

## **Joshua 1:10-18 – Fulfilling the Dominion Mandate: Obedience**

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ: Every military 军事 man knows that obedience is one of the keys to success. So a soldier doesn't question orders from his superior. He trusts his superiors. And so with God and his servants at they came to the borders of Canaan! God called on Israel to obey him based on their past experiences with him – their faith – their trust in him. Yes, the covenant people of God had had a long journey of 40 years. Yes, they were tired of traveling and wanted permanent homes. Yes, there were mighty warriors living in Canaan. But for Israel to enjoy the permanence and the fruitfulness of Canaan they had to obey God's call (based on their relationship with him) and conquer the land and destroy the enemies by the sword. You will hear from God's Words how Israel responded to God's call to obedience.

Our headings are: **Joshua's Obedience** to the Dominion Mandate, and **The People's Obedience** to the Dominion Mandate.

Our goals are: That you will **understand that the dominion mandate continues, and as children reconciled和好 to God through the Son, that you will move in obedience in your area of influence to fulfil this mandate.**

### **Joshua's Obedience to fulfill the Dominion Mandate**

10 Then Joshua **commanded the officers** of the people, saying, 11 "Pass through the camp and **command the people**, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in **to possess the land** which the LORD your **God is giving** you to possess.'"

**1. A good nickname for Joshua would have been No-Delay Joshua.** He was not a procrastinator 拖延者. He quickly set about to do the work God had called him to do and he urged his people to be diligent about it. The covenant demands a response...a response of obedience, an obedience that stems from faith. He knew his God...he had faith in God...and when God told him to move, he moved. He did not think of the complexities of crossing the Jordan. He did not worry about the height of the water which was at flood stage. He did not worry about the children or the animals...or the rafts 木筏 he needed to build. He knew in whom he believed. He knew that **when God gave a task, he always gave the tools to do it.**

**Psalms 52:6** The righteous also shall see and fear, And shall laugh at him, saying, 7 "Here is the man who did not make God his strength, But trusted in the abundance of his riches, And strengthened himself in his wickedness." 8 But I am like a **green olive tree in the house of God**; I trust in the mercy of God forever and ever.

Brothers and Sisters, you too are not to be afraid of anything...not terrorism...not sickness...not death...not the future...for God is greater than any troubles...and you, like Joshua, are his child through Jesus.

**2. Joshua organized police officers with assigned tasks.** A good leader delegates 委派 responsibilities. In delegating, he showed that he did not want to make the same mistake Moses made. He learned from Moses' mistake – trying to do everything himself. This is what God wanted him to do.

**3. Joshua gave a clear message to the people through his officers. (Unclear messages are deadly.)**

**a. The message: Prepare food to enter and conquer the land after 3 days.** What soldier can fight without food? Achievement in life is contingent upon methodical 有条不紊 preparation, to do as you are told.

**b. Joshua's message was based on God's revealed truth.** This command might have seemed silly to the people of God in light of the river, but Joshua operated from obedience to God. He stated unequivocally 明确 that in 3 days God would lead his people across the Jordan and give them the Land of Canaan. **Revealed truth strengthens faith.** And note how many times God repeated the truth about him giving them the land. Joshua did not stagger at God's promise. If the people refused to prepare, then it would be their own fault!

**When you speak the truth clearly to those in your care, you remove their blood from off of your shoulder.**

**Those who speak eloquently, but without substance, hinder the dominion mandate.**

12 And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, 13 "**Remember the word** which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God **is giving** you rest and is **giving you this land.**' 14 "Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor 你们所有英勇的战士, and help them, 15 "until the LORD has given **your brethren rest**, as He gave you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall **return to**

**the land** of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the LORD'S servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

**4. Joshua then commanded the soldier-age men from 2 ½ tribes (Reuben, Gad, and ½ of Manasseh who were given land east side of the Jordan) to cross the Jordan to help the other 9 ½ tribes fight to capture Canaan.** On the east side of the Jordan where the 2 ½ tribes were, the enemy was already defeated. In true unity of the brotherhood, the 2 ½ tribes were instructed to help their fellow brothers. This action destroys the modern idea现代观念 of individualism 个人主义. This is why you made a commitment to Nadia, Kevin, and baby Gabrielle last week to help them.

**The response of the 2 ½ tribes had to be based on faith in Jehovah,** faith that God would keep their wives, children, and the elderly when they went across the Jordan to fight. And what a difference! **Earlier the parents of these same willing people were ready to kill Moses...** ready to return to Egypt... ready to mix with the pagan nations...ready to worship idols. But now they were called to stand behind this Messiah-like figure and go out and capture the land...root out evil...and establish the kingdom of God. They did not complain like their fathers. Keep in mind that most of these men were not even circumcised割礼, but how far better they were spiritually than those who were circumcised and yet died in the desert.

This is how the kingdom is going to advance...when your hand and hearts are willing...and equipped with a solid trust in Jehovah.

**The response of the 2 ½ tribes evidenced self-denial.** Their response showed that they put the desires of others above their own desires. It would have been easy to say: "We are okay, now fend for yourself." But they understood their covenant responsibility to each other...much like we support pastors in Ukraine...or poor Christians in Western China...or the persecuted church. **The 2 ½ tribes were rich with land and worked for the kingdom.**

**You who have your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life ought to work harder to advance the kingdom of Jesus Christ.** Do not live on flowery beds of ease! The welfare of others is above your own. Are you rich with money? Use your wealth to help poor Christians. Are you a comforter? Speak God's comforts to those who struggle and suffer. Are you a good orator演说者? Be a lawyer to speak up for Christian causes. **Do not sit on your laurels 别固步自封.** This is what got David into trouble. When he should have been capturing the land for God's honor, his eyes were wandering at home. Look at how that hurt him, hurt Uriah, Bathsheba, his son, Joab, and his whole family and nation. He should have read Psalm 133. Indeed, **lack of busy-ness causes great troubles.**

### **The People Obedience to fulfill the Dominion Mandate**

16 So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 "Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you现在也必照样听从你. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses.

**1. The officers recognized that Joshua was appointed by God and they** therefore promised to support him in his work and obey his command without question. (Someone had a son who was told to put his head on the pillow and he promptly stood on his head with his head on the pillow. That was not unquestioned obedience. That was playing games.) These men were committed to the intention of Joshua's command.

**2. These officers then showed their unquestioned obedience – even when asked to do something hard.** They knew telling the people to make provisions for 3 days would be a hard thing...because it would have seemed improbable. **How could all those people cross the Jordan in one day?** How could they cross the Jordan River during flood stage? How could they get tens of thousands of rafts for them and all their animals. But because these men believed that that Joshua was speaking the Word of God, they went out in faith to do what Joshua said. There is another

reason these officers were remarkable in their obedience. Remember, **everyone wants to be liked**, so wouldn't it have been a hard thing to tell tired people to get ready for battle? Yet, they did. They knew that they must obey God rather than live for the approval of men. And they knew that they had to do what was truly good for the people, even though the people might not have seen it at the time. With truth and confidence in that truth, they were strong as bears.

**What a blessing it is for elders and deacons to support the pastor in the work of ministry!**

What joy when a mother supports the father as they raise godly covenant seed! What happiness it is for the leaders in the church when the congregation hears and obeys God's Word! Being a leader is tough! But faith removes fear.

**3. These officers prayed for Joshua.** They knew of God's call to pray for those in authority.

**How often do you pray for me?** Do you pray for your elder? We really need God's help! Don't fail us! **Are you not called to swear allegiance 忠诚 to Jesus Christ and to pray to him for us?**

Are you not in the army of the Lord? Are you not called to fight for the King of kings personally?

1 Timothy 2:1 Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, 2 for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence 因此，我劝你最重要的是要为万人、君王和一切有权位的恳求、祷告、代求和感恩，好让我们可以敬虔庄重地过平静安稳的日子。

18 "Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

**4. Then the men made an even stronger commitment to Joshua. They** threatened death to anyone who disregarded Joshua's command. Was this a good law? Yes. **Israel was about to cross over the Jordan and enter a foreign country in a war. In war, military discipline is necessary. So this was a good law.** And the men encouraged Joshua to be strong and brave as he led the people of God.

**Yes, only when the church is strict and holds to God's law with zeal 热忱 will she be able to conquer** the world for Jesus Christ.

And **in this law you see a picture of Jesus Christ in Joshua.** Whoever refuses to submit to the words of Jesus Christ will lay under his condemnation – an eternal condemnation.

### **Conclusion:**

**1. The crossing of the Jordan was another picture** of Israel's salvation from sin. The **capturing of the land with the sword of iron was a picture** of bringing the world under the dominion of Jehovah by the Sword of the Spirit.

**2. See the redemptive historical 救赎历史性的 picture as well.** God was with his people as they crossed the Jordan and entered into the Promise Land. There he established them as a nation at the center of the occupied earth...and from Canaan Messiah came. Any obstacle to that fulfillment he removed. He removed the waters from the path, he removed the walls from the path, and he removed the people from the path. He used miracles when he saw fit...he used men when he saw fit. And remember, God could have stopped loving Israel when Israel abandoned the covenant, but he was gracious to them.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ, the redemption story continues and you are now a part of it now. Christ came, lived, and died for you and now commissions you to win the world for Jesus Christ. You must take every foolish thought captive. You must destroy every foolish argument. You must eradicate 根除 evil in high places. You must do this through the Word and Spirit. You are saved. You must now conquer.

Finally, either you are for Christ and will work of his glory, or you are against Christ and you will perish by his justice. You can be sure that you will not be destroyed by his justice if you call upon him for mercy. He freely offers his life and death as a substitute for you. I plead with you to accept his free offer.