

World Strategy

Jim Downing

I. Introduction.

- A. God has the whole world in His heart.
- B. God's love for the world is not a New Testament truth only. (Genesis 12:3, 22:18)
- C. God selected the Jew to do a work in the whole world. The Jews were to be the human ancestors of Jesus Christ and to evangelize the world.
- D. Evangelism in the Old Testament does not mean that everyone was converted but that mouths were stopped by the Word of God. (Romans 3:19)
- E. Evangelizing the world means that everyone either rejoices because of the gift of salvation or does not because of their impending doom. In the latter sense Christians become an 'odor' of death. (2 Corinthians 2:14-16)

II. Old Testament evangelists.

- A. Noah's evangelization was through the story of the flood.
- B. Abraham was given the responsibility to humanly produce the savior and evangelize the world in every generation.
- C. Moses was given the responsibility to evangelize everyone under the whole heaven as a result of what God would do through Him. (Deuteronomy 2:24, Exodus 9:16)
- D. What God did through Moses functioned to evangelize generations after him as Joshua testified to it. (Joshua 9:9, 10, 4:24)
- E. The events against Goliath happened so that the world would know about the true and living God. (1 Samuel 17:46)
- F. Solomon's intention with the temple was that all the world would know God. All the earth sought Solomon to hear his wisdom. Evangelism was different then because all were to go to Israel, rather than all Israel going out. One of the most famous visitors was the queen of Sheba. (1 Kings 8, 10)
- G. Hezekiah refused to submit to the invader Sennacherib because he trusted in the might of his God over the vanquished nations' gods. Hezekiah had world vision - God promised to defend Jerusalem. The Angel of the Lord wiped out 185,000 of Sennacherib's army. (2 Kings 19:19)
- H. Jeremiah cried out to the whole earth. (Jeremiah 22:19)

I. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to worship another God at the command of Nebuchadnezzar and they were thrown into the fire. They were saved, however, by the Angel of the Lord. (Daniel)

J. Daniel was raised to one of the highest positions of the land as a result of interpreting the dreams of the king and his focus was on the whole earth. He was delivered by God under both Nebuchadnezzar and Darius who put out world-wide decrees. (Daniel)

K. There was a decree sent out by Xerxes that every Jew was to be killed. However, due to Mordecai's intervention another counter decree was sent out that the Jews were to defend themselves. The Jews were vindicated and many people of the land turned to the God of the Jews because the fear of God fell upon them.

III. New Testament strategy.

A. Jesus finished the work the Father gave Him - that the whole world may believe and know. (John 17)

B. The gospel was preached to the whole world. (Colossians 1:6, 22)

C. Christian history also testifies to the spread of the gospel.

1. Tertullian said that Christians had infiltrated every part of the Roman Empire except the heathen temples.

2. John may have not been so emphatic about the Great Commission because it may have already been accomplished.

D. Jesus work was accomplished through the men the Father gave, the Words the Father gave, and the Sending the Father performed.

E. Jesus had an intense training program imparting knowledge, skill and character.

1. This means teaching the student how to do what one is doing and passing on the same motivation that one has.

2. One is to stick with someone long enough to impart the character of Christ. (Galatians 4:19)

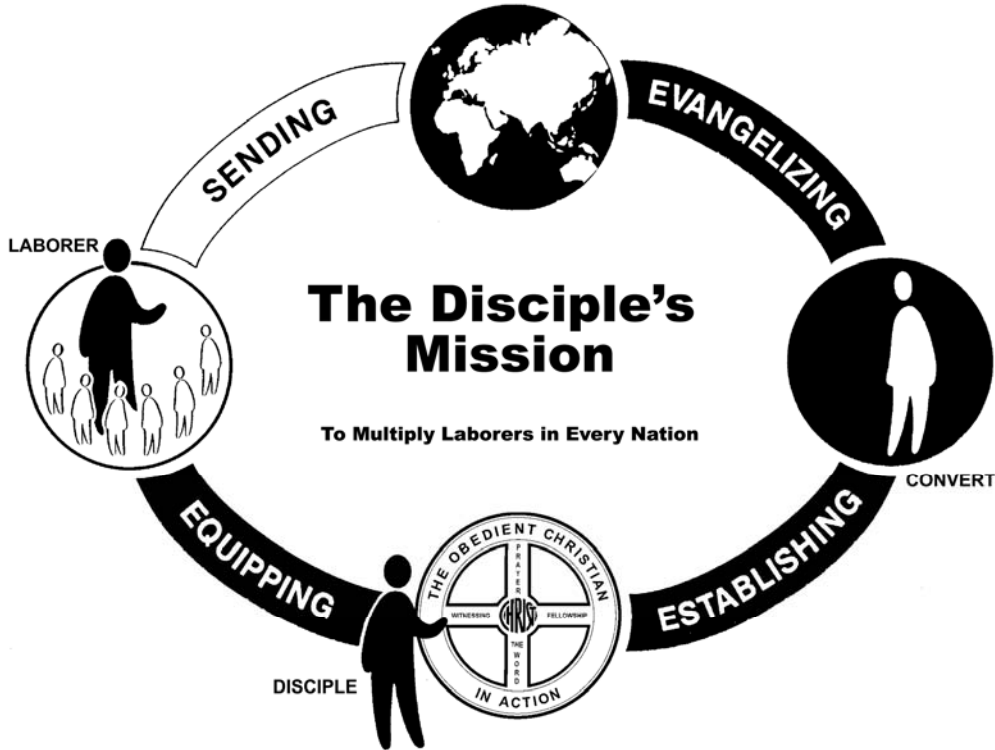
3. Christ knowing when He would die had to choose a plan that would not fail. The problem today is not in Christ's plan but in implementing Christ's plan.

IV. The Navigator strategy.

A. At the center is the Great Commission and some method of multiplication for spiritual reproduction.

B. The strategy is to raise up disciples like Christ did.

C. The Navigators have variously divided the world for evangelism in terms of nations, amount of people, ethnicity, efficiency to be reached, and ability to produce reproducers.



Application questions.

1. What outstanding example of discipleship stood out to you from the Old Testament examples? How does this show similarity with the New Testament concept of discipleship?

2. What seems to be the main thread that is moving through the speaker's concept of discipleship? Do you agree? Who is the initiator in this process?

3. What are some of the different ways that God used these people to evangelize? How can God use you where you are at to make an impact for Christ?
