

# Strategic Investigation and Intelligence Gathering Inherent in Contemporary Security Practices: Unveiling Strategic Investigation from the Biblical Narrative of Moses Sending Spies to the Promised Land

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## Abstract

Despite various efforts, contemporary Nigeria faces persistent security challenges due to ineffective intelligence gathering and risk assessment. Current security practices often overlook historical and ethical dimensions crucial for comprehensive security strategies. This paper addresses this gap by examining the biblical narrative of Moses sending investigators to the Promised Land. The objective of the study is to derive practical lessons that enhance modern intelligence and security frameworks, thereby offering a holistic approach to mitigating contemporary security issues in Nigeria. Employing a comparative methodology, this study examines Moses' espionage mission, unveiling critical insights for intelligence and security studies in contemporary Nigerian society. Drawing from biblical accounts in the book of Numbers chapters 13 and 14, the study explores strategic investigation, intelligence gathering, risk assessment, leadership, and ethical considerations inherent in contemporary investigative and security practices. Through conceptual clarification and biblical exegesis, the narrative is dissected to reveal practical lessons applicable to modern intelligence and security frameworks. Insights gleaned from the narrative shed light on strategic planning, risk assessment, courage, leadership, and ethical conduct, offering a structured framework for analysing historical precedents in intelligence and security studies. By synthesising biblical wisdom with contemporary security practices, this paper contributes to the ongoing discourse on integrating diverse sources of knowledge into intelligence and security scholarship.

**Keywords:** Strategic investigation, Intelligence, Security studies, Biblical narrative, Promised Land

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## 1.0 Introduction

The story of Moses sending spies to scout the Promised Land provides timeless wisdom applicable to contemporary fields such as intelligence and security studies. The field of intelligence and security studies is pivotal in maintaining national and organisational safety. Intelligence gathering encompasses the systematic

collection, analysis, and application of information to preempt and mitigate threats. This paper delves into the lessons derived from historical and contemporary incidents, such as the biblical espionage mission led by Moses and the coordinated attack on Kuje prison, near the Nigerian capital of Abuja on July 5, 2022 to illustrate the

enduring principles and challenges in intelligence operations.

By examining these cases, and integrating insights from recent scholarly works, the paper aims to elucidate the critical role of effective intelligence gathering, risk assessment, and strategic decision-making in enhancing security measures. The exploration of these themes stresses the necessity for resilience, discernment, and proactive policy implementation in addressing security threats. Through comparative analysis of Moses' espionage mission to the Promised Land and current intelligence gathering inherent in contemporary security practices to mitigate security challenges in Nigeria, this paper seeks to contribute to the ongoing discourse on best practices and ethical considerations in the field of intelligence and security studies.

### **Conceptual Clarification**

To lay the groundwork for this study, it is essential to define and clarify the key concepts of intelligence gathering, security and investigation. These terms form the backbone of the research and are critical for understanding the broader context and implications of the study. In recent scholarship, the intersection of security and intelligence studies has garnered considerable attention, reflecting the evolving complexities of global threats and the imperative for sophisticated responses.

#### **a. Defining the Concept of Intelligence:**

According to Bodunde (2017), the definition of intelligence is very difficult to address because of the various perceptions of the scholars about the subject. However, Lowenthal and Clark (2023) opine that intelligence is defined as the systematic process of collecting, analysing, and disseminating information to support decision-making and strategic planning in national security. Intelligence encompasses both the methodologies employed to gather data and the interpretative analyses derived from that data, aiming to provide accurate, timely, and actionable insights to policymakers and security agencies. Intelligence involves the integration of advanced technologies, rigorous analytical techniques and ethical considerations to address dynamic security challenges effectively. In the opinion of Thomas (2024), intelligence is defined as strategic process of gathering, processing, and evaluating information to make informed decisions in national and international security contexts. The emphasis is on integrating technological

advancements with traditional methods to address evolving threat.

To further elaborate, Lowenthal (2024) accentuates that intelligence involves the systematic collection and analysis of information to support policy and operational decisions. It serves as a foundation for strategic planning and crisis management, enabling governments to respond effectively to emerging threats. These definitions of intelligence provided by Lowenthal; (2023), Lowenthal (2024) and Thomas (2024), do not appear to be antithetical to one another. Therefore, looking at their submissions, one can argue that the engine room of every aspect of a nation's life is intelligence. Intelligence in security studies is crucial for the proactive management of threats and the protection of national interests.

Similarly, Gill and Phythian (2023) highlight the role of intelligence in understanding the capabilities, intentions, and activities of adversaries, thus enhancing national security. Gill and Phythian (2023) further stress that intelligence is a multifaceted discipline encompassing the collection, analysis, and dissemination of information critical for decision-making. Gill and Phythian emphasise the importance of both human and technological means in the effective gathering and interpretation of intelligence data. Furthermore, they highlight the ethical and strategic considerations that underpin intelligence practices in contemporary security environments.

Clark (2024) postulates that advancements in technology have significantly impacted intelligence practices. The integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and big data analytics has revolutionised the way intelligence is collected, processed, and utilised. These technologies enable the handling of vast amounts of data and provide sophisticated analytical tools to identify patterns and predict potential threats.

Jackson (2023) avers that the controversies surrounding extraordinary rendition, enhanced interrogation techniques, and mass surveillance have sparked unprecedented ethical concerns regarding the role of intelligence in democratic states. The resulting public debate, marked by opposing perspectives, has gained significant prominence. Conversely, another view posits that this unethical nature undermines the legitimacy and security of democratic states, rendering it unacceptable. This complexity is heightened by the

increasingly transparent environment in which secret intelligence activities occur, alongside policymakers' public assertions on the crucial role of intelligence in national and international security. The reliance on intelligence reflects a pattern where crises prompt reactionary policies, with governments reverting to covert measures to protect national security. This approach dates back to the circumstances under which professional intelligence communities emerged, particularly during the early cold war era, overshadowed by the fear of nuclear annihilation (Jackson, 2023). The cold war effectively transformed into a 'spy war' between US and Soviet intelligence agencies and their allies, leading to the use of extreme measures and covert actions in defense of opposing political ideals. This period granted intelligence agencies considerable freedom and power.

Mitchell (2023) articulates that as the cold war progressed, concerns over intelligence agencies' conduct emerged, particularly controversies surrounding covert activities abroad and domestic surveillance. This led to an era of inquiries questioning whether and how intelligence services represented the values of the states they protected. Limited oversight mechanisms were subsequently developed. In the post-cold war period, the emphasis on intelligence diminished as budgets were reduced and focus shifted to the 'peace dividend.' However, this focus was shattered by the 9/11 attacks and the ensuing global war on terror. Continuous and deadly terrorist attacks across western liberal democracies made extraordinary rendition and the use of enhanced interrogation techniques seemingly acceptable responses.

#### **b. Understanding the Concept of Security**

Security involves the protection against danger, loss, and criminal activities, aiming to safeguard individuals, property, and organisations from attacks. Sutherland (2022) defines security as a comprehensive condition where citizens live in freedom, peace, and safety, fully engage in governance, enjoy fundamental rights, access essential resources, and reside in a healthy environment. This broad definition underscores the importance of security in ensuring the well-being and participation of individuals in society.

In the realm of national security, it refers to the protection and defense of a nation-state, including its citizens, economy, and institutions, which is a

fundamental governmental duty. Traditionally focused on military threats, national security now also addresses non-military dimensions such as terrorism, crime, economic stability, energy, environmental concerns, food security, and cybersecurity. National security risks include actions by other states, violent non-state actors, narcotic cartels, multinational corporations, and natural disasters. Thus, national security measures aim to protect the state and its citizens from both internal and external threats, ensuring the overall stability and safety of the nation.

Afolabi (2015) elucidates that security is a complex issue that conveys different meanings to scholars, analysts and policy makers and various organisations across the world because security has to do with the presence of peace, safety, gladness and the protection of human and physical resources or absence of crises or threats to human dignity, all of which facilitate development and progress of any human society. Williams (2021) submits that security is a state of being free from danger or threats, encompassing measures taken to protect a country, organisation, or individuals from external and internal threats. This includes the prevention of espionage, terrorism, insurgency, cyber threats and other malicious atrocities that can compromise safety and stability. Security within intelligence studies encompasses various dimensions, including military, economic, cyber, and environmental aspects.

#### **c. Explaining the Concept of Investigation in Intelligence and Security Studies**

Investigation as a concept encompasses a systematic and ethical approach to uncovering facts and solving problems. Investigation is a systematic and methodical process of inquiry aimed at discovering facts, establishing evidence, and solving problems or answering questions. It is widely applied across various fields, including law enforcement, intelligence, academia, and corporate environments (Wells and Hendershot, 2023). To further elucidate, Wells and Hendershot (2023) emphasise the critical role of thorough investigation in intelligence and security practices, highlighting the importance of systematic data collection, meticulous analysis, and the integration of both human and technological resources to ensure comprehensive and accurate findings.

## 2.0 Key Elements of Investigation:

- i. **Systematic Approach:** Investigations are conducted in a structured manner, adhering to established methodologies to ensure thoroughness and accuracy. This involves steps such as defining the problem, gathering data, analysing evidence, and drawing conclusions. According to Wells and Hendershot (2023), a systematic approach helps in maintaining objectivity and minimising biases during the investigation process.
- ii. **Evidence Gathering:** Central to any investigation is the collection of evidence. This includes physical evidence, documents, digital data, witness statements, and other relevant materials. The reliability and admissibility of evidence are crucial for the credibility of the investigation. As noted by Fisher and Fisher (2023), advances in forensic science and digital forensics have enhanced the capabilities of investigators in collecting and analysing evidence.
- iii. **Analysis and Interpretation:** Once evidence is gathered, it must be analysed and interpreted to draw meaningful conclusions. This often involves comparing findings with known facts, identifying patterns, and reconstructing events. The use of analytical tools and techniques, such as data analytics and AI, is increasingly prevalent in modern investigations. According to Smith *et al.* (2023), data analytics can uncover hidden patterns and connections that are not immediately obvious.
- iv. **Reporting and Documentation:** The final phase of an investigation involves documenting the findings and reporting them to relevant stakeholders. This includes preparing detailed reports that outline the methodology, evidence, analysis, and conclusions. Proper documentation ensures transparency and accountability. As highlighted by Sutherland (2022), clear and concise reporting is essential for effective communication of investigation outcomes.

### Biblical Exegesis of Numbers Chapters 13 to 14:

The book of Numbers 13 and 14 which describes the instruction of God to Moses to send men to explore the land of Canaan has direct link with intelligence gathering in security studies. This narrative holds significant theological and historical implications within the context of the Old Testament. Here is a

detailed biblical exegesis of this passage with references to some authors and scholarly sources (Clarke, 2022).

In context and setting, Clarke (2022) opines that the book of Numbers is part of the Pentateuch, traditionally attributed to Moses. Numbers 13 falls within the narrative of Israel's journey from Mount Sinai to the borders of the Promised Land. At this juncture, Israel is camped at Kadesh Barnea, on the cusp of entering Canaan. In Numbers 13:1-2, the Lord said to Moses, 'Send some men to explore the land of Canaan, which I am giving to the Israelites. From each ancestral tribe send one of its leaders. This command is significant as it demonstrates God's intention to fulfil the promise made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob about giving their descendants the land of Canaan (Genesis 17:8). According to Harrison (1990), this investigative mission was not merely a reconnaissance task but a test of faith for the Israelites. Moses selected twelve men, one from each tribe, ensuring that all tribes had a stake in the report and subsequent actions. The phrase "everyone a ruler among them" indicates that these were prominent leaders, as noted by Wenham (2021).

According to Biblical narrative in Numbers 13 verse 21, Wenham (2021) argues that the exploration of the land to get the facts started with deployment of twelve spies. The Israelites went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. The spies (intelligence officers) traveled approximately 250 miles each way, covering the breadth of Canaan. This extensive journey underscored the land's diversity and potential. Milgrom (2022) accentuates that the journey from the Negev (south) to Rehob (north) was strategically significant, encompassing both arid and fertile regions, thus providing a comprehensive intelligence gathering on the land's suitability. Hoffmeier (2021) posits that the intelligence gathering about the land covered a period of forty days which is symbolically significant in biblical literature, often representing a period of testing or judgment (e.g., the forty years in the wilderness, forty days of rain during the flood).

Noth (2020) pointedly asserts that this period allowed the spies to observe the agricultural cycles and the people living in Canaan, thereby providing a thorough report. The theological implication is that the exploration of Canaan by the twelve spies is

a pivotal moment that highlights themes of faith, obedience, and the challenges of transition from promise to possession. The subsequent report and the Israelites' reaction Numbers 13:26-33 set the stage for the events that lead to the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, as detailed by Hoffmeier (2021).

### **3.0 Unveiling the Lessons from the Espionage of Moses in Numbers 13 to 14**

Strategic investigation has long been a critical component of leadership and decision-making, and its roots can be traced back to ancient narratives such as the biblical account of Moses sending spies into the Promised Land (Harrison, 2023). Contemporary scholarship explores the enduring relevance of these ancient strategies, examining their application in modern contexts such as security, intelligence, leadership, and ethics.

In security and intelligence studies, recent studies highlight the parallels between the strategic reconnaissance conducted by Moses and modern intelligence operations. Harrison (1990) draws direct comparisons, suggesting that the practice of sending spies to gather crucial information before making strategic decisions is foundational to contemporary reconnaissance missions. This approach underlines the importance of acquiring accurate, on-the-ground intelligence to inform high-stakes decision-making processes. Similarly, Clarke (2022) asserts that biblical narratives like this one provide essential principles for modern intelligence operations. By analysing these ancient texts, contemporary scholars can derive timeless lessons about risk assessment and mitigation, which are still highly relevant in today's security landscape.

Looking at Moses' leadership and decision-making with regards to security and intelligence studies, the strategic actions of Moses have been scrutinised within the framework of modern leadership theories. Smith (2023) discusses how Moses' decision to delegate the task of spying to trusted individuals exemplifies effective leadership. This delegation not only empowered his subordinates but also fostered a culture of trust and accountability. Such practices are crucial for modern leaders who operate in complex and often uncertain environments. Turner (2024) builds on this idea, emphasising that strategic delegation and trust are vital components of successful leadership. By examining the biblical narrative, Turner argues that

contemporary leaders can learn valuable lessons about navigating uncertainty and making informed decisions.

Within the realm of intelligence studies, comparative studies have been instrumental in bridging ancient strategies with modern practices. Davis (2023) provides a comprehensive comparative analysis, highlighting the similarities and differences between the strategic investigations conducted by Moses and those in contemporary settings. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the principles that have stood the test of time. By comparing these ancient strategies with modern intelligence practices, Davis (2023:19) identifies enduring principles that continue to inform strategic investigations across different eras and cultures.

The biblical narrative of Moses sending spies to the Promised Land offers a rich source of insights for contemporary discussions on strategic investigations. The study demonstrates the enduring relevance of these ancient strategies, emphasising their applicability to modern contexts such as security, leadership, ethics, and comparative analysis (Davis, 2023). From the authors' standpoints, it is believed that by examining these timeless principles, scholars and practitioners can enhance their understanding of strategic investigations and improve their decision-making processes. The espionage mission led by Moses, as delineated in the biblical narrative of Numbers 13-14, provides insights for contemporary intelligence and security studies. This ancient account, in which Moses dispatched twelve spies to survey the Promised Land, can be scrutinised through the framework of modern intelligence principles, yielding significant insights into leadership, decision-making, and the influence of intelligence on national security. From the authors' standpoints, the following lessons are drawn from Moses' espionage mission:

**Strategic Planning and Intelligence Gathering:** Moses' decision to send twelve spies to scout the Promised Land demonstrates the importance of strategic planning and intelligence gathering in investigative and security contexts (Numbers 13:1-2). Smith (2023) argues that just as the spies were tasked with collection of information about the land and its inhabitants, modern security practitioners must engage in meticulous planning and

intelligence gathering to inform decision-making processes.

Johnson and Brown (2020) accentuate that Moses' deployment of twelve spies to the Promised Land aimed to gather comprehensive intelligence on the inhabitants, including the fertility of the soil, economic value of the land, the prevailing ideologies, the military strength and potential vulnerabilities, threats and risks. Also, the infrastructures such as the number of roads to determine the optimal strategy for a potential invasion were intelligently covered. To establish Moses' espionage mission, Miller (2020) asserts that initiating military action against another country without prior intelligence gathering is perilous, as it results in a critical lack of knowledge regarding the adversary's military capabilities.

**Risk Assessment and Decision-Making:** Betts (2015) opines that in intelligence and security studies, risk assessment refers to the systematic process of identifying, evaluating, and prioritising potential threats and vulnerabilities that may impact national security or organisational objectives. Based on insights gleaned from Betts (2015), Heuer (2019) asserts that when the twelve investigators returned from their espionage mission, they presented a comprehensive report detailing the opportunities, vulnerabilities, threats and risks present in the land (Numbers 13:25-29).

This corroborates the assertion by Lee and Kim (2021) regarding the critical importance of risk assessment in intelligence and security studies. Understanding vulnerabilities and potential hazards is essential for effective decision-making. According to Jones *et al* (2019), risk assessment is integral to security studies as they guide decision-making and enable security officers or investigative professionals to effectively execute their assignments which can enhance their operational efficiency.

**Courage and Resilience:** While the majority of the spies expressed fear and doubt, Joshua and Caleb demonstrated courage and faith in God's promise (Numbers 13:30; Numbers 14:6-9). Brown and Martinez (2017) articulate that the position and military morale of Joshua and Caleb depict the importance of courage and resilience in investigative and security endeavours, as overcoming obstacles and adversity requires steadfast determination. In intelligence and security

studies. Courage together with determination is a multifaceted concept that plays a critical role in both operational and analytical contexts (Jackson, 2023). Recent scholarly contributions have scrutinised the pivotal roles of courage and resilience requisite in the domain of intelligence gathering. Smith and Jones (2023) assert the indispensability of these attributes among intelligence professionals, advocating for their capacity to control intricate and often hazardous scenarios while persevering amidst adversity. They underscore the imperative of maintaining psychological fortitude and adaptability in response to evolving threats and challenges, whilst also emphasising the ethical dimensions of courage, stressing the adherence to moral imperatives in the execution of intelligence duties.

Expanding upon this discourse, Patel *et al* (2024) delve into the symbiotic relationship between courage and resilience within the milieu of intelligence operations in high-risk environments. Propounding a structured framework for fostering these attributes, Patel *et al* (2024) delineate the necessity of comprehensive training regimens and mentorship programmes. They accentuate the pivotal role of leadership in cultivating a culture entrenched in courage and resilience within intelligence agencies, thereby bolstering psychological well-being and facilitating efficacious decision-making among operatives. By addressing the psychological and emotional exigencies inherent in intelligence work, Patel *et al*. (2024) advocate for a holistic approach geared towards augmenting performance and ameliorating the inherent stressors entailed in the profession.

Operationally, Johnson (2018) articulates that courage is essential for field agents who often undertake high-risk missions in hostile environments, necessitating not only physical bravery but also the moral fortitude to make swift, decisive actions under pressure. Analytically, courage is equally important for intelligence analysts who must present unbiased assessments, sometimes challenging prevailing assumptions or confronting political pressures. This intellectual bravery is crucial for ensuring that intelligence products remain accurate, relevant, and free from distortion. Ultimately, courage in intelligence and security studies underpins the integrity and effectiveness of both the collection and interpretation of critical information (Miller, 2020).

In the espionage mission led by Moses to scout the Promised Land, courage manifested in the spies' willingness to undertake perilous reconnaissance activities in unfamiliar terrain. Their resilience became apparent as they encountered and overcame various obstacles throughout their expedition, demonstrating perseverance and determination in the face of adversity. These attributes were instrumental in facilitating the collection of vital intelligence essential for the success of their mission and the eventual realisation of their objectives.

**Leadership and Accountability:** As the leader, Moses bore ultimate responsibility for the outcome of the espionage mission (Numbers 14:11-20). Jackson (2023) emphasises the role of leadership and accountability in investigative and security operations. Jackson argues further that leaders must prioritise the welfare of their team members and uphold ethical standards. Smith and Jones (2023) corroborate the assertion of Jackson (2023) that as the leader, Moses was ultimately responsible for the outcome of the espionage mission.

Despite the negative report from the majority of the spies, Moses interceded on behalf of the people and sought God's mercy (Numbers 14:11-20). This stresses the importance of leadership and accountability in intelligence and security operations. Leaders must take ownership of decisions, prioritise the welfare of those under their care, and uphold moral integrity. Lee and Kim (2021) postulate that to effectively combat insecurity, political leaders, service chiefs, security experts, and policymakers must be proactive and diligent in ensuring the safety of citizens and the protection of their property. This requires a comprehensive approach that integrates intelligence, strategic planning, and responsive measures to address potential threats and enhance public security.

**Consequences of Unbelief and Disobedience:** Due to the Israelites' lack of faith and disobedience, they were denied entry into the Promised Land, facing consequences for their actions (Numbers 14:20-23). This serves as a cautionary tale about the repercussions of unbelief and disobedience in investigation and security contexts. Peterson (2023) articulates that neglecting to heed intelligence, ignoring warning signs, or failing to adhere to ethical standards can lead to detrimental outcomes and compromise mission success.

Posner (2020) avers that the repercussions of ignoring early warnings can be severe. Neglecting and disregarding early warning signals in intelligence and security studies can have profound and detrimental consequences for a nation. Early warning systems are designed to detect and communicate potential threats before they materialise, thereby enabling preemptive measures to mitigate risks. Disobeying or ignoring early warnings can result in catastrophic security breaches. Posner (2020) stresses how the failure to heed intelligence warnings prior to the 9/11 attacks led to significant loss of lives and had a lasting impact on national security policies.

Adedapo (2022) corroborates the assertion of Posner (2020) and argues that the Kuje prison break on July 5, 2022, demonstrated significant failures in intelligence gathering and response, despite prior indications of potential threats. Various reports indicate that actionable intelligence regarding the risk of an attack on the Kuje correctional facility was available but not adequately acted upon. Adedapo (2022) explains that the former Department of State Services (DSS) Director, Mike Ejiofor submitted that adequate intelligence had been disseminated to relevant agencies prior to the Kuje prison attack. This intelligence included specific warnings regarding planned violent activities targeting government infrastructure, including Kuje prison. However, these warnings were not effectively acted upon, culminating in a catastrophic security breach.

Adedapo (2022) surmises that the failure to implement preemptive measures based on available intelligence, stresses significant lapses in the responsiveness of the security apparatus. Military officials assert that despite having communicated concerns and recommendations to enhance the prison's security, critical vulnerabilities persisted. These included inadequate lighting, low fencing, and the absence of CCTV surveillance.

The rotation of troops on the day of the attack further compromised the facility's defences. These unresolved security flaws significantly contributed to the success of the breach, highlighting the need for robust and timely implementation of security measures (Adedapo, 2022). In view of this, Ahmad and Zhang (2023) suggest that reliance on human intelligence alone is insufficient to combat insecurity. Utilising technology in intelligence

gathering is essential to effectively address security threats.

**Overcoming Fear and Doubt:** The biblical account of Joshua and Caleb's advocacy for courage in Numbers 13:30 and 14:6-9, despite the majority's fear and doubt, and also offers significant insights for intelligence and security studies. This episode emphasises the necessity of overcoming fear and maintaining confidence, resilience, and trust in one's abilities to effectively address security challenges as a nation. As noted by Alexander and Klein (2020), resilience is essential for security professionals, enabling them to adapt to and overcome adversities. Smith (2019) also opines to buttress the arguments of Alexander and Klein (2020) that confidence in intelligence operations is critical for informed decision-making and successful mission outcomes.

**Discernment and Wisdom:** Johnson and Wright (2023) argue that investigation often requires discernment and wisdom to distinguish truth from falsehood. The narrative of Joshua and Caleb demonstrates the critical importance of discernment and wisdom in intelligence and security contexts. Despite overwhelming opposition, Joshua and Caleb's insights and faith in their espionage mission enabled them to advocate for a successful strategy (Numbers 13:30; Numbers 14:6-9). Yarger (2006), while explaining the strength of discernment and the use of wisdom in intelligence and security studies asserts that effective intelligence operations require the ability to accurately assess situations and make prudent decisions. Moreover, wisdom (intelligence gathering) is essential for maneuvering complex security environments and ensuring strategic success.

#### 4.0 Conclusion and Recommendations

By drawing parallels between Moses sending spies to the Promised Land and principles relevant to intelligence and security studies, we can glean valuable insights into strategic planning, intelligence gathering, risk assessment, courage, accountability, and faith. Integrating these lessons into practice can enhance the effectiveness, integrity, and ethical conduct of investigative and security efforts. The study of Moses' espionage mission to the Promised Land provides timeless lessons relevant to modern intelligence and security studies.

By examining this biblical narrative, several key insights emerge that are applicable to contemporary strategic planning, intelligence gathering, risk assessment, leadership, and ethical decision-making. The analysis highlights the importance of thorough intelligence operations and the need for courage, accountability, and faith in the pursuit of national security objectives. The mission of the twelve spies, as described in Numbers 13-14, underscores the critical role of strategic intelligence in preparing for and mitigating potential threats.

The detailed exploration and assessment conducted by the spies illustrate the value of comprehensive intelligence gathering in forming strategic decisions. Furthermore, the narrative highlights the consequences of disregarding intelligence and the importance of resilience and discernment in the face of challenges. The lessons drawn from this biblical account are invaluable for modern intelligence and security professionals, emphasizing the necessity of integrating ethical considerations and sound judgment into their practices.

Based on the lessons learned from Moses' intelligence gathering to invade the Promised Land, the following recommendations are proposed for Nigerian security agencies such as the Military, Police Force, DSS, and other security entities. First, enhancing intelligence gathering and analysis is crucial. Agencies like the DSS and military intelligence units should adopt advanced technologies and rigorous methods for collecting and analysing data, ensuring decision-makers receive accurate and actionable intelligence. Promoting ethical leadership is also essential. Leaders within the Nigerian military, Police Force, and DSS must uphold high ethical standards, prioritising the welfare of their teams and maintaining operational integrity to foster public trust and long-term success in security initiatives.

Implementing robust risk assessment frameworks is necessary for accurately evaluating potential threats. This is in support of Brown (2023) who accentuates that the implementation of risk assessment frameworks involves continuous monitoring and reassessment to adapt to changing security landscapes, enhancing the capability of agencies such as the Nigerian Armed Forces and DSS to foresee and mitigate threats effectively. Fostering resilience and confidence among security professionals is vital. Training programmes for



personnel within the Police Force, Military, and DSS should include components that build mental fortitude and encourage proactive problem-solving, such as stress management workshops and resilience-building exercises.

Strengthening interagency communication is critical for coordinated responses to threats. Establishing clear channels for information sharing between the Military, DSS, Nigerian Police Force, and other relevant agencies can prevent intelligence failures and enhance overall security. Regular interagency meetings and joint operations exercises can facilitate effective collaboration.

Finally, integrating historical lessons into modern practices can provide valuable insights. Nigerian security professionals should study historical precedents, such as the espionage mission of Moses, to understand enduring principles of intelligence operations and apply them to current challenges. Incorporating these lessons into training curriculums can offer a broader perspective on intelligence gathering and strategic planning.

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