



## *Chapter One*

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### **A GENERAL OVERVIEW OF MANDATES**

#### **What is a Mandate?**

**A**s we stated in the introduction, a mandate is an authorisation to act, a charge to get things done, a commission to carry out an injunction, a precept to adhere to, a guideline to follow without deviation and an important order which must be obeyed. God can and does give people very clear mandates. Satan also can give people mandates. Men on earth such as kings, political leaders, business magnets can give mandates. Now let us look at various forms that a mandate might take:

#### **Various Forms of Mandates**

A mandate may appear in the form of:

- a) **A legal document such as a letter or warrant** which gives a law officer, or a state official, or someone appointed by a government, the power to arrest an offender as in the case of Saul of Tarsus who received an authorisation to go to Damascus and arrest Christians in the early church (Acts 9:1-2). This legal document thus becomes an authorization to act with the full backing of the state.

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- b) A verbal or written permission or order to get something done, as in the case of Ezra and Nehemiah. Nehemiah the cupbearer to King Artaxerxes received a mandate from the King to go with a company of people to Jerusalem to rebuild the broken walls (Nehemiah 2:7-10). Nehemiah received letters from the king. A mandate is an order to carry out an assignment, as in the case of Saul the first king of Israel who was mandated by God to "utterly destroy" the people of Amalek (I Samuel 15:1-3).
- c) A commission to carry out a specific assignment in a certain way, e.g.
- The man with the ink horn who was mandated to mark the foreheads of the saints (Ezekiel 9:1-8).
  - The angels sent to rescue Lot and his family before the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Notice that the angels told members of Lot's family not to look back (Genesis 19:12-17).
  - The angels instructed not to hurt the oil and the wine (Revelation 6:6).  
*And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine (Revelation 6:6).*
- d) The terms of reference given to a group of people, nation or leaders to do what they have to do. Cyrus King of Persia was given a mandate by God to build for Him a house in Jerusalem.

*Now in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the LORD spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah might be accomplished, the LORD stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom, and put it also in writing, saying, Thus saith Cyrus king of Persia, All the kingdoms of the earth hath the LORD God of heaven given me; and he hath charged me to build him an house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Who is there among you of all his people? The LORD his God be with him, and let him go up (2 Chronicles 36:22-23, emphasis added).*

- e) In Genesis 41:40-44 we see the mandate given to Joseph to rule over Egypt by Pharaoh, king of Egypt.

*Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt(Genesis 41:40-44).*

- f) An ordination, anointing or investiture with full authority and the resources needed to act in an office, which gives a person, group or nation the full powers to operate without hindrance in the discharge of their duties, e.g. ministers of the Gospel, top government functionaries, ambassadors, governors, presidents and prime ministers of nations (Jeremiah 1:5, 10). This is what we call "anointing" which is simply empowerment to act in a certain capacity

- In 1 Samuel 16:1-3, we see how Samuel the priest was instructed to anoint David the 8th son of Jesse to replace king Saul. That anointing gave David the empowerment to survive all the tests that prepared him to rule as king.
- In Isaiah 61:1-4 we read the mandate of Jesus Christ.

*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; To appoint unto them that mourn*

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*in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified. And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations (Isaiah 61:1-4).*

- In Hebrews 1:8-9, we read this concerning Jesus Christ, our redeemer, the Son of God

*But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows (Hebrews 1:8-9, emphasis added).*

As we have noted already, several people in the Bible received mandates to do certain things for God. Among them were Adam, Noah, Abraham, Joseph, the excellent administrator, prophets like Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah; Nation builders like Ezra, Nehemiah and Daniel. In the New Testament we have also seen the mandates of people like John the Baptist, Paul the Apostle and most prominently, the mandate of Jesus Christ our Lord. Notice that whereas Adam, Noah and Abraham received verbal mandate from God, Nehemiah received a letter written by the king and Joseph received a royal ring, a signet of the authority of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. Esther's mandate was the golden sceptre in the king's name and sealed with his signet ring. Esther 8:4-14. Every mandate carries a reward for those who obey God.