in hiding with the rest of the disciples, return to fishing, struggle with loving Jesus and basically question everything about himself. Yet, because Jesus had gotten things arranged in the Courts of Heaven, Peter's destiny was sure.

Just because things have been won in the Courts doesn't mean there will not be a struggle to move into it. It just means the victory and walking out the destiny is sure. We also see this in **Romans 8:26-28**. We like to quote **verse 28** about everything working together for good. This only happens if we have arranged things legally in the spirit realm through prayer.

Romans 8:26-28 *“Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”*

Prayer by the Spirit and through the Spirit is what arranges everything to work together for good. Everything working for good for us is not a result of the sovereignty of God. It is the result of us going into The Courts of Heaven and seeing things arranged for our destiny and His purpose. When we do this, what has occurred in the Spirit will manifest in the natural. This is what happened to Peter and will happen also for us.

Sometimes it occurs quickly. At other times, it may take a period for it to flesh out. When we deal with spiritual realities and legalities in the Courts of Heaven, our destinies will be unlocked.

We are then ready to live out the fullness intended for us in the books of Heaven. His purposes are accomplished in our lives to His glory.

Let's go to Court!