

The Rule Of The Church Authority

(Part 5)

The church is the Kingdom of God on earth. The Lord promised us to give us the Kingdom but we receive the church from him. Through the church God would work in the life of His people and God would use the church to convey and impact His message and influence all the nations of the world. Therefore for this reason the Lord would entrust His church with His word and with the gifts of the Holy Spirit so the message can be spread to the whole people of the world. We had discussed in the previous issues, using the leadership of Moses as a Model for that, some of the rules and responsibilities of the church in her response to God's call in caring for God's people and nurturing them and providing for them the spiritual atmosphere to grow in God's grace by appointing over them God fearing people to lead them to grow with His grace.

Appointment of a leader to succeed the previous leader after his death: We know that Moses Led the people of God out of Egypt and delivered them from the hand and the power of Pharaoh and he brought them to the Border of the Promised Land. Here the Lord spoke to Moses the following: *“Then the LORD said to Moses, “Go up this mountain in the Abarim range and see the land I have given the Israelites. After you have seen it, you too will be gathered to your people, as your brother Aaron was, for when the community rebelled at the waters in the Desert of Zin, both of you disobeyed my command to honor me as holy before their eyes.” (These were the waters of Meribah Kadesh, in the Desert of Zin.)” (Numbers 27:12-14)* When God face Moses with the above fact, the problem for Moses not that he will enter to the Promised Land but who will lead the people after his death. There is a real need for a capable leader to keep the system and everything that was prepared by God through Moses. Therefore Moses spoke to the Lord the following: *“¹⁵ Moses said to the LORD, ¹⁶ “May the LORD, the God of the spirits of all mankind, appoint a man over this community ¹⁷ to go out and come in before them, one who will lead them out and bring them in, so the LORD's people will not be like sheep without a shepherd.” (Numbers 27:15-17)* That concern of Moses was a godly concern for the wellbeing of the whole community of God because there must be a leader after Moses who will act as a head spear to lead the people and to govern, audit, coordinate and direct all what had been established by God through Moses.

The Lord answered Moses and granted His request because that was His will as well. *“So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him. Have him stand before Eleazar the priest and the entire assembly and commission him in their presence. Give him some of your authority so the whole Israelite community will obey him. He is to stand before Eleazar the priest, who will obtain decisions for him by inquiring of the Urim before the LORD. At his command he and the entire community of the Israelites will go out, and at his command they will come in.” Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He took Joshua and had him stand before Eleazar the priest and the whole assembly. Then he laid his hands on him and commissioned him, as the LORD instructed through Moses.” (Numbers 27:18-23)*

Joshua was the one chosen by God; he was Moses aide, a man of faith whose heart was fully committed to the Lord. *“¹ Then Moses went out and spoke these words to all Israel: ² “I am now a hundred and twenty years old and I am no longer able to lead you. The LORD has said to me, ‘You shall not cross the Jordan.’ ³ The LORD your God himself will cross over ahead of you. He will destroy these nations before you, and you will take possession of their land. Joshua also will cross over ahead of you, as the LORD said. ⁴ And the LORD will do to them what he did to Sihon and Og, the kings of the Amorites, whom he destroyed along*

with their land. ⁵ The LORD will deliver them to you, and you must do to them all that I have commanded you. ⁶ Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”⁷ Then Moses summoned Joshua and said to him in the presence of all Israel, “Be strong and courageous, for you must go with this people into the land that the LORD swore to their forefathers to give them, and you must divide it among them as their inheritance. ⁸ The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.” (Deuteronomy 31:1-8) Moses is the man who had the vision from God for the entire ministry and he did everything as the Lord had commanded him. But there must be someone after Moses who will continue the vision of God for the people and bring them to the Promised Land and make them settled there. That will only be possible if they live in God's word and be obedient to God and His commands. For that to achieve there is a real need for a successive leader who should have the zeal and the commitment and the real love for God to achieve what the Lord had commanded in His word and revealed in vision to the previous leader who carried the vision of God.

King David led the people of God in righteousness and the Lord had promised him that after him He will put one of his descendants on the throne. Therefore as he was old in age the Lord enabled him to appoint his son Solomon *“³² King David said, “Call in Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet and Benaiah son of Jehoiada.” When they came before the king, ³³ he said to them: “Take your lord's servants with you and set Solomon my son on my own mule and take him down to Gihon. ³⁴ There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ ³⁵ Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah.” ³⁸ So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and put Solomon on King David's mule and escorted him to Gihon. ³⁹ Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, “Long live King Solomon!” ⁴⁰ And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.” (1 King 1:32-35, 38-40)* *“^d When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. ² “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, show yourself a man, ³ and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go, ⁴ and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’” (1 King 2: 1-4)* The successors should be fully committed and faithful to the Lord so that the Lord would fulfill all His promises to His people. King Solomon was enabled by the Lord to build the Temple of God, although that was the vision of David but Solomon his successor achieve it to the Lord.

My Dear and Beloved: God's church have great rule on earth to achieve the purpose of God in the life of His people and in the life of all people on earth. The purpose of the message is to make you realize and understand that and commit yourself to the Lord to achieve it as you agree to pray.

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord I commit myself to be a responsible person, thinking the things of yours, denying myself for the sake of your purpose and plan in my life and the life of your church, your people and the whole human kind. This all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.*