



Becoming an Informed Strategist for Christ

Read

Numbers 13:16 “These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua).”

In **Numbers 13**, the LORD instructed Moses to send some men to explore the land of Canaan, but one name stands out – **Hoshea**.

In verse 16, we read that Moses gave Hoshea a new name: **Joshua**. This changing of name was intentional, as names were extremely significant in Biblical times, and this name change was recorded for generations to remember. In this lies the key to the completion of the journey.

“Hoshea” is a prayer for salvation (“SAVE ME!”), while “Joshua” is a promise of salvation (“HE SAVES”).

Hosea is a request, and Joshua is a declaration.

On the journey of faith, there comes a time when the traveler needs to move: from a Hoshea to a Joshua, from “save me” to “He saved me”, from accepting the remission offered to **obeying** the Great Comission and **accepting** the Great Invatation.

**WE MUST BE GLOBAL
CHRISTIANS WITH A
GLOBAL VISION
BECAUSE OUR GOD IS
A GLOBAL GOD.**

Read

Matthew 28:19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

The saying goes that if you fail to plan, you plan to fail. When it comes to Christian action, there is no substitute for strategic thinking. We need to position ourselves effectively to fulfil three roles:

- informed strategists
- informed soldiers
- informed harvesters.



Informed Strategists

Jesus as a Strategic Thinker Sent the Disciples Ahead

In Luke 10, we see the 'strategic edge' for an accelerated journey. Listen to how Luke describes the commission of the 72 'missionaries': "After this, the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go" (Luke 10:1).

It is widely believed that the number of nations in the world at that time was 72. Luke was the author with a 'global view', and it may well be that he was thinking of the day when every nation in the world would hear the message. But it is equally noteworthy to mention that Jesus didn't just send the disciples out to "where their hearts were leading" or where "the Spirit prompted", as we so often hear today.

He sent them strategically in order to prepare a way for "where He was about to go". Jesus had the thinking of a strategist. The disciples were not just sent out but were sent out strategically.

We also find in Scripture that Paul was a strategist. In Acts 16:10-12 we find Paul getting ready to leave for Macedonia after concluding that God had called them to preach the Gospel there. From Troas they sailed to Philippi, "a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia".

When Paul chose a place to preach the Gospel, he always did so with the eye of a strategist. He always chose a place that was not only important in itself but which was also a key point of a region, such as Philippi.

Informed Soldiers



Wars today aren't fought with weapons and brute strength alone. Wars are now contested with the gathering, managing, and analyzing of data. Accurate information is necessary to gain a strategic edge and a better understanding of the opponent and is the cornerstone of any successful military campaign.

If we confess that our battle is not against flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12) and that we are involved in this spiritual battle, how then do we equip ourselves to be of service in a 'world at war'?

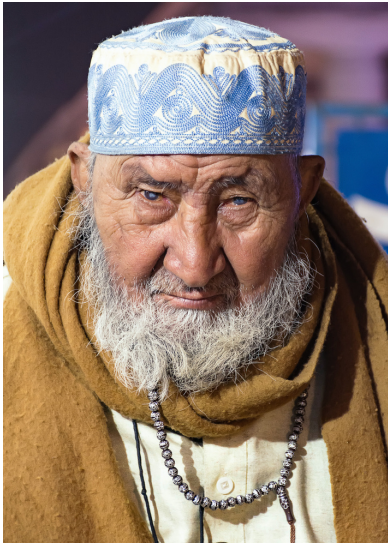
Gideon's actions in Judges 7 demonstrate the importance of having situational awareness, a concept that recurs throughout Scripture.

The Bible makes other mention of the need to 'not be surprised'. Peter said to the church in 1 Peter 4:12: "Dear friends, do not be surprised at the painful trial you are suffering, as though something strange were happening to you." John echoed these words in 1 John 3:13: "Do not be surprised, my brothers, if the world hates you." More than once, Jesus told His disciples to be alert, e.g. Matthew 25:13: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour." Keeping watch will ensure that the journey continues to the end. Being ignorant or uninformed could eventually result in an abandoned venture.

Numbers Tell a Story

2%

**WORKING AMONG THE UNREACHED PEOPLE
GROUPS OF THE WORLD.**



80%

**OF ALL MISSIONARIES TODAY WORK IN 'CHRISTIAN'
REGIONS.**

18%

**WORK IN AREAS WHERE THE GOSPEL HAS
ALREADY BEEN SHARED**



Informed Harvesters



Jesus commanded His disciples to “Behold the harvest” (Matthew 9:37-38)²⁹³. This was not a suggestion or a request – it was an **explicit instruction**. We need to intentionally ‘behold the harvest’ as we travel on the journey of faith. When Jesus told His disciples to pray for the harvest, He commanded them a few verses later to “GO” (Matthew 10:5-6)²⁹⁴. Any prayer spoken without the willingness to be the answer to that prayer is an arrogant prayer. Mature travellers can never pray and stay silent, or cannot see injustice, the lost and the wounded and do nothing about it.

Pray Ponder Discuss

- What are my God-given abilities to contribute in a world of need.
- What things are delaying my full-out participation in Kingdom matters.
(In my work, family, community or in the mission field)?
- Where is the Church failing in the world today, in terms of not doing what it should be doing?