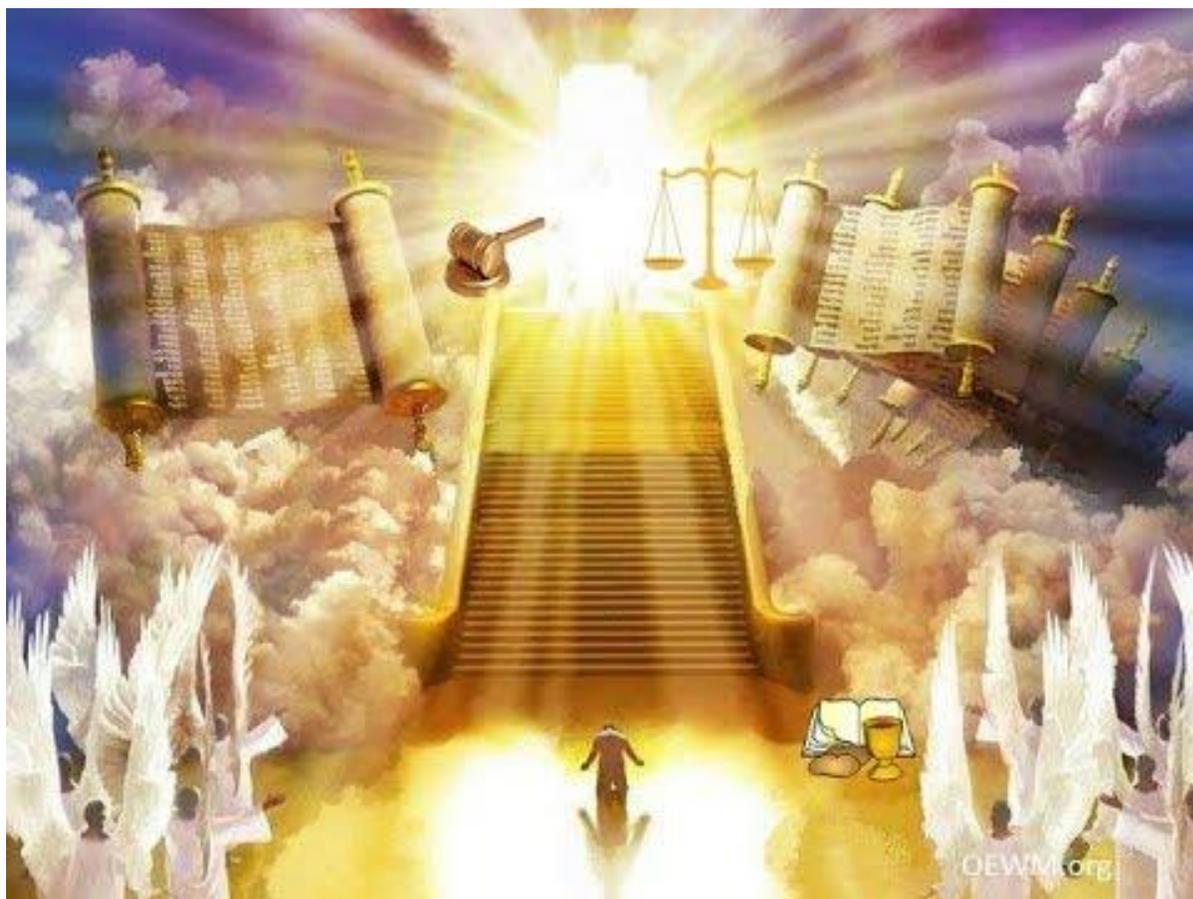


Going to the Courts of Heaven

(Job 23: 2-7; Esther 5; Zachariah 3)

“Divine justice is available to every believer”



The high priest, Joshua was found before the Lord in the courts of heaven with Satan standing at his right hand to be his **adversary and to accuse him**. Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, a representation of his sins. Satan well knew about Joshua and readily stood by his side to bring accusation against him. But the Lord rebuked Satan and forgave Joshua's sins. He said, “Behold, **I have caused your iniquity to pass from you, and I will clothe you with rich apparel**. If you will walk in My ways and keep My charge, then also you shall rule My house and have charge of My courts and I will give you access [to My presence] and places to walk among these who stand here” (Zachariah 3). Satan had legal issues against the high priest Joshua, due to his life of sin. He never rests until he fulfills his evil desire to kill and destroy God's people. YAHSHUA said that the devil had come to

kill and destroy, but He had come to give life abundantly. After forgiving Joshua, the Lord dressed Him in the robe of righteousness and warned him to walk in obedience in order to continue in his position of serving Him. The high priest was set free from the devil's accusations after the Lord forgave him. This experience is not unique only to Joshua; through our life's journey on earth we too have walked in disobedience to the Lord, causing an open door for Satan to have his way against us. But John, in his first epistle, assured us that if we confess our sins, God is faithful to forgive and purify us. And as He did for Joshua He will do for us too.

Job in the Courts of Heaven

Job's experience is different from that of Joshua. To start with, he was righteous before God, as God Himself confirmed to Satan in Job chapter one. God said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and abstains from and shuns evil?" Satan accusing God said "Have You not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? You have conferred prosperity and happiness upon him in the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. And then he suggested the imaginable: Put forth Your hand now and touch all that he has, and he will curse You to Your face" (vv.8-9,11). Satan not only doubts God's word, but also accuses Job's righteousness to be because of God's blessings upon him. "Touch all that he has and he will curse you to your face." This was his way to bring accusations against Job. To prove Him right, God allowed Satan to destroy Job's riches and family. However Satan was satisfied only when God allowed him to touch Job's entire body with sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head (Job 2:7). Job's life was now under the hands of Satan for a length of time not mentioned. He was also tormented by the so-called friends. Physically and mentally tormented, Job had no place to go, but to submit to the trials. In the defense of his righteousness he stood firm against the words spoken against him to bring him guilt. However he did not submit to the idea that his trials were caused by sin. In his defense he said "Oh, that the words I now speak were written! On, that they were inscribed in a book! That with an iron pen and [molten] lead they were graven in the rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer and **Vindicator** lives, and at last He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin, even this body, has been destroyed, then from my flesh or without it shall see God, Whom I, even I, shall see for myself and on my side! And my eyes shall behold Him ... Oh, that I knew where I might find Him that I might come even to His seat! (Courts of heaven) I would lay my cause before Him and fill my mouth

with arguments, I would hear what He would answer me, and understand what He would say to me. Would He plead against me with His great power? No, He could give heed to me. There the righteous could reason with Him; so **I should be acquitted by my Judge forever**. He knows the way that I take. When He has tried me, I shall come forth as refined gold; for He performs [that which He has] planned for me, and of many such matters He is mindful” (Job19:23-27; 23; 23: 3-7, 10, 14).

These profound words from Job show us that not one time did he go to the battlefield to fight the enemy. Job remained faithful in his trials because he (1) had a relationship with God, (2) he knew God, and (3) he believed Him with his heart and mind. In his trials he went to the Courts of heaven to plead his case. He believed his righteous Judge was going to vindicate and acquit him at the end of all he had to go through. This is a beautiful example of perseverance and faith in the time when there was no Bible available to serve as a guide to righteous behavior. Reacting to his wife’s attitude against God, when she said, “Do you still hold fast your blameless uprightness? Renounce God and die!” He answered her, “You speak as one of the impious and foolish women would speak. What? Shall we accept good at the hand of God and shall we not accept misfortune and what is of a bad nature? In all this, Job did not sin with his lips” (Job 2:9-10). At the end of Job’s trials, Job entered the Courts of heaven where God his Judge spoke to him; in the presence of his God, he humbly said, “I had heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eyes sees You. Therefore I loathe [my words] and abhor myself and repent in dust and ashes.” Job’s friends were reprimanded with these words: “My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends, for you have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job has. Now therefore take seven bullocks and seven rams and go to My servant Job and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you, for I will accept [his prayer] that I deal not with you after your folly, in that you have not spoken of Me the thing that is right, as My servant Job has” (Job 42:5-8). Justice was granted Job; God rewarded Job with many years of plenty and blessed him twice as much as he had before.

Esther, the Brave Queen

Esther, the young Jewish girl chosen to be King Ahasuerus’ wife, had a problem. An orphan raised by an uncle who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captives Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, had carried into exile, she had not

made known her nationality for her uncle, Mordecai had charged her not to do so. So it happened that the Jews were hated by Haman, *a man who had found favor with the king. He promoted him and set his seat above all the princes who were with him (Esther 3:1).* Haman warned the king about the Jewish people whose laws were different than theirs, and because they did not observe the king's laws. He concluded to the king that the Jews were not to be tolerated by him; he suggested the Jews to be destroyed. Letters were sent out by special messengers to all the king's provinces to destroy, to slay and to do away with all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day (3:8-9, 12-13). Mordecai, Esther's uncle, on hearing this went to see her and warned her: *"If you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance shall arise for the Jews from elsewhere, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows but that you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this and for this very occasion?"* Esther then decided to do what was in her power as queen. She sent all Jews that were present in Shushan to fast for her; "neither eat nor drink for three days; she said, I also and my maids will fast as you do. Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law; **and if I perish, I perish**" (4: 14, 16). Esther had a plan that would cost her life. But that would have been her life for her people. On the third day, she went to the court of the king. She dressed in her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace. When the king saw her he held out the golden scepter that was in his hand in favor of her. She drew near and touched the tip of the scepter (5:1-2). "If I perish, I perish", were words of courage and determination. She was going to see the king, even if it cost her life for the sake of saving her people. Esther knew her enemy and his plan, but she went directly to the court of the king and to her was given the right to execute her plan against her enemy.

Every believer has the right to enter the Courts of Heaven and plead his case before the heavenly Judge, just as the widow pleaded her case and asked the judge a verdict to render the removal of the enemy's legal issues against her. Paul said that our struggles are with the devil and his demons. He has access to heaven and often uses this privilege to bring accusations against us. But if *God is for us, who [can be] against us? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect [when it is] God Who justifies? Who shall come forward and accuse or impeach those whom God has chosen? Will God who acquits us? Who is there to condemn [us]? Will Christ YAHSHUA, Who died or rather, Who was raised from the dead, Who is at the right hand of God actually pleading as He intercedes for us?* (Rom. 8:33-34)

Satan has no legal rights against us when we are walking in obedience and in submission to the Lord. **Submit** to God, **resist** the devil and he **will flee** from you (James 4:7). In times of temptations and trials there is no better place for a believer to be than in the Courts of Heaven to plead his case with the righteous Judge. In the words of Job, there the righteous one could reason with Him, so I should be acquitted by my Judge forever (Job. 23: 7). Know for certain that divine justice is available to every believer!