

## The Comprehensive Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

*“...the sure knowledge that in war there is no substitute for victory...”*  
*General Douglas McArthur*

I. The Covenant Structure of the Great Commission.<sup>1</sup> Every covenant has the following five points:

- A. **Transcendance** – “Who is in charge here?” (vv. 16-18)
- B. **Hierarchy** – “To whom do I report?” (v. vv. 18-19a)
- C. **Covenant Oath** – “Is there accountability?” (“baptizing” – v. 19b)
- D. **Stipulations** – “What are the rules of this outfit?” (v. 20a)
- E. **Provisions for Covenant Succession** – “Does this outfit have a future?” (v. 20b)

II. The Comprehensiveness of our Mandate

- A. The comprehensive extent of Christ’s present authority (“**All authority** has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” - none shared with Satan or other rivals)
- B. The comprehensive prospect of victory (“go therefore and disciple **all the nations**” - not just a remnant)
- C. The comprehensive standard for change (“teaching them to observe **all things** whatsoever [παντα ὅσα] I commanded you” - not just the Gospel)
- D. The permanence of Christ’s victorious presence with the church (“and lo I am with you **all the days** [πασας τας ἡμερας] until the completion of the age” – rather than waiting for His presence)

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<sup>1</sup> See Dr. Kenneth Gentry’s extensive notes on the covenantal structure of the Great Commission in his book, *The Greatness of the Great Commission*.