

## Heaven's Court of Law

When God created the natural realm, He created it to operate under a set of natural laws, like the laws of mathematics and the laws of physics. The laws are set by the creator. We either work within these laws or we can get into serious trouble. If I run off of the edge of this platform, I don't have to worry that I might float upward and get stuck in the lighting. I can be sure the law of gravity will be in operation and will pull me swiftly down to the ground.

Likewise, when God created the spirit realm He created it to operate under a set of spiritual laws. So it is best for us to learn these laws and work within them or we can get into some very serious spiritual trouble.

God is a God of Law & Order. But, God has given mankind a free will, and the right to choose whether or not we wish to obey those laws.

The challenge for us as Christians is that when we disobey a spiritual law, there is normally not an immediate visible spiritual reaction. But need to be assured that there will be definite consequences. Since these consequences will not only affect us in this life, but in the next one, it behooves us to understand these laws and to operate within them.

In the Book of Revelation, we get a glimpse into Heaven. We see a great room that contains the Throne of God. This room is designed like a great courtroom, and God is seated in the position of The Righteous Judge.

*Rev 20:11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.*

There is nothing in existence that is outside of God or outside of His jurisdiction or His laws. Every Angel and every human will give an account to God according to His laws.

Ignorance of this fact will be no excuse on judgment day. So it is to our advantage to understand how the Spiritual Legal System works now, so that we understand how we are supposed to be operating in the Kingdom of God.

We see many words in the scriptures that refer to this courtroom design. In the bible we see the words: lawyer, advocate, intercessor, Judge, accuser, sentence, innocence, witnesses, guilty, etc. When we see these terms, we need to pay attention to all these references.

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

The term advocate means our counselor or our lawyer. John is telling us that though we are to be striving to avoid all sin. But, if we do sin, we have a lawyer or an advocate between us and the Righteous Judge. That advocate is the Man, Christ Jesus.

So how is Jesus our advocate? Foremost, through His shed blood.

When we were baptized in Jesus Name, His blood covered us and all of our sins were remitted, or washed away. After our baptism, when we sin, we do not have to be re-baptized, but we are to confess our sins so that they can be forgiven and legally taken off the record.

*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*

The bible uses more courtroom terms when discussing the ministry of the Holy Ghost.

*John 15:26-27 (Amplified)* But when the Comforter (Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor) comes, Whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of Truth Who comes (proceeds) from the Father, He [Himself] will testify regarding Me. But you also will testify and be My witnesses, because you have been with Me from the beginning.

Notice the courtroom terms - advocate, testify, and witnesses. The Holy Ghost, which is the Spirit of Christ, is given to us to show us things and to lead us into all Truth. He gives us testimony from our heavenly Father. When we mess up, He convicts us and draws us back to confession and right standing with God. And He empowers us to be witnesses for God.

But, as in all courts there are also prosecuting attorneys.

*Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.*

Satan is spiritually the prosecuting attorney. He is a master in his knowledge of the laws of God, and he uses them constantly to bring accusations and to request trials and judgments against the children of God.

In the book of Zechariah, Chapter 3, we see an example - Joshua the high priest, standing before the Angel of the Lord in filthy garments and Satan was right there to resist and accuse him. We see the Lord rebuking Satan and in the end, Joshua was clothed with clean garments.

In Job Chapter 1 and 2 we see the example of God on His throne. The Angels of God come to report to God and Satan comes also among them. Satan makes an official accusation against Job and God allows Satan to carry out God's ruling in Job's life.

In the New Testament we see in

*Luke 22:31-32 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*

Jesus was telling Peter, that Satan has desired to try you. He wants to try you at court, but I have acted as your lawyer and interceded for you and it is going to be ok.

Peter was impetuous, Peter had issues, but for Peter's own good and advancement in the Kingdom, God wanted to show Peter what was really in his heart, so that he could confess it and be healed. So Satan desired a trial and got an opportunity to test Peter.

It is important for us to understand that every deed we do and every word we speak has potential legal implications.

Everything that we do and say is recorded. This is not so obvious to us, because when we do sin, we do not get immediately struck by lightning. This is because God is merciful and wants to give us a space to confess it and seek Him about it.

Demonic spirits however are very crafty. They slowly encourage us to sin and all the while they are building a case against us. They entice us to continue to sin and to open more and more doors for them so that they can gain more and more influence in our lives. Then when they have built an airtight case against us, they take it to the throne of God to get Him to have to give a ruling against us.

But thank God we have a lawyer, the Holy Ghost that convicts us and gets us to confess our sins. Then when we confess, the blood of Jesus covers our sins and suddenly, all of the evidence disappears. Then we are acquitted of all of the legal charges that Satan has bought against us.

Missionary Mark Shutes tells the story of how one day he was very frustrated and spoke out negative words about a situation. He said the Spirit of God spoke to him and told him that he needed to retract those words immediately and speak the truth. So Brother Shutes repented of saying those words and then spoke the truth. God then showed him, that Satan had intended to take those words that he had just spoken to the throne and present them before the Judge as an accusation and try to get a judgment against him.

If you do speak out of turn, always confess that what you said was wrong and speak the right thing immediately. Now, this is not a magic eraser in the natural. If you slip up and say something offensive to someone, you may still have to apologize. If you lose your temper and cuss out a police officer, you may still end up in the back seat of his cruiser. But it is very important for us spiritually, to keep everything under the blood.

By us keeping all of our failures under the blood, this assures us the spiritual protection of God on our lives. It keeps all of the hedges up.

In Numbers chapter 22 we see the story of Balaam the prophet and Balac the king who hired him to curse the people of Israel. Through this story, we see the principle that it is not possible to curse what God has blessed.

If we are living uprightly before God and keeping every mistake under the blood, we don't have to fear some psychic from Cassadaga praying against and it having any negative effect on us spiritually.

In this story, the King Balac was so upset that Balaam could not curse Israel. Israel obviously had issues, but they were repenting and making the required daily animal sacrifices in the tabernacle and the blessings of God were upon them.

But, the bible tells us that Balaam really wanted the king's reward, so he taught King Balac exactly what they needed to do to get Israel to be able to be cursed.

*Revelation 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.*

Balaam understood exactly how the court system of heaven worked. So, Balaam taught the King to send people into their camp and to seduce them into sinning against God. When they stop repenting and seeking God for forgiveness, then Satan's accusations against them would stick!

So again, keeping everything confessed and under the blood keeps our hedge up and keeps the Lord actively being able to help us.

One of these Spiritual Courtroom laws that we need to be aware of is called, The law of 2 or 3 witnesses.

*Deuteronomy 19:15 One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established.*

In the Old Testament, an accusation could not be brought against a person with just one witness. This continued to apply spiritually in the New Testament.

*2 Corinthians 13:1 This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.*

The Pharisees and the religious leaders understood legal proceedings, because they had to enforce the laws of Moses. They were always accusing Jesus and demanding that he produce more than one witness of the fact that He was saying that He was the son of God.

*John 5: 31-32 If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.*

*36-37 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me.*

Jesus was saying to them, that I testify of myself, but if I am the only witness, then that is not good under the law, but there is also the witness of John the Baptist. Then there is the witness of the miracles and the works that he was doing. And finally there was the witness of the Father Himself who bore witness at His Baptism. So the religious leaders legally had all the witnesses they need proving that Jesus was the son of God.

One day, the religious leaders thought that they were going to use the law to trap Jesus. They somehow, most likely through a set up, caught a woman in the very act of adultery. They drug her out in a public setting to Jesus where there was a huge crowd. They tell Jesus that this woman was caught in the very act of adultery. They said that according to the law, judgment should be passed and she should be stoned.

*Deuteronomy 22:22 If a man be found lying with a woman married to an husband, then they shall both of them die, both the man that lay with the woman, and the woman: so shalt thou put away evil from Israel.*

They thought they had Jesus trapped. On one hand Jesus, was bound by the law and could not just let her go, there was a legal case against her, so he could not act outside the law. But on the other hand, Jesus came to save lives, not take them. If Jesus pronounced judgment on her, well there goes his reputation of being a friend of publicans and sinners.

With glee, the leaders thought they got Him. But Jesus, knowing the system better than they did, did not immediately answer them. Instead he stoops down and writes on the ground. Meanwhile a super strong wave of conviction of the Holy Ghost moves into the crowd. Jesus then stands up and says, "He among you who is without sin, let him cast the first stone at her."

Well, everyone there had sin, or they would not have been a part of this scheme in the first place. Jesus then stoops back down and continues to write. The Spirit of God continued to load conviction on them so strong that they from the oldest to the youngest started to slink away from the scene. They knew they were guilty of sins themselves, that if people found out publicly, like they are doing to this woman, they all would be toast. Eventually, everyone involved in this setup, had left.

Now legally, this woman had no accusers or witnesses in the courtroom to accuse her. So Jesus could legally drop the charges against her, which he does.

So here is the basic process in the spirit realm. The process I call the of the 5 stages of Judgment.

Demonic spirits wonder around seeking for someone that they can tempt to sin. They influence us with feelings and put thoughts into our heads, trying to get us to act out a sin or to speak against the truth of God. God who is a God of love, and loves us with an

everlasting love, allows these spirits to do this in order to help us to see what is really in our hearts.

If there is some type of darkness or a stronghold in our hearts, eventually, a demonic spirit will find it and will present to us the right temptation.

This will prompt us to choose to do our own will rather than God's will, and we will sin. Now our adversary has some evidence against us, but our counselor, the Holy Ghost, will step in and help us. The first step is called **conviction**. The Holy Ghost will nudge us in our conscience to confess what we just did and get it under the blood, so there is no evidence against us. If we do confess, the sin is now legally covered.

Now again, we may have to apologize to someone for what we said or give back an item we stole, but legally, in the spirit realm we are covered and we are innocent before God.

When we notice a pattern and see a weak area in us that Satan is using to cause us to sin, we need to not only confess, but we also need to ask the LORD to heal us of the root cause of it.

We need to ask for the Lord's help while the issue is small. We need to ask Him to show us the truth so that any strongholds that are in us can be torn down. We need to ask Him to reveal to us any unforgiveness or shame that is within us so we can be healed.

This is the deliverance process that we all must work through. God does not expect any of us to be perfect and to never fall. He understands that we will struggle. (see the second session of this teaching to learn more about the deliverance process).

But, if we ignore the conviction of our counselor, then our adversary will start building a case against us. He will come around the next day and tempt us in the same area, and will add to the temptation in order to get us to sin to a greater degree. God will convict us again, but if we continue to ignore the conviction, our heavenly Father will move up to the next step which is **chastisement**.

Chastisement is when God allows circumstances to come our way to get our attention. This is a spiritual spanking designed, not to harm us, but to get us to see what we are doing. It is to get us back to confessing our sins and back to seeking Him for healing from the root cause of the problem.

If we now yield to God's chastisement and will confess our sins and run back to Him, God will cover our sins and we will go back to being innocent. God will then continue to work with us through the deliverance process to heal the root reason for our sin.

But if we don't repent and we continue to insist on sinning and God's chastisement does not get our attention, by this point Satan will have a very well developed case against us. Satan will bring all of the accusations to the righteous judge and they are all true. So the next step in our lives is that Satan gets God to pass **Judgment** upon us. God will then let down the protective hedge around our lives, and allow Satan limited access to

wreak havoc in our lives. Not for our destruction, but to wake us up to the spiritual peril that we are in. God's motive in Judgment is always love.

If we will confess and turn back to Him, the Judgment will stop and we will be restored.

If a person however, still would continue to rebel against God. If they would continue to fight Him through judgment after judgment, then they will end up in a condition that the bible calls being **reprobate**. This is the fourth step. This is a place that a person's heart is so hard that not even God can get through to touch it anymore.

*Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient;*

Satan will by this time, have gathered mountains of hard evidence against them and in the final judgment, the Righteous Judge will have no choice to allow the final step.

That final step is called "**The Wrath of God**". The Wrath of God will be poured out one day upon Satan and all his demons and every person who would not turn from their disobedience.

*Eph 5:5-7 For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.*

In conclusion, God, through the power of the Holy Ghost in us, is with us every minute of every day. He is our counselor or advocate, and He is helping us to stay in right standing spiritually. God is infinitely patient with our failures and will continue to forgive us and work with us, as long as we are allowing it. We must remain open and honest with God about ourselves and we must be fully dependent upon His grace and His blood to get us to heaven. We will never get good enough to do it on our own. But His love and His grace will never fail.