

# CHAPTER 6: THE SYSTEM BEHIND DIVINE PROVIDENCE - PARAGRAPH 1

*by Rabbi Yaakov Feldman*

2:6:1

In the course of His interactions with the world <sup>1</sup>, G-d arranged it so that both the things that humankind brings about out of free will <sup>2</sup>, and that He purposefully brings about in creation <sup>3</sup>, should function like a government. That's to say, with upper and lower courts with all of their procedures and rules <sup>4</sup>. As our sages put it, "The kingdom of Heaven functions like a human kingdom" <sup>5</sup>.

He thus established different "court systems" for the spiritual realm with rules and procedures <sup>6</sup>, which work on various levels, feature certain spiritual entities <sup>7</sup>, and follow particular sequences <sup>8</sup>. And everything that's to be judged is to appear before those courts and is to be subject to its decisions <sup>9</sup>. As it's said, "By the decree of the overseers is the sentence decreed" (Daniel 4:14) <sup>10</sup>.

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> This chapter is termed "The System behind Divine Providence", which is a subject that necessarily touches on our interactions with Him and His with us.

<sup>2</sup> And are to be judged for.

<sup>3</sup> That are somehow or another adjudged or at least subject to decisions about placement, role and the like, too.

<sup>4</sup> The point is that G-d purposefully arranged for the universe to function in a comprehensible, linear, and over-all orderly manner -- despite the fact that it's rooted in preternatural mystical nothingness and primal chaos -- so that we can understand the "rules of the game", interact with Him within our own contours and limitations, and to thus draw close to Him.

<sup>5</sup> Ramchal is referencing a statement in Zohar 1:197a and *Berachot* 58a that is worded differently.

<sup>6</sup>Of their own that mirror the rules and procedures of earthly courts.

<sup>7</sup>Which function as the "overseers" cited below.

<sup>8</sup>See *Ma'amar Halkurim*, "*B'hashgacha*".

<sup>9</sup>See *Adir Bamarom* p.68.

<sup>10</sup>See Sanhedrin 38b and *Shemot Rabbah* 6:1.