

DEEPER LIFE BIBLE CHURCH NL | SUNDAY SERMON | 12 JAN 2025

TOGETHER FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION

Joshua 1:1-18

Joshua and Israel received God's message to fulfil the commission God had given before they left Egypt. It was God's appointment in faithfulness to the covenant He had made with their fathers. Moses was now gone, but the mission remained. For us also, Jesus is not physically here but His mission for us is unchanged. God is committed to it in faithfulness to the covenant He had made with His son: **"I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession"** (Psalm 2:7,8). The purpose of the Church is to fulfil God's will. Jesus has commanded us, **"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature"** (Mark 16:15). It is His command to the entire Church. As **One Family**, this year, we will stand together and fulfil this command by the power of His Spirit in us.

STEADFAST COMMISSION DESPITE LEADERSHIP TRANSITION Joshua 1:1-11

Israel was going through leadership change after the death of Moses the man of God. It was still the same mission, but with new leadership. Though Moses had laid his hand on Joshua and had encouraged him, we see God now assuring and encouraging Joshua again. We should not grow tired of hearing God's voice. He wants to be involved in our lives all the way. Looking at what God told Joshua, we see the following:

1. There was transition from Moses to Joshua; yet God's commission did not change (vv. 1,2).
2. God defined their boundaries and promised Joshua His presence (vv. 3,4).
3. God assured Joshua of victory no matter the opposition (vv. 5,6). We are set to conquer our territories this year. There will be crusades and other programmes. God will give us complete victory.
4. The law would be central to their success (vv. 7-9). Moses was no longer there but the Law he gave was still binding. It was God's Law. Joshua might not need the rod, but he needed the Ark. We need the Word as we have been taught (Tit 1:7-9).

Joshua did not hesitate once he got God's instruction. He went ahead to command the officers, who in turn were to command the people. Those who would profit God's Kingdom do not engage in time-wasting consultation (Gal 1:15,16). For us to succeed in God's commission, the line of command must be very clear. We must be one in discipline. Every command must be in line with God's commission, not for self interest or personal gain. The command line in the army is for the battle.

SUBMISSIVE COMMITMENT OF DUTIFUL LEADING TRIBES Joshua 1:12-18

There was a specific command to the tribes who had got their inheritance: they must be one with the rest of their brethren to ensure victory for all. Similarly, established locations must work together with others till all are established. The commission to all is to win the nation (s). We see that Joshua did not bring his own ideas to these tribes; he simply referred to the directive given under Moses the man of God. We must be careful to require obedience to God's command, not to our own opinion or idea. On their turn, these established tribes promised their allegiance: **"All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go"** (v. 16). **One**, there was individual obedience (v. 16). You cannot challenge others to obedience if you are not an example yourself. **Two**, they had willingness to work (v. 16). They would go wherever the leader sent them. What a mind? Those who would fulfil God's purpose should not dictate their assignment: anywhere for Jesus, they must be ready to go. **Three**, they offered Joshua total support (v. 17). They did not limit their obedience to Moses; now under Joshua, their commitment remained the same. If we are obeying the Lord, our support will remain even when there is transition in leadership. And **four**, they left no room for local deviation (v. 18). They would not only be individually obedient, but they also enforced collective obedience. For us to fulfil God's commission, we must ensure others fall in line (1 The 5:14).

What covenant is God making with us today? It is a covenant of conquest, of victory. This will cover His work for us, but also our individual lives, families, secular work and every other area of our lives. On our turn, our attitude must be of total obedience. With this settled, no man shall be able to stand against us.