

## Spiritual Mapping from the Montana School of Prayer

Ezekiel 4:1-2 "Now, son of man, take a clay tablet, put it in front of you and draw the city of Jerusalem upon it. Then lay siege to it; Erect siege works against it, build a ramp up to it, set up camps against it and put battering rams around it."

A map is simply a representation of elements laid out and recorded in a manner that relationship and location may be clearly seen.

Spiritual mapping records the physical impact upon our world of what has happened and is happening in the heavenly realm.

Spiritual mapping helps us to discover and record what is going on in the spiritual realm of your city and community.

The ultimate goal of spiritual mapping is more effective evangelism. It is a tool for intercessors to help them understand the spiritual climate of an area so they know how to pray, and thus advance the kingdom of God in their area. Spiritual mapping is not an end unto itself. It is not the goal. The salvation of the lost and the glory of the Lord are the goals.

Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

Spiritual mapping helps us target our prayers accurately. It is a military strategy.

II Corinthians 2:11 "Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his schemes."

Spiritual mapping helps us to uncover the enemy's strategy. It helps us to strategically invade and permeate the community with spiritual light.

Joshua 1:3 "Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses." (NIV: "I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.")

Intercession is the means by which we cooperate with the Father to bring change into space and time. Prayer is the strongest weapon of spiritual warfare. By praying with accurate information, you can evaluate the progress of your prayers.

Romans 8:26 "Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

Mapping gives us a greater capacity for accuracy. The first step is always to find out the will of the Lord. What is HIS agenda for the community? Have a way to evaluate progress, to see if the powers of darkness are losing hold. This may keep you from moving prematurely to another goal.

- 1) Seek the Lord for HIS agenda.
- 2) Seek to uncover and understand an area's spiritual strongholds.
- 3) Seek the heart and will of God for the community.

Spiritual mapping is a means by which the Spirit can reveal hidden things. The mapping records what is revealed.

Spiritual mapping helps to discover what is going on in the secret and hidden places.

Jeremiah 33:3 (NKJV) "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." (NLT : "Ask Me and I will tell you some remarkable secrets about what is going to happen here.")

II Corinthians 4:18 (NKJV) "While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Deuteronomy 29:29 (NKJV) "The secret things belong to the Lord our God; but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of His law."

Look with spiritual vision to see spiritual forces which are at work behind the scenes.  
Ask:

- 1) What is going on in the community.
- 2) How did things get this way?
- 3) What can be done for the community as it is?

Only by mapping the history of a city or area can we understand the origins of its strongholds. In the process, we usually uncover and understand the problems and history. The heart and will of God for that city will usually emerge.

Mapping will help to uncover what strongholds keep a community in bondage.

Demonic strongholds bring results contrary to God's will, or hinder God's purposes until they are uncovered.

When brought to light, a stronghold may be demolished. Not brought to light, it is very difficult to change, because it is hidden.

Sociology seeks to change men by changing institutions. Jesus taught us to change institutions by changing men. Spiritual mapping helps us to discover the hidden strongholds that blind the hearts of men from receiving the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The proof of effective spiritual warfare is whether or not people are coming to the Lord.

You cannot remove powers from over a city without affecting things economically, socially, and politically.

Authority is never really lost or removed; it must be transferred.

Spiritual mapping helps us to understand what has allowed Satan to have authority - to gain a foothold - and thereby how to "reverse the curse."

God gives discernment and revelation so some action can be taken. That action may be, and usually includes, prayer. Discernment and revelation given through spiritual mapping help prayers to be specific and strategic.

In spiritual mapping, we search for spiritual violations and strongholds in:

- 1) historical facts
- 2) demographic facts
- 3) geographical facts

Many times these discoveries will reveal a stronghold which can be broken through identificational repentance. (See the definition of Identificational repentance in the glossary. For a Biblical example of

Identificational repentance, read Daniel 9).

Nehemiah 1:6 "Let Your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer your servant is praying before You day and night for Your servants, the people of Israel. I CONFESS the sins WE Israelites, including myself and my father's house, have committed against You."

George Otis Jr. points out that major changes happen for community transformation when God's people come to a point of desperation and they decide they will not tolerate the bondage any more.

Strategic places for prayer and prayer walking:

- 1) Schools, places of business, and work places
- 2) Sites called of God for His purposes, to be consecrated to Him
- 3) Elevated places (I Kings 18:42 "So Ahab went up to eat and drink. And Elijah went UP to the TOP of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees.")
- 4) Sites of present or historical tragedies and sins.
- 5) Sites with cursed or demonic names
- 6) Sites of current sins and corruption
- 7) Sites of demonic strongholds (Acts 26:18 "To open their eyes, in order to turn them away from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.")
- 8) Gates of the city - places of commerce, transactions, government, judgements. (Proverbs 1:20-21 NIV: "Wisdom calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares; at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech.")
- 9) High places - places of worship. Places of continued worship of anything other than God. These must be removed. (II Kings 18:4-5 - speaking of Hezekiah - "He removed the high places and broke the sacred pillars, cut down the wooden image and broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made; for until those days the children of Israel burned incense to it, and called it Nehushtan. He trusted in the LORD God of Israel, so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor who were before him")

#### GLOSSARY:

**Spiritual Mapping:** A map of what our physical city or area looks like from a spiritual perspective, including the physical exhibits of spiritual effects.

**Stronghold:** A belief that is held and believed to be true, even though it is contrary to the Word of God. It is a fortified place that Satan has been allowed in order to establish himself against the plans and purposes of God. A stronghold may also refer to physical places or effects which are a product of the root cause, the stronghold of wrong belief and action. It will therefore bring results contrary to God's will, or hinder God's purposes until it is uncovered. When brought to light, a stronghold may be demolished, but it is very difficult to change otherwise, because it is hidden.

Identificational Repentance: Individual or corporate confession and repentance for sins of the past, which may have become strongholds or entitlement to the kingdom of darkness to act with authority. Through identificational repentance and subsequent forgiveness of sins, the authority to act is revoked from the enemy and the kingdom of God is allowed to expand.

Prayer walking: "Christians coming out of the closet and praying on site with insight." Taking prayer to the streets and out to the localities, the neighborhoods, the gates, the high places, anywhere the Lord leads us to "place the sole of our feet."

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Recommended reading: "Breaking Strongholds in Your City" by C. Peter Wagner Regal books, published 1993

The Director of Research and Reconciliation for The Montana School of Prayer, Linda Schwabauer, has compiled a comprehensive book which maps the entire state of Montana. It is available for a minimal charge through our office.