

# A Biblical Basis For Strategic Planning

- 1A. What is *Strategic Planning*?
  - 1B. Definition: *Strategic Planning* is the intentional design for accomplishing the organization's mission and goals.
  - 2B. Strategic Planning is the process of determining . . .
    - 1C. What your organization intends to accomplish
    - 2C. How you will direct the organization and its resources toward accomplishing these goals
  - 3B. More specifically: *It is a decision-making / planning process, that involves . . .*
    - 1C. Clarifying and bringing focus to an organization's mission and vision for the future
    - 2C. Analyzing the present situation in light of the mission and vision
    - 3C. Setting organizational goals to accomplish the mission and realize the vision
    - 4C. Developing a clear, prioritized strategy for achieving those goals
- 2A. When can / should *Strategic Planning* be used?
  - 1B. In any organization - at any level
  - 2B. In a church
  - 3B. In a business
  - 4B. In a family
  - 5B. In your personal life
  - 6B. In any situation requiring decisions and planning

- 3A. Is there a biblical basis for ***Strategic Planning***?
- 1B. Scripture indicates that planning is consistent with God's character
- 1C. An oracle against Sennacharib, king of Assyria:  
*(2 Ki 19:25) "Have you not heard? Long ago I ordained it. In days of old I planned it; now I have brought it to pass, that you have turned fortified cities into piles of stone.*
- 2C. A warning to nations who reject God:  
*(Ps 33:10-11) The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations.*
- 3C. An exhortation to plan wisely:  
*(Pr 19:20) Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails.*
- 4C. A prophecy against Assyria:  
*(Is 14:24) The LORD Almighty has sworn, "Surely, as I have planned, so it will be, and as I have purposed, so it will stand.*
- 5C. A praise of the Lord's faithfulness:  
*(Is 25:1) O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you and praise your name, for in perfect faithfulness you have done marvelous things, things planned long ago.*
- 6C. A warning of judgment against Judah:  
*(Je 18:11) "Now therefore say to the people of Judah and those living in Jerusalem, 'This is what the LORD says: Look! I am preparing a disaster for you and devising a plan against you. So turn from your evil ways, each one of you, and reform your ways and your actions.'*
- 7C. A promise of restoration after the Babylonian Captivity  
*(Je 29:11) For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*
- 8C. A rehearsal of the events leading to Christ's execution:  
*(Ac 2:23) This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross.*
- 9C. An explanation of the believer's position in Christ:  
*(Eph 1:11) In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will,*
- 10C. The outworking of God's program through dispensations indicates planning

- 11C. The entire Creation gives evidence of planning
- 2B. Scripture indicates that God’s servants planned
- 1C. Joseph: Advising preparation for the coming famine
- 2C. Moses: Sending the spies into Canaan
- 3C. Joshua: Developing a military strategy
- 4C. Nehemiah: Rebuilding Jerusalem
- 5C. David: Establishing his kingdom
- 6C. Solomon: Building the temple and his palace
- 7C. Jesus: Forming, preparing and sending out his ministry team
- 8C. Paul: Reaching the Gentiles with the Gospel
- 3B. Scripture encourages and teaches planning
- 1C. Proverbs
- (Pr 15:22) Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*
- (Pr 16:3) Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*
- (Pr 16:9) In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.*
- (Pr 20:18) Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.*
- (Pr 21:5) The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.*
- 2C. Jesus’s illustration concerning the cost of being a disciple
- (Lk 14:28-32) “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ “Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Will he not first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace.*

4A. How can we keep ***Strategic Planning*** biblical and spiritual?

1B. We should submit ourselves to God

*(Ro 12:1-2) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

*(Pr 16:3) Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.*

2B. We should seek wise and godly counsel

*(Pr 15:22) Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

*(Pr 20:18) Make plans by seeking advice; if you wage war, obtain guidance.*

3B. We should pray for wisdom

*(Jas 1:5) If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him.*

4B. We should plan with humility

*(Jas 4:13-15) Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."*