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I first heard the term, "Courts of Heaven" when I worked with Attorney Branch in 2022. After he explained it to me, I petitioned The Righteous Judge of All and He answered my plea before His Holy Court. My ability to pray before Him to adjudicate all demonic offenses provides immediate results that otherwise would not be made available to me.

Dr. Kwamme Anderson
Washington, DC

I was diagnosed with a serious heart issue and I was told by my doctor in 2023 that I needed to have open heart surgery. My Spiritual Attorney David Branch prepared a petition which we prayed to the Righteous Judge and when I went for a second opinion in Nashville, Tennessee, I was told that I only needed to have a simple procedure. I am believing God that when it is time for that procedure, I will not need any procedure. My husband is from Nigeria but he has been in Italy for more than twenty years trying to get immigration papers to come to the U.S. We prepared a petition and prayed through the Court of Judgment and my husband's immigration papers were moved to the top for processing and approved and he will soon join our family in the U.S.

Brinder Benson
Memphis, TN

In 2022, I was experiencing a lot of problems in my family and marriage. I called servant of God David Branch and we filed a petition with the Righteous Judge and God heard our prayers and healed my family and marriage and transformed my marriage for the glory of God.

Peninah Osteen
Nakuru, Kenya

I received a preliminary diagnosis from my ear, nose and throat doctor that I had a nodule on the left side of my thyroid which he had found a year earlier. The nodule was now three times the size it was the year before—7.4 cm --and my doctor said that based on the size, hardness and his historical knowledge he was fairly certain the mass was cancerous. David prepared a petition for the Court of Judgment and my wife and I went into the Court of Judgment in prayer and requested a righteous judgment by repenting and reminding God of the words He spoke over me and His promises and that He is a healer. I ended my prayer with confidence knowing that angels would execute the Order of the Righteous Judge in the Courts of Heaven. I later returned to my doctor after a biopsy and was told the mass was not cancerous.

**Caesar
Bowie, Maryland**

In May 2022, my 23 year old daughter suffered multiple gunshot injuries, including a shot to the head that caused a Traumatic Brain Injury. My child's medical team concluded that if she survived the surgery and lived, she would be totally incapacitated and paralyzed for the rest of her life. I was desperate, so with a repentant and sincere clean heart, I went into the Courts of Heaven in prayer and appealed on behalf of my child directly to the Supreme Chief Justice, Father God, My Father, to act swiftly. I called in to Attorney Branch's Bible Study and the Bible Study prayer warriors joined me in prayer in the Court of Judgment. We presented our case and immediately the Righteous Judge rendered a judgment against satan and his demonic forces. David prayed for a temporary restraining order against the attack on my daughter's life. My child not only lived; but she walked out of the hospital. She isn't paralyzed and she was able to complete her graduate degree within a year! The Chief Justice, Father God totally healed and delivered my child from the death hold and sentence of satan.

**Dr. DeLoris Hunter
Savannah, Georgia**

ADJUDICATE

Justice Now in the Courts of Heaven

“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.” Isaiah 54:17 NKJV.

Attorney David A. Branch

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version of the Bible.

Adjudicate

Justice Now in the Courts of Heaven

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I would first like to honor God for the spirit of wisdom and for revealing Himself to me as the Supreme Righteous Judge.

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And my two beautiful daughters, Taylor and Morgan, who bring me joy every day of my life. I am who I am because of them. Also, I would like to thank my incredibly strong 600-member Branch family, starting with my parents, the late Wille Branch, Sr., who was the stature and model of manhood in my family, and my amazing mother Marvell Branch, who traveled in prayer until Holy Spirit manifested in me, and introduced me to Holy Spirit through Benny Hinn's *Good Morning Holy Spirit*.

To my Great, Great Grandmother Victoria Wakefield who came to the United States in chains as a teenager and was raped by her owner and gave birth to my Great Grandmother Annie, and had the foresight to save her Civil War Pension Benefits received because of her husband's service to the Union Army and send her Great Granddaughter who was my Aunt Annie Gentry to college in 1915 in Little Rock, Arkansas, so she could return to our farming community in the Mississippi Delta and educate an entire generation.

To my Grandmother Louisa McGee Branch and Grandfather Papa John Branch, who donated land and material to build a church that also served

as the school and became the foundation for me and my 82 first cousins and eight siblings, and Grandma Louisa who labored in prayer for her ten children and 91 grandchildren and kept us before the Father with her simple prayer, “Lord, Bless my children and grandchildren.”

To my natural sisters, Marvia and Vye, who loved and nurtured me as a child, just as they did their own children, and my spiritual sisters, Ellie Moricia and Dr. DeLoris Hunter, who have guided me as an adult in every matter in life, large and small, and are my dearest friends and closest confidants. I am a firm believer that everyone needs a big sister, who gently guides and corrects and does so with grace and a light touch that is conducive to teaching.

I would like to thank my Bible Study prayer group who helped perfect this book by faithfully joining me in studying the Bible each week.

A special thank you to the eternal spirits of my Minister of Music, Anthony “Tony” Jefferson, and my beloved friend, Arvel Givens, and most importantly, a very special thank you to the eternal spirit of Bishop Clarence Calvin Givens, the greatest Bible teacher of my generation. I am happy to carry the torch that you once carried for 28 years at Rhema Christian Center Church in Washington, D.C. Finally, I would like to thank my Pastor, Apostle Dr. Sharon R. Nesbitt and Dr. Jason Renville, my anointed teachers, and heaven’s apostolic and prophetic voices to nations, and my Dominion World church family.

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FOREWORD

I have the distinct privilege of introducing you to a literary journey that I believe will captivate, inspire, and leave an indelible mark on your heart and mind. Welcome to the ethereal realms of *Adjudicate: Justice Now In The Courts of Heaven*. In these pages, you will embark on a captivating journey that delves into the supernatural world beyond your imagination. Prepare to be transformed, for this is a realm where justice, wisdom, and divine intervention intertwine. This book will challenge you to think in a higher dimension.

Within these celestial courts, mortal actions are weighed against the laws of the spirit, secrets are unveiled, and destinies are shaped. It is a place where the righteous find solace, where the cries of the oppressed are heard, and where the justice of God is upheld.

I have witnessed Attorney David Branch's dedication to God, his tireless pursuit of excellence, and his unwavering commitment to the subject matter of this book. Through these pages, you will encounter the revelation of spiritual law and jurisdiction. You will gain in-depth knowledge of how the heavens operate through the ideas of seeking justice, spiritual authority through prayer and engaging with the heavenly realm.

As you journey through *Adjudicate: Justice Now In The Courts of Heaven*, you will witness the power of redemption, the complexities of divine justice, and the unwavering resilience of the human spirit. Attorney Branch has expertly crafted a narrative that challenges conventional wisdom, invites contemplation, and beckons you to explore new perspectives in Christ. I encourage you to approach this book with an open heart. My prayer is that your life will be enlightened, inspired, and transformed.

Dr. Sharon Nesbitt, Dominion World Church-Senior Leader

PREFACE

I learned the power of an order from a judge very early in my legal career. In my first legal case in 1994, I worked with another attorney on a case in Prince George's County, Maryland. We represented a candidate for the highest office in Prince George's County, County Executive.

The candidate was Wayne Curry, an African American gentleman, and in its 298 years in existence, the County had never had an African American County Executive. Wayne had great charisma and was a well-known business attorney, but he was unknown in the larger population.

At the time, the most popular way to get name recognition was through yard signs. In what appeared to be a move to protect the jobs of incumbents, the County Council passed a law that said that it was illegal to post yard signs more than ten days before an election. As a result, a newcomer had very little time to get his name out in the public. The other attorney asked me to research whether the law was constitutional, and after my research, I concluded that it was unconstitutional, and we filed a lawsuit in federal court. I appeared before the judge and argued the case.

The judge agreed with us and issued a declaratory judgment that the law was unconstitutional, and it was stricken. Wayne was able to get his yard signs posted, the name recognition, and deliver his message. He became the first African American County Executive for Prince George's County, Maryland. *With one order by the judge, the direction of an entire election was changed.*

A few points about our courts and interacting with a judge before we move on. In the United States, the Supreme Court is the most powerful institution in our government, and because the United States is the most

powerful government on the earth, the U.S. Supreme Court is the most powerful institution on the earth. As examples, in 1857, the Supreme Court issued a decision in the case of *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, 60 U.S. 393 (1857), and the Court held that all blacks were not and could never become citizens of the United States and that “blacks had no rights which the white man was bound to respect.” As a result, blacks in the U.S. were subjected to a century of government-tolerated and often sanctioned terrorism. In 2000, during the presidential election, the Florida Supreme Court ordered a recount of over 60,000 ballots, and the Bush campaign, in the case of *Bush v. Gore*, 531 U.S. 98 (2000), asked the Supreme Court to stay the decision of the Florida Supreme Court and stop the recount. The Supreme Court granted the stay and ordered that the recount halt, and George W. Bush became our 43rd U.S. President. These cases demonstrate the power of a judge and that the courtroom is where fates are determined. The most important battle is the one that takes place in the courtroom. After a judge issues a ruling, the rest is academic, and it is just a matter of enforcing the ruling. Our federal judges are so powerful they are known as the last reigning monarchs. You will see in this book that the battles that you face in life will be fought and won in court. Just maybe not the court you are imagining.

A court is not an end in and of itself; it is just a tool or a means to an end. I do not go to court just to get dressed in a suit just to say that I am an attorney or that I work in a courthouse or that I went to court; nor do I work as an attorney for selfish reasons, like making money or to manipulate an outcome in a dispute. I go to court for justice, and my goal is a judgment. We have a statue before the Supreme Court of Lady Justice holding a balancing scale and a blindfold, representing that true justice is blind and it is determined solely by the law and the facts. The court is the great equalizer. When a claim or an issue is presented in court before a judge, and I appear before a judge, I always address the judge, not the opposing party or the opposing attorney. My goal is a judgment because once the judge issues a ruling in my favor, my problem—here for my political client running for office with an unconstitutional and unjust law, now becomes the problem of the judge, which the judge addresses with an order. The judge has the resources of the government at his disposal to execute the order of the court, including sanctions, contempt, law enforcement, and confinement, for a party that does not comply with his order.

Preface

In this book, we will address how, through the process of adjudication, to obtain justice when there are indictments against you and when you have claims against others.

If you want answers to your prayers,
you must go to the Court of Judgment
in the Courts of Heaven and get
a judgment and order from the
Righteous Judge.

The goal of this book is to teach you how to obtain a righteous declaratory judgment from God the Father, our Righteous Judge, for every issue you confront and see it manifest in the earth. In fact, if you are living with an injustice, the court may be the only tool available to you. But heavenly court is also the most effective tool available to you.

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INTRODUCTION

In the United States of America, suspects in a crime are considered innocent until proven guilty. This is because, according to our Constitution, we value the rights of the individual. Remarkably, this means that individuals are protected from the use of force by the government. If you've never spent time in a country where no such rights exist, you may not appreciate this fact.

Because of this, a prominent feature of our criminal justice system is the reading of Miranda Rights. Ernesto Miranda was arrested for various crimes in the state of Arizona and was questioned by the police without being made aware of his individual rights to an attorney or to remain silent. His case went before the Supreme Court, and thus, we have these "Miranda Rights" enshrined in our law.

Why do we require police to read suspects their Miranda Rights? Because we value individual rights so much that we want each and every person to be free of the possibility of being wrongly incarcerated or falsely given some other penalty (fines or even death). Simply put, the police may not question you without first making you aware of your rights. It is likely that any incriminating evidence from your mouth would not be admissible in court if your words were in response to questioning before you were made aware of your right to remain silent.

If suspects aren't made aware of their rights as citizens of the United States, they cannot take advantage of those rights. We want to live in a society where *everyone* is protected under the law by the government *from* the government. Rightly, we become outraged in society when it appears that the government, which has a monopoly on the use of force, has overstepped and violated the rights of an individual. The Civil Rights

Movement was fueled by the sense of justice embedded in the most enlightened citizens, who were able to see that what was happening to minorities was a violation of the Constitution.

Awareness is the issue when it comes to Miranda Rights, and awareness is my aim with this book.

Just as we have rights as American citizens, we have a Constitution and infinitely more important rights as citizens of heaven and God's children. This is profound and has equally profound implications when it comes to how we are to live as heavenly citizens. I am convinced that if the Church was simply "read their rights," all of which are explicit in Scripture, we would rise up powerful in the spiritual realm and take territory every day, driving back the kingdom of darkness and extending the boundaries of the kingdom of God. We would finally see Jesus' prayer answered that His Father's "kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven."

I am a minister of the faith and an attorney, but even I did not understand this amazing reality at first.

The Bible is a book of
judgments.

The Bible is a book of judgments. Though I now notice the enormous depth of legal language the Bible uses to talk about God and spiritual reality, it wasn't until a mentor pointed out to me the relationship between earthly courts and the Courts of Heaven and, in particular, the Court of Judgment, prayer, authority, and rights, that I came to understand the power of knowing the law and the rules of the Court when it came to approaching the Throne (the bench) of God with legal petitions, prayers, and supplications.

My Path to the Courts of Heaven

In 2013, I was living in the Washington, D.C. area with my wife and two daughters and had been content practicing law as an employment law trial attorney for over two decades. We attended church and I led

Bible study. I believed I was being a faithful Christian. This all changed in August 2013. I was returning to Washington, D.C. from my small hometown in Arkansas after my brother Jeremiah suddenly passed away. As I was driving to the Memphis airport, I received a call from my sister, Vye, and she informed me that my cousin and best friend, Yolanda, was diagnosed with a rare form of throat cancer that is normally only seen in older white men who smoke.

Yolanda was 49 years old, which was a few months older than me, and we had been dear friends since childhood. She was married with four young kids. She was our law firm's bookkeeper and prepared the taxes for our firm. My cousin was a beautiful person all around. She had an incredible voice, and she ministered songs at weddings, birthdays, and funerals for nearly anyone who asked in our large extended family in Arkansas. I asked my sister Vye, who is a doctor, what this meant and what the prognosis was. She said the cancer was terminal, and Yolanda had three to six months to live.

I immediately went to work calling my large, extended family to prayer, even asking everyone to take a prayer watch. Yolanda had to check in with me each day and let me know what was going on, and she shared everything she experienced in the last five months of her life. The last time that I saw her, I visited her in the hospital while she was undergoing treatment. She was unable to speak, but she insisted that I sit next to her in bed, and we exchanged messages on an iPad.

I did everything within my power to save my beloved best friend, but on January 13, 2014, one day before her 50th birthday, she passed away. I had fully expected my cousin to be healed, and I was so upset that I could not even speak at her memorial service. Yolanda had been the first person to recognize the anointing in my life, and we made a pact that wherever I went in this world with this assignment on my life, she would go ahead of me with praise and worship. I had no idea the extent to which she would go ahead of me.

I realized at that point that I was missing something in my spiritual walk, and the most painful part was I had no idea how to find out what it was.

I mourned and grieved my cousin for two years, depressed and angry at God. I was so visibly distraught that my wife Gigi, who has never failed to give it to me straight, asked me, "Do you want to go and join Yolanda?"

da?” My question was simple: If God is God, why didn’t He answer my prayer and save my beloved cousin?

At the time, I was fellowshipping at a church in Washington, D.C., where I led a life group and was active in the men’s ministry. When I reached my lowest point, God sent an anointed sister, prophet, and seer into my life. When she scratched the surface, she found a man of God with many unresolved issues. That is when she introduced me to the Courts of Heaven with a three-year study, which has continued as of this writing for six years. For anyone who does not know or doubts that there are courts in heaven where our God holds court as the Righteous Judge, just read Psalm 84 and Psalm 50.

This study on the Courts of Heaven, and in particular what I call the Court of Judgment in the Courts of Heaven, began to light me up. Once I engaged and employed the Spirit of Wisdom, what I found was a close correlation between my work as a trial attorney in the natural courts and what takes place in the Court of Judgment in the Courts of Heaven when we petition God the Father as the Righteous Judge. We will discuss how to file court actions and obtain court remedies in this book, but what was life-transforming is the deep examination and judgment that must take place in me and how I approach God as the Righteous Judge and position myself before the Father makes all the difference in whether my prayer is answered. I had experience in obtaining a Peace Order from a judge in a local court for clients who were being threatened by someone, but I soon learned I could obtain a Peace Order from the Righteous Judge for people who were being tormented by evil spirits and needed to be delivered, and see those spirits severed.

Similarly, I had filed lawsuits for Conversion and Replevin or Detinue in court, a procedure where seized goods may be provisionally restored to their owner pending an action to determine the rights of the parties, but then I began to consider how we can recover what has been taken and is being held illegally, and see when Lazarus died in the book of John Chapter 11, how Jesus could declare that “I am the resurrection and the life” and then call Lazarus’ life/spirit back into his body. Much like my client running for office who received a declaratory judgment, King David requested and received a declaratory judgment from the Lord against the Amalekites who had taken the families and possessions of David and his men, when the Lord declared in response to David’s petition that David

should pursue, overtake, and recover all. I regularly requested temporary restraining orders (TRO) from judges by demonstrating a violation of the law and being likely to succeed on the merits of the complaint, irreparable harm to my client and the public benefiting from the TRO, and now I saw that Hezekiah received a temporary restraining order from the Righteous Judge when he petitioned the Righteous Judge who had authority over the disease that was operating illegally in his body because of his covenant with God, and how he had walked uprightly before God and called God's people to restore the feasts. Similarly, judges routinely grant summary judgment in civil cases when there are no material facts in dispute, and King Jehoshaphat, the king of Judah, appealed for a summary judgment against the armies arrayed against the nation because there were no issues of material fact in dispute based on God's covenant with Abraham, and he was entitled to judgment as a matter of law against his enemies. In short, I knew how to obtain justice for my employment clients but never thought about obtaining justice in my prayer life from the God of Justice. When I began to apply my legal strategies in my prayer life, I soon began to see answers to my prayers. I learned that I must engage and employ the Father as the Righteous Judge and target my prayers.

This book will provide an **INTRODUCTION** to the Court of Judgment in the Courts of Heaven.

The Power of Employing the Righteous Judge

Since learning how to engage and employ God as the Righteous Judge, I have seen countless answered prayers and lives saved. To give a few examples, in 2018, a church member was involved in a serious automobile accident and was placed on life support, the doctors having given up on her. Her family was very close to taking her off life support when they sent an urgent prayer request to our prayer team. We petitioned the Righteous Judge with a written petition and prayer for a temporary restraining order against death, much like the prayer of King Hezekiah in the Bible, and at the very hour of the request, the woman squeezed the hand of a family member, and she went on to recover.

A different church member has a son who had a drug addiction. We prayed into the Court of Judgment and saw the drug addiction broken

immediately. Another had a son in his late 20s who would not get and keep a job. She used the Court of Judgment protocol, which you will learn in this book, and in less than six months, he was employed and had been promoted to a manager position.

Another church member underwent a medical procedure, but something went terribly wrong. At the end of the procedure, she was in a coma, paralyzed, and then later underwent dialysis for kidney failure. We prayed with her through the Court of Judgment, and within a few months, the illness was severed from her, and she was reevaluated and completely removed from dialysis.

Before our prayers are effective
and reach the Court of the
Righteous Judge, there is an
adjudication process that must
take place.

In short, understanding and adjudicating in the heavenly Court system requires inner work in us, but it works. Many times, we make decrees and declarations without addressing the underlying indictment. **Before our prayers are effective and reach the Court of the Righteous Judge, there is an adjudication process that must take place.** Consider that in the United States criminal justice system, you are given an attorney if you do not have one or can't pay for one. This is the public defender. Why? Because it is considered supremely foolish to represent yourself in court. Why? Because if you don't know the law, you will be at the mercy of the prosecution, who does know the law. Someone with a vast knowledge of the law knows all the ins and outs, all the possible loopholes and can take the fullest advantage of the way it's written. Without that knowledge, you are likely to lose.

A friend attended church with an assistant district attorney and asked him one day about a certain defense lawyer he sometimes came up against. His opinion of the man was high. "Why?" asked my friend. The answer? "Because he has an excellent grasp of the law." This particular prosecutor did not mind facing a capable opponent because, in theory, they were both seeking the truth and a just judgment. The prosecutor

would much rather face a competent expert of the law who is clever and skilled at arguing than someone who wastes everyone's time because of his weak grasp of the law and legal proceedings.

I tell this story because it is exactly the same regarding the Court of Judgment. The better understanding we have of our eternal legal rights as children of God and citizens of the Kingdom of God, the better chance we have of a "favorable judgment" when we appeal to the Righteous Judge. By God's grace, the rest of this book will render the reader wise and give "an excellent grasp of the law."

A Word Before We Start

There is a powerful story in the Bible about a man with a tongue-twister of a name, Mephibosheth. The story of Mephibosheth, the grandson of King Saul and son of Jonathan, is found in 2 Samuel 4:4 and 2 Samuel 9. Mephibosheth was crippled by a childhood accident through no fault of his own, and his father and grandfather were killed in a battle with the Philistines after Saul, his grandfather, disobeyed the Lord.

Mephibosheth, left behind by life, finds himself living in Lodebar, which is a place of "no thing" or nothing on the outskirts of the life-giving places in Israel and without a pasture, and he considers himself a dead dog.

But one day, King David, who loved Mephibosheth's father, Jonathan, calls for any who remain from Saul's house that he may show them the Lord's kindness. Someone remembers Mephibosheth, and he is brought to the king, and in **one day**, the man's fortunes turn 180 degrees. All of his father's and forefathers' property is returned to him by David, and he is given servants who will work the land and bring the fruit to him. Furthermore, Mephibosheth will eat at the king's table for the remainder of his life.

Mephibosheth's giant is just one example. What giant are you facing personally or in your family, community, city, state, or nation? Whether it is low self-esteem like Mephibosheth, a mental health crisis or sickness, poverty, rebellious children, divorce, substance abuse, violence, crime, wars or famine, or praying and interceding for people with these issues, the King and Righteous Judge wants to see these spirits brought before

His Court of Judgment and put on trial and judged and severed from you, and see you delivered.

I want to encourage you: If you do not know God, or you feel that you have been left behind by life, come out of the dark places in life, first in your mind and then physically. Whether you are incarcerated or living in poverty or despair, I want you to receive your inheritance and be restored to receive the blessings of the Lord and eat at the King's table.

So, before we go further into our great privilege of adjudicating in the Courts of the Lord and Righteous Judge, receive Christ. He has died for you on His Cross and paid the penalty for your sins. You are Mephibosheth, and today is your day, the day everything turns around. Not only can you claim a rightful place at the king's table, but you have access to His Court and His ear. If you repent of your sins and turn to Him, to follow Him and serve Him, you will be clothed with authority over the darkness that has thus far enveloped your life, controlling you and bringing you to this wasteland in which you find yourself today.

But know this: the King has called for you to bless you, give you a seat at His table, and restore what has been lost to you, including things you never knew you had!

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MY COURTS OF HEAVEN PRAYER FOR YOU

Abba Father, Jehovah Shaphat, and our Righteous Judge, in the name of Jesus, I enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise. I enter through the gates of the righteous by repenting and placing myself in Jesus. For He is made unto me wisdom, redemption, sanctification, and righteousness. I pray that You give everyone reading this prayer the Spirit of Wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of You as the Righteous Judge, that You enlighten the eyes of their understanding, and that You summon into Your presence any spirit of doubt or unbelief that has attached to any of us and judge it and sever it.

I ascend into the Courts of Heaven, and I watch and wait at the gates of Wisdom, who was with you at the beginning of creation, and I ask you to fill me with wisdom to navigate this prayer.

Father, I enter the Court of Judgment, and I ask that the books written about the destiny of all who will read this book are opened in the Court of Judgment and read from as they read this book. I remind you, Father, of your thoughts and the words you spoke over each person when you created them and your covenant with your people. Thank you that your Word proceeds from your mouth and accomplishes what you send it to do and does not return void.

I repent for their role in any indictment against them, that is before the court. I plead the blood of Jesus over every sin, transgression, and iniquity of each person, and I ask that they seek your forgiveness and receive your forgiveness and forgive others because your Word says that if we confess our sin, you are faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us of all unrighteousness and if we do not forgive others you cannot forgive us. Thank you that every indictment is dismissed. I pray that they take their rightful position as a righteous son or daughter in the earth. For every evil spirit that has been released to trespass,

My Courts of Heaven Prayer For You

hinder, frustrate, and attack them and interfere with their receipt of this Word and fulfillment of their destiny, I close the door of access and bind the evil spirit in the name of Jesus so that the access door is closed in heaven and the evil spirit is bound in heaven, and I ask you, Abba Father, our Righteous Judge, to summon it into your Courts and put it on trial and judge it in the power, blood, authority, and name of Jesus and the Word of God. Render a righteous judgment and declaratory judgment and issue a mandate and order from your court; say it in an Order/word and dispatch angels to execute the order of the court and condemn the spirits and cut the cords of the wicked spirits and cut the horns and crush the head of the spirits and deliver them from the spirits.

From a position of righteousness, I build an altar, and I offer sacrifices acceptable to the Lord at your throne to see the answer to my prayer. I offer obedience daily, which is better than sacrifice, and I offer my life as a living sacrifice, prayer, praying in the spirit, praise and worship, thanksgiving, a fast, alms to the poor, seeds of repentance, work, time, tithes, gifts, offerings in righteousness. I service the altar daily until everyone reading this book receives a revelation of You as the Righteous Judge. I live under an open heaven by keeping your feasts and observing your Sabbath. I seal this prayer in the blood of Jesus, Holy Spirit, and your Word. To El Emuwnah, the Faithful God, in Jesus' name. Amen.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

- A **Court** is an official tribunal presided over by one or more judges in which legal issues and claims are heard, determined, and adjudicated.
- To **Adjudicate** is to settle in the exercise of judicial authority or to determine finally.
- **Adjudication** is the formal process of making a judgment about an issue.
- An **accuser** is someone who claims someone has done something wrong or violated a law.
- An **advocate** is a person who supports a particular cause.
- An **answer** is a response to a charge.
- An **arraignment** is a hearing in court where charges are brought against someone.
- A **complaint** or **petition** is a formal written document that makes charges against a person or entity.
- A **Conservator** is a person appointed by the court who acts as a guardian, protector, or preserver of another person or their affairs.
- A **Conservatorship** is the appointment of a Conservator by the court to manage a person's affairs who is unable to handle them due to their mental capacity, age, or physical disability. (Some jurisdictions use the term **guardianship**.)
- **Conversion** is the act of taking possession of and exercising control over property inconsistent with the real owner's right of possession.
- The **Doctrine of Unclean Hands** is an equitable doctrine that bars relief to a party who has engaged in bad behavior.

- A **declaratory judgment** is a binding adjudication of the rights and status of parties or litigants, even though no consequential relief is awarded.
- **Evidence** is the factual information that supports a claim or argument, helping to form conclusions or judgments. It can be data, observations, expert opinions, or logical reasoning.
- An **indictment** is a formal charge or accusation of a serious crime.
- The **judge** is an official appointed to decide cases in a court of law.
- **Judgment** is the order of the court after hearing the evidence.
- **Mandate** is an order from a higher court or authority to a lower court or authority to take action of the judgment.
- An **offense** is a breach of a law or rule.
- A **plea** is the formal response to a charge.
- **Replevin** and **detinue** are types of legal actions that are available for recovery of property from one who acquired possession of it lawfully but retains it without right, together with damages for the detention.
- **Res Judicata/Double Jeopardy** is a legal principle that a legal claim decided on the merits by a competent court cannot be re-litigated on the same issue.
- A **stay** is the temporary suspension of the regular order of proceedings in a case by direction or order of the court.
- **Summary judgment** is a request petition or motion available to any party when the evidence establishes that there is no genuine issue of material fact and the party is entitled to prevail as a matter of law.
- A **temporary restraining order** is an order that prevents action for a limited time.
- **Trial** is the formal hearing of evidence with the purpose of rendering a decision or verdict.
- A **verdict** is the decision made by a jury after a hearing of the evidence.



1. THE COURT OF JUDGMENT

In 2020, one of our church members, who was the leader of our intercessory prayer team, was scheduled for routine surgery. She and her husband led intercessory prayer at the church and were faithful citizens of the Kingdom of God. Before her surgery, the woman asked me to pray for her. I did, but I did not think much about it because the woman believed the surgery was routine.

During her medical procedure, there was an error made by the surgeon, and her kidney failed. After the surgery, the woman ended up in a coma and paralyzed. She later recovered well enough to regain her walking, but she was placed on dialysis and was told she may need to be on dialysis for the rest of her life. In October 2020, she asked me to pray for her, and *this time, I prepared a written petition and prayer for the Court of Judgment.* I'll say here that I believe it is critically important to write down these petitions and pray them audibly. The Apostle Paul calls for supplications to be made, which is defined as a petition or a formal written request in 1 Timothy 2:1, and the Lord says in Habakkuk 2:2 to write the vision and make it plain upon tablets that he may run that reads it.

And finally, the Prophet Isaiah says in Isaiah 51:16 that the Lord has placed His word in our mouths and placed us under the shadow of His hand that we may plant the heavens and lay the foundation of the earth.

She, her husband, and I prayed the petition and prayer together, and within a few months, the church member was off dialysis and on her way to a full recovery and has fully recovered. She now leads a three-

hour monthly prayer vigil and a 24-hour quarterly prayer vigil, as well as the intercessory prayer team for a local fellowship. She begins each prayer session appealing to the Righteous Judge, and she prays through the Court of Judgment.

In July 2023, a good friend's husband, Caesar, was diagnosed with a large hard mass on his thyroid gland, and his doctor, based on thirty years of practice, disclosed to him that he was certain it was cancer. A biopsy was scheduled six weeks later, in September 2023. His wife is an attorney and author and a trusted friend whom I gave a draft copy of this book to read and critique. We petitioned the Righteous Judge to move the date of his biopsy, and it was suddenly rescheduled to the following day. And we petitioned the Righteous Judge to judge the mass in the Court of Judgment. One week after the biopsy, he had a follow-up meeting with his doctor and was told he did not have cancer and he would only need surgery to have the 7.4 cm mass on his thyroid removed.

This is the petition and prayer I asked my friend to pray aloud with her husband and release into the atmosphere:

Abba Father and Jehovah Shaphat, we ascend into Your courts with thanksgiving and praise. We repent and enter through the gates of the righteous. We remind you of your promise that no good thing will you withhold from those who walk uprightly before you. We ask for Wisdom, and we make a demand on our covenant. Open the destiny books written about Caesar, and we agree with what You have already spoken over his life. Thank You for so great his salvation and, how he belongs to You, and how he has been faithful to his assignment as a loving husband and friend and father and has honored You with his life. We discern this spiritual attack, and we thank You for exposing it and the revelation about Your court of judgment that we may see the spirits severed from him and condemned. We bind the spirit behind this nodule and plead the blood of Yeshua and thank You it is bound in heaven, and we close the door to the source feeding this nodule that it is closed in heaven, and we ask that it is summoned into Your court of judgment and put on trial and judged as operating illegally in Caesar's body. We ask for a righteous declaratory judgment. Just say it in a word, and Caesar is healed. Thank You for angels executing Your judgment.

The Court of Judgment

We ask that our petition is moved to Your throne of grace. We build an altar and service it with our lives as a living sacrifice, prayer, praise, and worship, thanksgiving fast alms to the poor repentance work time tithes gifts and offerings in righteousness, and we seal this prayer in the blood of Yeshua and Your Word. To El Emuwnah, the faithful God. In the name of Yeshua, Amen.

How was this woman healed of her kidney failure and the petition against cancer answered? We simply understood our rights as citizens of heaven and petitioned the Judge on those grounds. In this chapter, I'd like to begin to draw from Scripture a picture of the heavenly Courts and give a biblical survey of the heavenly legal system.

I once had a case I felt very strongly about, and I allowed pride and personal dislike for the opposing attorney to interfere with sound judgment. A generous offer was made to settle the case, but I rejected the settlement offer because the opposing counsel was the son of a Supreme Court Justice, and I wanted to show him that he was not as much as he thought he was. Near the end of the case, the opposing attorney asked the court for summary judgment, and we argued the case before the judge. To my dismay, the judge granted summary judgment on a technical legal issue.

After the judge issued her ruling, I continued to argue my case, thinking surely there was some legal point that the judge missed, and I could get her to change her mind. The judge became angry, slammed her gavel on the desk, and exclaimed, "I have ruled as I have ruled."

I learned at least three lessons from that experience. First, I learned that I can never let pride get in the way when I am practicing law and advocating on behalf of a client. Second, I learned about the finality of a ruling. Though you can appeal a ruling by appealing up the chain, you can't change a judge's mind once they have ruled. And the third thing I learned is that there is such a thing as court protocol, and those of us who practice law need to know what it is and stick to it!

There are many courts in heaven. Psalm 84 says, "*Better is one day in thy courts than thousands elsewhere.*" I interpret this as there are many courts in heaven, and I can get more accomplished in one day in the Courts of Heaven than a thousand days elsewhere. Not only are there courts in heaven, according to Psalm 75 and 2 Tim. 4:6-8, in His courts, God the Father reigns as the Righteous Judge. A court where God judges **NOW**

is described in Psalm 50. This place is the Court of Judgment in the Courts of Heaven. We have access to the Court of Judgment when we enter the Courts of Heaven by faith. The NIV best describes the Court of Judgment:

¹The Mighty One, God, the Lord, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to where it sets. ²From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth. ³Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages. ⁴He summons the heavens above, and the earth, that he may judge his people: ⁵“Gather to me this consecrated people, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.” ⁶And the heavens proclaim his righteousness, for he is a God of justice. ⁷“Listen, my people, and I will speak; I will testify against you, Israel: I am God, your God. ⁸I bring no charges against you concerning your sacrifice or concerning your burnt offerings, which are ever before me. ⁹I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens, ¹⁰for every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. ¹¹I know every bird in the mountains, and the insects in the fields are mine. ¹²If I were hungry, I would not tell you, for the world is mine, and all that is in it. ¹³Do I eat the flesh of bulls or drink the blood of goats? ¹⁴ Sacrifice thank offerings to God, fulfill your vows to the Most High, ¹⁵and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor me.”

¹⁶But to the wicked person, God says: “What right have you to recite my laws or take my covenant on your lips? ¹⁷You hate my instruction and cast my words behind you. ¹⁸When you see a thief, you join with him; you throw in your lot with adulterers. ¹⁹You use your mouth for evil and harness your tongue to deceit. ²⁰You sit and testify against your brother and slander your own mother’s son. ²¹When you did these things and I kept silent, you thought I was exactly like you. But I now arraign you and set my accusations before you. ²²“Consider this, you who forget God, or I will tear you to pieces, with no one to rescue you: ²³Those who sacrifice thank offerings honor me, and to the blameless I will show my salvation.” (NIV Emphasis added)

Psalm 50 says that God is the Righteous Judge and He summons heaven and earth into His presence now that He may **judge** His people and all people. Many of us are under the mistaken belief that we must wait until we get to heaven before God will judge evil and we will see justice.

Nothing could be further from the truth. God lives in the NOW, and the Court of Judgment is in session NOW. He is a God of justice. He does not bring charges against us concerning our sacrifices, but we are to bring a thanksgiving sacrifice, and He promises that we can call on Him in the day of trouble, and He will deliver us, and we will honor Him. To the wicked, He **arraigns** and sets **accusations** against them, and issues a judgment, and executes the judgment.

After everything that King David experienced, his advice to Solomon in Proverbs 4:7, before he became king, was “wisdom is the principal thing.” Wisdom, which is knowing and applying the Holy Spirit of God in every decision and action and our words, is the most important thing that we can get because if we get wisdom, we get everything. King Solomon prayed for and received wisdom and was the wisest man to ever live, other than our Lord Jesus. Ecclesiastes 3:16-17 tells us Solomon saw a place of judgment, that wickedness was there that God shall judge the righteous and the wicked.

¹⁶And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there. ¹⁷I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. (KJV)

Armed with wisdom, Solomon built the temple of the Lord and a palace for himself, and in his own house, he built a hall of judgment or a Court of Judgment where he would judge. Concerning Solomon, the Bible declares: “*Then he made a hall for the throne, the Hall of Judgment, where he might judge, and it was paneled with cedar from floor to ceiling.*” 1 Kings 7:7 NKJV. We later see how Solomon built an altar and offered sacrifices on the feast days and the sabbath to the Lord. But think about it for a minute. If Solomon was filled with wisdom from God and was the wisest man to ever live, 1Kings 10:23, other than our Lord Jesus, who was God Himself, and in fulfilling his duties as king and judge, he built a hall or court of judgment so he could judge, we must conclude that the Righteous Judge has a Court of Judgment where He judges.

We next see a hall of judgment at the trial of Jesus. At the conclusion of his earthly ministry, Jesus was taken into the palace of Pontius Pilate into the hall or court of judgment. The Bible declares that Jesus was then taken to the Praetorium guard’s station and mocked as a king, where

He was stripped, and a purple robe was placed on Him. Then He was beaten with reeds and made to sit in a chair, and a crown of thorns was pressed into His head. Finally, He was taken back to the hall of judgment to Pilate and judged. He sheds His blood and is judged on the charge of blasphemy for saying He was the Son of God. Then He is crucified, that is, killed on a Roman cross, hung by nails in His feet and hands next to two criminals until he suffocates from His own weight and dies.

I believe that the most important event in the Bible for a believer takes place, not when Jesus dies on the cross, but in the book of John in chap-

Jesus is taken into the hall of
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ters 18 and 19. There, **Jesus is taken into the hall of judgment and placed on trial and judged for the sin of the world.** The Bible declares that He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:21). It also states that He Himself bore our sin in his own body on the tree that we might die to sin, should live unto righteousness, and by His stripes, we were healed (1 Pet. 2:24). Not only are we saved by this act, but it gives us access now as believers to the Court of Judgment. When Jesus was judged, I was judged. When Jesus was resurrected, my spirit was resurrected. When His spirit ascended, my spirit became able to ascend.

John 18:28-40 states:

*²⁸Then led they Jesus from Caiaphas unto the **hall of judgment**: and it was early; and they themselves went not into the **judgment hall**, lest they should be defiled; but that they might eat the passover.*

²⁹Pilate then went out unto them, and said, What accusation bring ye against this man?

³⁰They answered and said unto him, If he were not a malefactor, we would not have delivered him up unto thee.

³¹Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye him, and judge him according to your law. The Jews therefore said unto him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death

³²*That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which he spake, signifying what death he should die.*

³³*Then Pilate entered into the **judgment hall** again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?*

³⁴*Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?*

³⁵*Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?*

³⁶*Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.*

³⁷*Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.*

³⁸*Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all.*

³⁹*But ye have a custom, that I should release unto you one at the passover: will ye therefore that I release unto you the King of the Jews?*

⁴⁰*Then cried they all again, saying, Not this man, but Barabbas. Now Barabbas was a robber. (KJV)*

Then John 19:1-18 reads:

¹*Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.*

²*And the soldiers platted a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe,*

³*And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.*

⁴*Pilate therefore went forth again, and saith unto them, Behold, I bring him forth to you, that ye may know that I find no fault in him.*

⁵*Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!*

⁶*When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out,*

saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him.

⁷*The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God.*

⁸*When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he was the more afraid;*

⁹*And went again into the **judgment hall**, and saith unto Jesus, Whence art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer.*

¹⁰*Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?*

¹¹*Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin.*

¹²*And from thenceforth Pilate sought to release him: but the Jews cried out, saying, If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend: whosoever maketh himself a king speaketh against Caesar.*

¹³*When Pilate therefore heard that saying, he brought Jesus forth, and sat down in the judgment seat in a place that is called the Pavement, but in the Hebrew, Gabbatha.*

¹⁴*And it was the preparation of the passover, and about the sixth hour: and he saith unto the Jews, Behold your King!*

¹⁵*But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, We have no king but Caesar.*

¹⁶*Then delivered he him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led him away.*

¹⁷*And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:*

¹⁸*Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. (KJV)*

Pilate found no fault in Jesus, but the Bible declares that He took on the sin of the world, for He who knew no sin became sin for us that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Something very significant happened in the legal, spiritual realm when Jesus was taken

into the hall of judgment. Once again, in criminal cases, the law is commonly known as double jeopardy, but in the civil context, it is *res judicata*, and it simply means that once a matter is fully judged on the merits, it cannot be tried again in a court of law. If we believe in the Lord Jesus and place ourselves in the Lord Jesus, and He shed His blood for our sin, transgressions, and iniquities, then the judgment that He received in the hall of judgment absolves us of all our sin, transgressions, and iniquities. In other words, for every accusation and indictment of sin, transgression, and iniquity in me, my answer should be, *res judicata*, Jesus has already paid for that sin, transgression, or iniquity. When I answer any accusation or indictment with *res judicata*, the Righteous Judge must dismiss the indictment.

This is why they call it good news. God looks at you at the Judgment, and because your name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev 21:27), God says, "Forgiven," and He says, "I have ruled as I have ruled!" What would have to happen for God to judge you for your sin once He has pronounced you innocent in Christ? He would have to break His own law, commit double jeopardy, and violate the principle of *res judicata*. This He will never do because He is perfect, and His Word is perfect. He says it, so it must be, because He can be no less than perfect in keeping His Word. Praise God! Jesus' trial was your trial; His death was your death; His resurrection is your resurrection; His ascension is your ascension; His enthronement is your access to the Righteous Judge in the Court of Judgment in the Courts of Heaven!

Isaiah and the Apostle Paul saw a Court of Judgment in the house of God that believers had access to and recorded it in the books of Isaiah and Hebrews. Isaiah 2:1-5 says:

¹The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

²Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the Lord's house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And all nations shall flow to it.

³Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, And the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

4He shall judge between the nations, And rebuke many people; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore. The Day of the Lord

5O house of Jacob, come and let us walk in the light of the Lord. (NKJV emphasis added)

The writer of Hebrews, believed to be the Apostle Paul, saw God holding court. Hebrews 12:18-24 says:

18For you have not come to the mountain that may be touched and that burned with fire, and to blackness and darkness and tempest, 19and the sound of a trumpet and the voice of words, so that those who heard it begged that the word should not be spoken to them anymore. 20(For they could not endure what was commanded: “And if so much as a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned or shot with an arrow.” 21And so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, “I am exceedingly afraid and trembling.”) 22But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, 23to 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, 24to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel. (NKJV emphasis added)

Because Jesus was taken into the hall of judgment on the earth and we were redeemed by a trade, we who are believers are in Him, and we now have access to the Court of Judgment! But now the question becomes, how do we take advantage of the Court of Judgment? We will see that we will become like Him to complete His work in the earth.

For anyone who has had the misfortune of receiving a speeding ticket or has been charged with a crime, adjudication—the court process where disputes are resolved—may be familiar to you. There is a law; the speed limit is 30 miles per hour, and you were recorded by a speed camera or by an officer traveling at the speed of 35 miles per hour. And there was a violation of the law. The citation for the traffic violation normally advises that you can admit your guilt and pay a fine, or you can appear before a judge in court on a certain date and enter a plea and have a trial where

you present evidence and a judgment is rendered. At the conclusion of that process, if found not guilty, you will go free without a fine, but if found guilty, you will be ordered to pay the penalty and court costs and will be subject to further action by the court if you fail to do so. If you fail to show up in court, a default judgment will be entered against you.

You ignore the charge or indictment against you at your own risk. It will not stop the legal prosecution of you. You can be tried, convicted, and condemned in your absence, and a criminal conviction in some jurisdictions will result in the revocation of your rights as a citizen. Unfortunately, this is where most of us find ourselves. Because of our sin, or transgressions, or iniquities in our bloodline, there are legal indictments or even convictions against us, and we live our lives without the rights of citizens of the Kingdom of God and with unanswered prayers and suffering the consequences of unanswered prayers and living beneath our privileges until we expire.

The Bible says in Revelation 12:10-11 that there is an accuser of the brethren before the Father, day and night, and we overcome by the blood

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of the Lamb and the word of our testimony, and we loved not our lives until death. This means that there are always accusations and indictments against us, and there is a process to overcome accusations and indictments. We need: 1) the blood of the Lamb (repentance); 2) the word of our testimony (a response from us to the accusation); and 3) that we love not our lives unto death (fearlessness). Many times, we do not know that there is an indictment against us. We just know that things are not working out as they should, and we just can't seem to get ahead. It is always one thing after another—from financial issues to relationship issues to physical and mental health issues. **When we face unnatural occurrences, it is likely that there is a spiritual indictment against us.** There are many stories in the Bible where evil spirits were in people and places and had a legal right to be there and would not move until the spirits causing

the issues were addressed. The Apostle Paul cautioned the Church at Ephesus that the true battle was not against flesh and blood but principalities and powers and rulers of darkness and spiritual wickedness in the heavenlies. If the true enemies are spirits, then we need a Judge who has authority over and can judge spirits. We want to learn how to see all indictments against us dismissed, and God wants to see us become righteous sons and daughters and see His enemies judged.

If you have had to file a lawsuit against someone on your own in small claims court or in civil litigation, it begins with a complaint being filed with the court, and then a summons is issued for a party to appear in court before a judge. A response must be made to the complaint, and then the case is set for a trial or hearing. At the conclusion of all of the evidence, a judgment is rendered, and then a mandate is issued, and the judgment is executed.

This is the general process for adjudication in our courts:

- **Law**
- **Violation/Offense**
- **Complaint/Indictment**
- **Summons**
- **Answer/Arraignment/Plea**
- **Evidence/Trial**
- **Verdict/Judgment**
- **Mandate**
- **Execution of Judgment/Condemned**

I included a glossary of terms before the introduction, but I'll repeat here the brief explanation of each element of the process and legal terms you will see in this book.

- A **Court** is an official tribunal presided over by one or more judges in which legal issues and claims are heard, determined, and adjudicated.
- **Adjudication** is the formal process for making a judgment about an issue.
- An **accuser** is someone who claims someone has done something

wrong or violated a law.

- An **advocate** is a person who supports a particular cause.
- An **answer** is a response to a charge.
- An **arraignment** is a hearing in court where charges are brought against someone.
- A **complaint** or **petition** is a formal written document that makes charges against a person or entity.
- A **Conservator** is a person appointed by the court who acts as a guardian, protector, or preserver of another person or their affairs.
- A **Conservatorship** is the appointment of a Conservator by the court to manage a person's affairs who is unable to handle them due to their mental capacity, age, or physical disability. (Some jurisdictions use the term **guardianship**.)
- **Conversion** is the act of taking possession of and exercising control over property inconsistent with the real owner's right of possession.
- The **Doctrine of Unclean Hands** is an equitable doctrine that bars relief to a party who has engaged in bad behavior.
- A **declaratory judgment** is a binding adjudication of the rights and status of parties or litigants, even though no consequential relief is awarded.
- **Evidence** is the factual information that supports a claim or argument, helping to form conclusions or judgments. It can be data, observations, expert opinions, or logical reasoning.
- An **indictment** is a formal charge or accusation of a serious crime.
- The **judge** is an official appointed to decide cases in a court of law.
- **Judgment** is the order of the court after hearing the evidence.
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- An **offense** is a breach of a law or rule.

- A **plea** is the formal response to a charge.
- **Replevin** and **detinue** are types of legal actions that are available for recovery of property from one who acquired possession of them lawfully but retains them without right, together with damages for the detention.
- **Res Judicata/Double Jeopardy** is a legal principle that a legal claim decided on the merits by a competent court cannot be re-litigated on the same issue.
- A **stay** is the temporary suspension of the regular order of proceedings in a case by direction or order of the court.
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- A **temporary restraining order** is an order that prevents action for a limited time.
- **Trial** is the formal hearing of evidence with the purpose of rendering a decision or verdict.
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Beginning with the first book of the Bible, Genesis, and the story of Adam and Eve, we see the court adjudication protocol in operation. The story of the fall and *judgment* of Adam is recorded in Genesis 3:1-24 (NKJV).

*¹Now the serpent was more cunning than any other beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?'" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day that you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like god, knowing good and evil."
⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food that it was*

pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave her husband with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. ⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" ¹²Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree and I ate." ¹³And the Lord said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴So the Lord God said to the serpent. "Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. ¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; and He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise is heel." ¹⁶To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; In pain you shall bring forth children; Your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

¹⁷Then 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 day of your life. ¹⁸Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. ¹⁹In 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." ²⁰And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skins, and clothed them. ²²Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"— ²³therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken.

²⁴So He drove out the man and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

This passage of Scripture follows the pattern of court protocol described earlier, and it is also the first occasion recorded in the Bible of God judging the sin of man.

God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden to dress it and keep it and commanded him that he may eat of every tree of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God gave him the rule of law. God told Adam that the day he eats of the tree, he will surely die.

The serpent deceives Adam's wife, Eve, and she eats the fruit of the tree. We are to assume Eve learned of the law from Adam, but she gives in to the temptation to break the law. If we can forgive her ignorance for getting the law secondhand, Adam has no such excuse. Eve gives the fruit to Adam, and he eats it, rebelling against the law of God. After eating the fruit, they become aware of their offense. Our first parents knew they were naked, and they were suddenly fearful and ashamed.

God gives Adam a **law**—do not eat of the fruit of the tree of life. Eve eats of the tree and gives it to Adam, and he eats—so there is an **offense** and **violation of the law**. God comes forward with a **charge** or an **indictment** against Adam and Eve, and He calls or **summons** them into His presence—“*The Lord God called unto Adam and said unto them—Where are thou?*” Adam is placed on **trial** and questioned; his **testimony** is taken, and he admits that he ate the fruit of the tree. He **pleads guilty**. Eve is placed on **trial** as well, and her **testimony** is taken. She admits that she ate and then claims that the serpent beguiled her. The Lord then issues **judgment** against the serpent and Adam and Eve, and our first parents are driven out of the garden. After the **judgment**, a **mandate** goes forth to the Cherubim, who are heavenly warrior beings, to **execute the judgment** and stand at the entrance of the garden with a flaming sword that turns every way to guard the way of the Tree of Life, and Adam and Eve are barred from the Garden of Eden.

There are many examples in the Bible that can only be described as *judicial proceedings*; this one is the first that we learn of, although Satan's initial judgment for rebellion took place before this. We learn of his fall in Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14. Though the language is symbolic and has

a parallel meaning concerning leaders of the day, scholars widely agree the judgment describes that of Satan himself, particularly in the Isaiah passage.

Isaiah 14:12-21 says,

¹²“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! ¹³For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; ¹⁴I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ (Indictment) ¹⁵Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. (Judgment) ¹⁶“Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, ¹⁷Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’ ¹⁸“All the kings of the nations, All of them, sleep in glory, Everyone in his own house; ¹⁹But you are cast out of your grave Like an abominable branch, Like the garment of those who are slain, Thrust through with a sword, Who go down to the stones of the pit, Like a corpse trodden underfoot. ²⁰You will not be joined with them in burial, Because you have destroyed your land And slain your people. The brood of evildoers shall never be named. ²¹Prepare slaughter for his children Because of the iniquity of their fathers, Lest they rise up and possess the land, And fill the face of the world with cities.” (NKJV)

Ezekiel 28:6-10 tells us,

⁶Therefore thus says the Lord God: “Because you have set your heart as the heart of a god, (Indictment)

⁷Behold, therefore, I will bring strangers against you, The most terrible of the nations; And they shall draw their swords against the beauty of your wisdom, And defile your splendor. (Judgment)

⁸They shall throw you down into the Pit, And you shall die the death of the slain In the midst of the seas. (Judgment)

⁹Will you still say before him who slays you, ‘I am a god’? But you shall be a man, and not a god, In the hand of him who slays you.

¹⁰You shall die the death of the uncircumcised By the hand of aliens; For I have spoken,” says the Lord God.” (NKJV) (Judgment)

The High Priest Joshua Has His Day In Court

Perhaps the most famous court scene in the Bible of God judging in a court of judgment is found in Zechariah 3:1-10 where Zechariah has a vision and Joshua the High Priest appears before the angel of the Lord, and Satan, who, even in judgment, retains some position as prosecutor, stands to resist him and make accusations against him:

¹And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. ²And the Lord said unto Satan, “The Lord rebuke thee, O Satan; even the Lord that had chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee; is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?” ³Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel. ⁴And he answered and spoke unto those that stood before him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.” ⁵And I said, “Let them set a fair mitre upon his head.” So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the Lord stood by.

⁶And the angel of the Lord protested unto Joshua saying, ⁷Thus saith the Lord of hosts; if thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then though shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by. ⁸Hear now, O Joshua the high priest, and thy fellows that sit before thee: for they are men wondered at: for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the Branch. ⁹For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua: upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. ¹⁰In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree.” (KJV)

In this mysterious and profound passage of Scripture, an angel of the Lord is seen as an extension of the Lord and the Judge, and Satan appears

before the Lord to resist the High Priest Joshua and makes accusations against Joshua, who is the High Priest. **It may not come as a surprise to**

It may not come as a surprise to
some of you, but your adversary is
a master lawyer.

some of you, but your adversary is a master lawyer. The Lord rebukes Satan because Satan has made accusations against Joshua, and the Lord has a covenant with Israel. Joshua is part of Israel and has filthy garments representing sin in his life, and his garments are removed and replaced with a change of clothing. Joshua, as the High Priest, represents Israel to God. This is a glorious display of the truth of the gospel, that it is God's own righteousness in His covenant toward His people that saves us, forgives us, and redeems us—in fact, *justifies us*.

What is intriguing is that in this judicial proceeding, the High Priest has sin in his life, which gives rise to an indictment, and Satan receives a rebuke or sharp criticism for making the accusations against Joshua, and the transformation that takes place in Joshua as a result of standing in the presence of God, being accused by Satan, and getting clean garments and he is freed to complete God's assignment for his life. The Scripture opens with Joshua being accused, but it continues with Satan being rebuked and Joshua leaving after being purified and given a mantle and mandate from God. We see that the Lord wants to see our enemies rebuked. ***This will be a recurring theme in this book—how the judicial activity before the Lord brings man into right standing with the Lord and condemnation on the enemies of the Lord.***

Later, we see Joshua in service to the Lord and Israel, manifesting what the Father ordained for him in Ezra 3:

¹And when the seventh month was come, and the children of Israel were in the cities, the people gathered themselves together as one man to Jerusalem.

²Then stood up Jeshua the son of Jozadak, and his brethren the priests, and Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and his brethren, and

built an altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings thereon, as it is written in the law of Moses the man of God.

³And they set the altar upon his bases; for fear upon them because of the people of those countries: and they offered burnt offerings thereon unto the Lord, even burnt offerings morning and evening.

What is more amazing is that we ultimately see that the Lord needed Joshua to bring forth the Messiah! In Zechariah 6:11-13, the Bible declares:

¹¹Then take silver and gold, and make crowns, and set them upon the head of Joshua the son of Josedech, the high priest; ¹²And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts, saying “Behold the man whose name is The Branch, and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord; ¹³Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”

The Branch is none other than the one who is both High Priest and sacrificial Lamb, the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world, the judgment on sin, and the gift of righteousness to those who would believe and receive it!

One of the most important words on the list of court terms is “judge.” In our heavenly legal system, we have a righteous and perfect Judge. The name of the Lord our Judge is Jehovah Shaphat. This name for the Lord is seen in the original text in Judges 11:27, where there is a dispute between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon, and the Bible says, “Wherefore I have not sinned against thee, but thou doest me wrong to war against me: the Lord the Judge be judge this day between the children of Israel and the children of Ammon.” Isaiah 33:22 declares that the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, and the Lord is our king. He not only makes perfect judgments, but we can depend on Him to “judge” our enemies when they are also His enemies. Just as the modern judge is an enemy to the evil in our society and those who would seek to deceive him and escape justice, our Judge is an enemy to evil, sin, and darkness.

In Chapter 20 of 2 Chronicles, there is an epic battle scene that could have been written from a script in Hollywood. King Jehoshaphat, the

king of Judah, receives news that three evil kings and their armies were arrayed for war against him and God's people. The Bible says King Jehoshaphat called a fast and went to the house of the Lord and before the court and prayed to God. He reminded God of His covenant with Abraham (legally binding) and that when Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, God would not allow the children of Israel to invade these countries, and now these countries were arrayed against them and were prepared to attack Judah.

Jehoshaphat has one question, "Will you not judge them?"

The Bible says that the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel, a prophet, and he spoke the word of the Lord that Jehoshaphat and the people should not be dismayed or made afraid by the great armies that are against them, for the battle is not theirs but the Lord's. Jehoshaphat and the people respond with praise and worship to God.

Because of God's judgment and supernatural intervention, the next day, the armies turned on each other and were all destroyed. The Scripture cautions us to believe God and be established and believe His prophet and prosper.

King Jehoshaphat cannot wait for help from another army; he needs justice now. In this amazing story, King Jehoshaphat appeals to God as the God of heaven and ruler of the earth whom none can withstand and bases his right in God's binding covenant with Abraham. In fact, the word *Shaphat*, in Hebrew, literally means, "Yahweh is judge and has judged."

You can read it here: 2 Chronicles 20:1-12 (NKJV)

¹It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat. ²Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, "A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar" (which is En Gedi). ³And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

⁵Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, ⁶and said: "O Lord

*God of our fathers, are You not God in heaven, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You? ⁷Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever? ⁸And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'¹⁰ And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them—¹¹here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit. ¹²**O our God, will You not judge them?** For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You."*

Note how King Jehoshaphat appeals to God, saying, we can't do anything against this enemy, but "our eyes are on you." This is precisely the way we should walk in the world. When you are a part of a just society with a trustworthy government and legal system, then the authorities can be trusted to act as an arm of God against those who would do evil. You should be able to appeal to the rightness of the law and your cause to a just judge who will fight for you on behalf of God. How much more in the spiritual realm can we appeal to a Judge who is unable to be corrupt in a legal system that is unable to be anything but perfect? When darkness is arrayed against us, we must know that we have a righteous Judge and a strong advocate, Jesus Christ.

The story of King Jehoshaphat reveals that there is a place where the evil spirits of this world are judged, and that is in the Court before the Righteous Judge. The Lord judged the enemies of Jehoshaphat when Jehoshaphat appealed to Him, so now the question becomes, will God judge your enemies? Do you even know Jehovah Shaphat? You will soon learn that He has already judged your enemies, but He is waiting for you to bring them into the Court of Judgment before the Righteous Judge.

It should be noted here that in the vast majority of cases, disputes are brought to the Lord, the Righteous Judge. He does not usually bring the

cases Himself. But occasionally, the matter is so serious that the Judge takes it up on His own initiative. When this happens in our earthly courts, it is called *sua sponte*, which is Latin for “of his own accord.” In the Bible story of Belshazzar and the handwriting on the wall, God the Judge takes initiative and writes the judgment: *Mene Tekel Upharsin*, when the king was desecrating holy objects by partying with concubines and drinking wine from holy vessels. Daniel interprets this judgment and tells the king, “You saw what I did to your grandfather, and still you have done this. I have weighed you on the scales of justice and found you wanting” (my paraphrase). The king was killed that night in judgment. I note this because it is a clear picture of the Righteous Judge, the rare case of *sua sponte*, and an example of the justice of God.

In Luke 18:1-10 (Amplified Bible), it is made clear that our God is a Righteous Judge and that we, His elect, have access to Him, and He wants to defend and avenge His elect. This is the first principle of the Heavenly Court of Judgment protocol, and Jesus illustrates this with a story.

Now Jesus was telling the disciples a parable to make the point that at all times they ought to pray and not give up and lose heart, saying, In a certain city there was a judge who did not fear God and had not respect for man. There was a [desperate] widow in that city and she kept coming to him and saying, ‘Give me justice and legal protection against my adversary.’ For a time he would not; but later he said to himself, ‘Even though I do not fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow continues to bother me, I will give her justice and legal protection; otherwise by continually coming she [will be an intolerable annoyance and she] will wear me out.’” Then the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says! And will not [our just] God defend and avenge His elect [His chosen ones] who cry out to Him day and night? Will he delay [in providing justice] on their behalf? I tell you that He will defend and avenge them quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find [this kind of persistent] faith on the earth?”

Luke 18 begins with an instruction that men ought to always pray, and then it continues with a story about a widow pursuing an unjust judge to get justice against her adversary. Finally, the unjust judge relents and gives her justice, not because he fears God or men, but because of her

persistence. Why is it necessary for God to defend and avenge His elect? The Bible teaches that there is an accuser of the brethren that accuses day and night. Revelation 12:10-11 states:

¹⁰Then 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.

¹¹And 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..."
(NKJV)

Jesus said that the enemy comes but *"to steal, kill and destroy but I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."* (Jn. 10:10) It is court protocol for God to avenge. *Protocol* means a code prescribing strict adherence to correct etiquette and precedence (as in diplomatic exchange and in the military services). It is simply "correct procedure" for the Righteous Judge to judge righteously and for Him to avenge the oppressed. He must because He has subjected Himself to His own strict procedures and rules.

Jesus was teaching us that it would be correct protocol to seek justice from the Father. He also encourages persistence. Without explaining why sometimes God does not answer our prayers right away, He claims unequivocally that praying persistently will work on God. He says, if persistence works on an unrighteous judge, how much more will it work on the *Righteous Judge*?

Then Jesus says that our just God defends and avenges His elect but cautions that when the Son of Man (that's Jesus) comes, will He find this kind of persistent faith on the earth. In other words, will God's people act according to court protocol? Will they believe that it matters, that it's effective, that the Father is a just Judge and will grant justice? Will He find His people storming the Courts on behalf of a dying and hurting world? That is the question on the mind of Christ.

Remember that Jesus was making a contrast between an unrighteous judge and a Judge of supreme righteousness. If even an unrighteous judge must respond to a persistent petitioner, then how much more will the

The Court of Judgment

righteous Judge of a perfect and uncorrupted Court give justice to those who ask and don't give up asking, because they understand their rights?

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

David A. Branch is a born-again believer and an attorney in Washington, D.C. In 1995, he joined Rhema Christian Center Church in Washington, D.C., and recommitted his life to the Lord. He completed Givens Bible College at Rhema Christian Center and served as a Deacon. While at Rhema, David became an intercessor for Washington, D.C., and the nation and has been a watchman for the City for 25 years. In



2001, the Lord spoke to David that he would proclaim his Word from the Capital. He later joined Capital City Church and served as a Bible teacher, life group leader, and the Director of the *Be the Love Foundation*. While at Capital City Church, he underwent a three-year training session on the Courts of Heaven under the direction of an anointed prophet and seer. David traveled to Israel with his family in 2018 and had a further encounter with the Lord and received insight into what He is doing in the earth. David is the founder of *Matthew 23:23 Ministries* and a humanitarian, serving and providing financial support for underserved communities in Washington, D.C. and Maryland, and supporting ministries in Israel, a school in Kenya, and an educational center in South Africa. He facilitates a one hour weekly Bible study on Tuesday evenings, and now trains and teaches nationally and internationally on Justice in the Courts of Heaven.

To my readers:

I want to hear from you. If you follow the prayer protocol and file a petition and prayer with the Righteous Judge, I want to hear from you. Please send me an email at davidbranch@dbranchlaw.com with your testimonies and so I can join my faith with your faith and see the Righteous Judge answer your petitions and prayers.