

SPIRITUAL MAPPING

Numbers 13



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A BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

1. **The Twelve Spies Numbers 13.**

- A. Understanding how a group of people or a community will respond to God is at the heart of Spiritual Mapping. The story of the Twelve Spies is an example of how a group of people are impacted by poor decisions. After their deliverance from Egypt, Israel arrived at Kadesh Barnea. At this southern entry point to the Promised Land, the LORD gave Moses the directive to search out and explore the land and to choose twelve spies to search out the land. This is the closest thing to a “checklist” for spiritual mapping research that exists in the scriptures. The spies were told:
- Go to a specific location. (17)
 - Physically and spiritually describe the land and the people. (18-20)
 - Bring back something from the land. (20)

2. **An overlooked aspect of spiritual mapping** is that it also measures the preparedness of the church to advance into areas dominated by spiritual opposition. In the case of the spies, 10 out of the 12 looked only at the physical size and challenges and allowed their fear to stop them from entering in. Their fear was also spread to the people who joined them in their paralyzing outlook. This changed their history for the next 40 years!

- A. Believers are given the opportunity to honestly investigate the spiritual condition of their community. Once the condition is revealed, churches are given a choice to receive the good report and move forward, or an evil report and remain in a holding pattern until God can rise up a generation who has the faith to advance.

3. **The model of the Twelve Spies** reflects the importance of accurate assessments and the call to preparedness for the church to “possess its inheritance.”

4. **Elisha in 2 Kings 6**

- A. Prophetic insight allows the body of Christ to see the plans of the enemy and participate in prayer with God to prevent disaster.
- B. Elisha was a prophet of God who could see into the rooms of the palace in Damascus, Syria (2 Kings 6:12). When Ben-Haddad, King of Syria planned to send

troops and take Israel, Elisha would warn the King of Israel. The king would then send his troops there.

- C. The body of Christ can use Spiritual Mapping as a tool to discern spiritual patterns and opposing forces that seek to hinder the work of God and His people.

DEFINITIONS

Adapted from "Informed Intercession" by George Otis Jr.

1. Dedication — A personal commitment to a particular territory or community invariably precedes the release of spiritual insight into that community.
2. Ground Level Spiritual Warfare — Ministry activity that is associated with individual bondage and demonic deliverance.
3. Identificational Repentance — A two-stage intercessory action that involves...
 - A. An acknowledgement that one's affinity group (i.e. clan, city, nation, or organization) has been guilty of specific corporate sin before God and man, and
 - B. A prayerful petition that God will use personal repentance of this sin as a redemptive beachhead from which to move into the larger community.
4. Intercessory Prayer — Petitions, entreaties, and thanksgivings made on behalf of another. Intercession also involves the act of standing between the object of prayer and the spiritual forces. When it comes to God, we position ourselves in humble submission; when facing the devil, we take our stand to resist and deflect his attacks.
5. Ley-lines — Ley lines supposedly circle the globe, connecting monuments and sacred sites with undetectable "earth energies." Depending on the culture in which they are found, ley lines may be viewed either as conduits through which spiritual power is transmitted, or as demarcation lines of spiritual authority.
6. Power Points (places of power) — Specific natural or man-made locations that are widely regarded as bridges or crossover points to the supernatural world. Such sites are often made numinous by the investments of faith offered over time by large numbers of people. (Sedona, AZ)
7. Occult Level Spiritual Warfare — A term that pertains to intercessory confrontations with demonic forces operating through Satanism, witchcraft, shamanism, esoteric philosophies (such as Freemasonry and Tibetan Buddhism), and any number of similar occult media.

8. Prayer walking — The practice of on-site, street-level community intercession. Prayers offered by participants are in response to immediate observations and researched targets. (POTW)
9. Prayer Journeys — Intentional prayer walking in cities other than one’s own. Sites often include capitals and ideological export centers.
10. Prayer Expeditions — Long-distance, international prayer walks. Intercession is offered for entire countries and regions. (Tiananmen Square, China)
11. Spiritual Mapping — Diagnosing obstacles to revival in a community or area. Through fervent prayer and research, we can measure the “landscape” of the spiritual environment. What has happened in the past? How has that affected and shaped the paradigm and behavior of the people living there?
12. Spiritual Strongholds — Ideological fortresses that exist both in the human mind and in territorial locations. Manifesting both defensive and offensive characteristics, these strongholds resist the Light and are gateways to spiritual darkness.
13. Spiritual Warfare — Conflicts with demonic strongholds and moral deceptions that require spiritual weaponry and armor (Ephesians 6).
14. Strategic-Level Spiritual Warfare — A term that pertains to intercessory confrontations with demonic powers concentrated over given cities, cultures, and peoples. This is extremely dangerous and can only be done when specifically directed by the Lord to a group of people living in that area.
15. Vortex sites — A location where spiritual or “earth energy” is especially concentrated, creating an atmosphere that people describe as heightened, unusual, or spiritually significant.

Key: Prophets hear the heart of God for an area or a people, Intercessors stand in the gap and literally prepare the soil for a move of God’s Spirit. Apostles are sent out to gather and mobilize the church to be witnesses to the end of the earth (Acts 1:8).

SUMMARY

In scripture, spiritual mapping is a combination of documenting what is seen, preparing for what is unseen, speaking the word of the LORD in the right season, and acting on what the Spirit reveals with spiritual authority. Hearing from the Holy Spirit and doing what He says is paramount in community transformation. An important book to read on this topic is George Otis Jr’s book, “Informed Intercession.”

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