MISSION FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT TO THE 21ST CENTURY
Some Hindsight on Mission as we Know it Today

APSTOLIC
ACTS 1:8, 30-100 AD
Mission meant calling Jews and Gentiles to come together in the kingdom of the risen Messiah.

STRENGTHS
Unity, boldness, spiritual power, focus on resurrection

WEAKNESSES
Jewish traditions and Gentile immunity both die hard

MEDIEVAL
CATHOLIC
LK. 14:23, 600-1500 AD
Mission meant calling people to enter the institution of the Church.

STRENGTHS
Attempt to create a Christian society and to require kings to act like followers of Jesus while monks serve as model servants.

WEAKNESSES
Politicize its mission and rationalize violence with a focus on other-worldly salvation.

REFORMATION
PROTESTANT
JN. 3.16, 1500-1800 AD
Mission meant calling people to center their lives on the Bible, being justified by personal faith.

STRENGTHS
Rediscovery of God as a gracious God, with emphasis on the Bible as central in Christian life

WEAKNESSES
Church unity lost with little emphasis on taking the gospel to non-Christian areas

CHART YOUR COURSE TODAY
Our predecessors in mission had their time to live, their world to win, their price to pay. We have ours.

Looking back at these ways of doing mission, what do you see that will help you face your current challenges better?

Read the six mission scripture texts devotionally, applying each to your own way of doing mission.

For serious study of these eras of mission, read David Bosch’s Transforming Mission or Stan Nussbaum’s companion work, A Reader’s Guide to Transforming Mission, including diagrams, tables, and reflection questions.

Sources listed at www.missiographics.com/mission-eras

© 2016 A Reader’s Guide to Transforming Mission
A concise, accessible companion to David Bosch’s Transforming Mission
www.gmi.org/products/books/a-readers-guide-to-transforming-mission/

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A Reader’s Guide to Transforming Mission