

The Rule Of The Church Authority

(Part 7)

The church leadership is responsible to keep the commands of the Lord and the teaching that had been passed to them through their previous founded leaders. At the end of the life of Moses Joshua was chosen by God to bring the people into the promise land to settle there. Moses died and Joshua showed his full faithfulness to God by putting into action all the commands of God that He received through Moses as we can read below:-

“¹⁰ So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: ¹¹ “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.’”¹² But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, ¹³ “Remember the command that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you after he said, ‘The LORD your God will give you rest by giving you this land.’¹⁴ Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, ready for battle, must cross over ahead of your fellow Israelites. You are to help them ¹⁵ until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land the LORD your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise.”¹⁶ Then they answered Joshua, “Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷ Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses. ¹⁸ Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!” (Joshua 1:10-18) So here we found that Joshua and the people even in their battle strategy they followed and put in action what Moses had recommended them to do.

One of the important points here is the obedience of the successive leader and the obedience of the people in following all the instruction of Moses who had the clear vision from God of all what is going to take place. To obey the instruction of the ancestor leaders will bring God’s blessings in people life and give smooth and safe way of living. The Israelites as they obeyed all the instructions that Moses gave they found that all things fall in the right places and God granted them great victory and big plunder with prosperous future for them and for their children.

In crossing the Jordan Joshua and the Israelites followed the fine instruction that God gave through His servant Moses as we can read here: *“¹⁰ Now the priests*

who carried the ark remained standing in the middle of the Jordan until everything the LORD had commanded Joshua was done by the people, just as Moses had directed Joshua. The people hurried over, ¹¹ and as soon as all of them had crossed, the ark of the LORD and the priests came to the other side while the people watched. ¹² The men of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed over, ready for battle, in front of the Israelites, as Moses had directed them. ¹³ About forty thousand armed for battle crossed over before the LORD to the plains of Jericho for war.” (Joshua 4:10-13)

“³⁰ Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, ³¹ as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the LORD burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings. ³² There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moses. ³³ All the Israelites, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the LORD, facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Both the foreigners living among them and the native-born were there. Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel. ³⁴ Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law. ³⁵ There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.” (Joshua 8:30-35) Here we found that Joshua and all the Israelites they read and followed the instructions of God that He gave to them through Moses.

Let us read the following which show clearly the obedience of Joshua and all the leaders to the instructions of God to them through Moses in dealing with the affairs of life, ministry and the enemies of God, *“¹² Joshua took all these royal cities and their kings and put them to the sword. He totally destroyed them, as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded. ¹³ Yet Israel did not burn any of the cities built on their mounds—except Hazor, which Joshua burned. ¹⁴ The Israelites carried off for themselves all the plunder and livestock of these cities, but all the people they put to the sword until they completely destroyed them, not sparing anyone that breathed. ¹⁵ As the LORD commanded his servant Moses, so Moses commanded Joshua, and Joshua did it; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.” (Joshua 11:12-15)*

Even in the distribution of the land as inheritance to the tribes of the Israelites they followed Moses instructions, ²³ *So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.*” (Joshua 11:23) Joshua even distribute the land according to Moses instruction as we can read in the following verses, ²⁵ *This is what Moses had given to the tribe of Reuben, according to its clans:”* ²⁴ *This is what Moses had given to the tribe of Gad, according to its clans:”* ²⁹ *This is what Moses had given to the half-tribe of Manasseh, that is, to half the family of the descendants of Manasseh, according to its clans:”* ³² *This is the inheritance Moses had given when he was in the plains of Moab across the Jordan east of Jericho.* ³³ *But to the tribe of Levi, Moses had given no inheritance; the LORD, the God of Israel, is their inheritance, as he promised them.*” (Joshua 13:15, 24, 29, 32) ⁴⁵ *So the Israelites divided the land, just as the LORD had commanded Moses.*” (Joshua 14:5)

¹ *Then the LORD said to Joshua: 2 “Tell the Israelites to designate the cities of refuge, as I instructed you through Moses, 3 so that anyone who kills a person accidentally and unintentionally may flee there and find protection from the avenger of blood.”* (Joshua 20:1-3) Here we found God is speaking to Joshua and is reminding him to do what He instructed to do through Moses even Moses now is dead. So here even God is confirming His instructions to Moses and is reminding Joshua to do that completely.

¹ *Now the family heads of the Levites approached Eleazar the priest, Joshua son of Nun, and the heads of the other tribal families of Israel 2 at Shiloh in Canaan and said to them, “The LORD commanded through Moses that you give us towns to live in, with pasturelands for our livestock.” 3 So, as the LORD had commanded, the Israelites gave the Levites the following towns and pasturelands out of their own inheritance.”* (Joshua 21:1-3) Even here the Levites they reminded the priest, Joshua and the head of the other tribes of Israel about their rights to have towns and pasturelands for their livestock as God commanded through Moses. And the Israelites responded to their request, ⁸ *So the Israelites allotted to the Levites these towns and their pasturelands, as the LORD had commanded through Moses.”* (Joshua 21:8)

Joshua as his farewell to Eastern Tribes he spoke to them the following: ⁴ *Now that the LORD your God has given them rest as he promised, return to your homes in the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you on the other side of the Jordan.* ⁵ *But be very careful to keep the commandment and the law that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: to love the LORD your God, to walk in obedience to him, to keep his commands, to hold fast to him and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”* ⁶ *Then Joshua blessed*

them and sent them away, and they went to their homes. ⁷ *(To the half-tribe of Manasseh Moses had given land in Bashan, and to the other half of the tribe Joshua gave land on the west side of the Jordan along with their fellow Israelites.) When Joshua sent them home, he blessed them,* ⁸ *saying, “Return to your homes with your great wealth—with large herds of livestock, with silver, gold, bronze and iron, and a great quantity of clothing—and divide the plunder from your enemies with your fellow Israelites.”* (Joshua 22:4-8) He reminded them to keep obeying the entire commandment and the law of the Lord that Moses gave them because that is the reason for all the blessing that they have, and in keeping that they are keeping all the blessings of God in their lives and in the lives of their children and their children’s children.

Joshua in his final farewell to the leaders, judges and officials told them the following: ¹ *After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man,* ² *summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials—and said to them: “I am very old. 3 You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you. 4 Remember how I have allotted as an inheritance for your tribes all the land of the nations that remain—the nations I conquered—between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 The LORD your God himself will push them out for your sake. He will drive them out before you, and you will take possession of their land, as the LORD your God promised you. 6 “Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left. 7 Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them. 8 But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now.”* (Joshua 23:1-8) He challenged them to obey all the Law of God that they receive from Moses and follow all His instructions in order that His blessings and grace will continue flow in their lives.

My Dear and Beloved: “Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise.” (Proverbs 19:20) Take this as instructive word written for your benefits as you agree to obey and 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 obey your instructions that come from your law through your church leader, and to take it as way for my life. Lord remind me always to obey what I received from that, this all I ask and pray in Jesus name Amen.