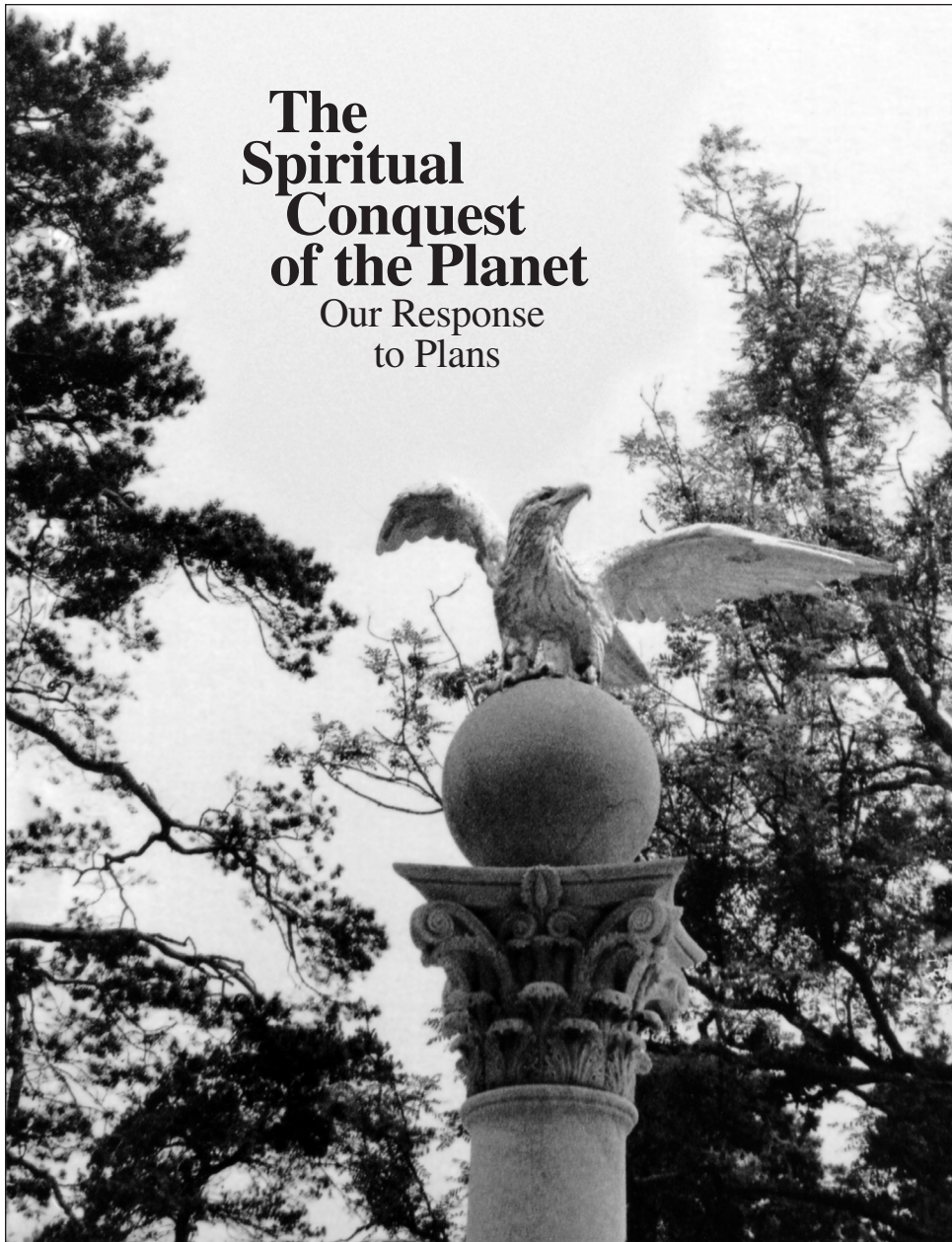


The Spiritual Conquest of the Planet

Our Response
to Plans



SUPPLEMENT

*Systematic Unfoldment of the Divine Plan
Unfoldment of the Bahá'í Faith*



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Systematic Unfoldment of the Divine Plan

First Epoch of the Divine Plan 1937-1963				
<i>Plan</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>References</i>
1st Seven Year Plan	1937-44	Spread of the Faith throughout North America and into South America and completion of the exterior ornamentation of the House of Worship.	LSAs in every province of Canada, every state of US, and 14 republics of Latin America. Exterior of House of Worship completed. 136 LSAs, 197 groups, 1300 localities on homefront.	<i>The Advent of Divine Justice</i> <i>Messages to America</i> 7-75
2nd Seven Year Plan	1946-53	Consolidate victories won; complete interior ornamentation; form 3 NSAs in Canada, Central and South America; support spread of Faith into Europe; supplemental goals to support Africa.	NSAs in Canada, Central and South America; assist systematic spread of Faith in Europe, incl. forming 10 LSAs in goal cities; interior ornamentation complete; support building the Shrine of the Báb; expansion and more LSAs on homefront.	<i>Messages to America</i> 76-110 <i>Citadel of Faith</i> 1-106
Other National and International Plans	1938-53	Spread of the Faith on the homefronts and in international regions.	Spread of Faith to a total of 2500 localities, incl. North America.	<i>The Bahá'í World</i> , Vol. 8-12
African Campaign (involved 5 NSAs)	1950-53	Expansion of the Faith in Africa.	Sent pioneers, teaching, basis laid for 10YC; by 1954: 600 believers, 60 tribes, 190 loc.	
Australia-New Zealand	6YP 1947-53	Homefront goals.	7 LSAs and 21 groups; > doubled believers.	<i>Letters to Australia and New Zealand</i>
Britain	6YP 1944-50	Homefront goals.	24 LSAs, proclamation, great inc. believers.	<i>Unfolding Destiny</i>
	2YP 1951-53	Homefr. and African campaign goals.	Strengthen LSAs inc. literature, pioneers.	
Canada	5YP 1948-53	Homefront goals.	30 LSAs, 100 localities, NSA incorporation.	<i>Messages to Canada</i>
Central Am.	1YP 1952-53	Homefront goals.	Expand teaching; lit. trans., Fund increase.	
Egypt-Sudan	5YP 1948-53	Homefr. and African internat. goals.	3 LSAs, African pioneers, women on LSAs.	<i>Lights of Divine Guidance</i>
Germany-Austria	5YP 1948-53	Homefront goals.	14 LSAs, translation of lit., Hazira obtained.	<i>Dawn of a New Day</i>
India, Burma, and Pakistan	6YP 1938-44	Homefront goals.	LSA formations, literature translations.	
	4 1/2 YP 1946-50	Homefront goals.	Over 26 LSAs formed, Hazira purchased.	<i>(See also A Compendium of Volumes of the Bahá'í World I-XII 1925-1954, pp. 385-416)</i>
	19 Mo.P 1951-53	Homefr. and int'l. goals (incl. Africa).	Pioneers to 8 countries, 12 homefront LSAs.	
Iraq	3YP 1950-53	Homefront goals.	Raised LSAs, built national headquarters.	
Persia	4YP (45 mo.) 1946-50	Homefr. and int'l. (later incl. Africa).	Int: 160 pio. fam. 4 LSAs; Nat: 93 LSAs, 37 gr.	
Ten Year Crusade	1953-63	Simultaneous initiation of 12 national plans in the first global plan; the 10YC aimed to develop the Faith in the Holy Land, consolidate the 12 homefront areas, consolidate opened territories, and open the remaining virgin territories on the planet.	131 countries opened, incl. 100 virgin territories in first year; 47 national assemblies formed & 33 incorporated; lit. trans. into 220 more languages; completion of Temples in Africa and Australia, started Temple in Europe; acquired endowments worldwide; > 11,000 localities; about 5000 LSAs, with > 350 incorp.; start of mass conversion.	<i>The Bahá'í World</i> , Vol. 13 <i>Messages to the Bahá'í World</i> <i>Citadel of Faith</i> 104-58

Second Epoch of the Divine Plan 1963-

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>References</i>
Nine Year Plan	1964-73	69 national plans aimed at developing the World Centre, consolidating opened territories, open virgin territories, and worldwide proclamation in 1967-68. The twin objectives were expansion and universal participation.	44 NSAs (113 total), 12,000 LSAs (17,000 total), 54,000 localities (69,500 total); literature translated into 225 lang. (571 total); many properties acquired; 3553 pioneers sent out; worldwide proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh's claim to rulers; Boards of Counsellors created.	<i>Wellspring of Guidance</i> (esp. pages 12-27) <i>Messages of the Universal House of Justice 1988-73</i> (esp. pages 113-120)
Five Year Plan	1974-79	Preservation of victories, vast and widespread expansion, and development of Bahá'í life/communities; strengthening of Local Spiritual Assemblies.	Total of 96,000 localities, > 25,000 LSAs; 18 new NSAs (125 total); operation of International Teaching Centre since 1973; progress in spiritual dev., maturation of assemblies, and dev. of Bahá'í community life; construction seat UHJ begun; initiation of Indian and Samoan Temples.	Letter of the Universal House of Justice, Naw-Rúz 1974 Letter of the Universal House of Justice, Naw-Rúz 1979
Seven Year Plan	1979-86	Continue expansion and consolidation process; achieve remaining 5YP goals. Work to financial independence, continue construction projects, develop institutions, promote spiritual, intellectual and community life.	Completion of seat UHJ and Samoan Temple, approval of plans for Arc and Terraces, expansion of ITC and Counsellors; creation of Social and Economic Dev. Office and SED projects; 8000 new LSAs; 16,000 new localities; 300 new tribes; 2196 new publications (898 of Holy Text); maturation of institutions and community life.	Letter of the Universal House of Justice, Naw-Rúz 1979
Six Year Plan	1986-92	Formation of goals by Counsellors and NSAs; seven major objectives: carrying the Message to mankind; involvement in the life of society; increase in literature; maturation of communities; universal participation and spiritual enrichment of ind.; extension of Bahá'í education and strengthening of family life; and pursuit social and economic dev. projects.	1 1/2 million new Bahá'ís; not just numerical victories, but mature development: Faith spread to all countries; worldwide proclamation from <i>The Promise of World Peace</i> and persecutions; completion Indian Temple with 20,000 daily visitors; emergence from obscurity reflected in unprecedented contacts with leaders of thought, media, and public; social and economic dev. projects greatly multiplies and attracting attention of world; youth activities, esp. period of service; dev. of institutions; initiation of Arc and Terraces projects.	<i>A Wider Horizon</i> (esp. pages 39-44, 95-109, 181-188)
Three Year Plan	1993-96	Same objectives as the Six Year Plan, with a focus on enhancing the faith of individuals, developing human resources, and fostering the functioning of local and national institutions.	Enriched capacity of community for expansion and consolidation; progress in Arc and Terraces projects; increase in SED projects; indigenous believers assume greater responsibility; youth contributions teaching rise; 12 new NSAs; Kitáb-i-Aqdas published, Law of Huqúq'u'lláh instituted.	<i>A Wider Horizon</i> 109, 195-6 Letter of the Universal House of Justice, 9-30-92 1993, 1996 Ridvan message

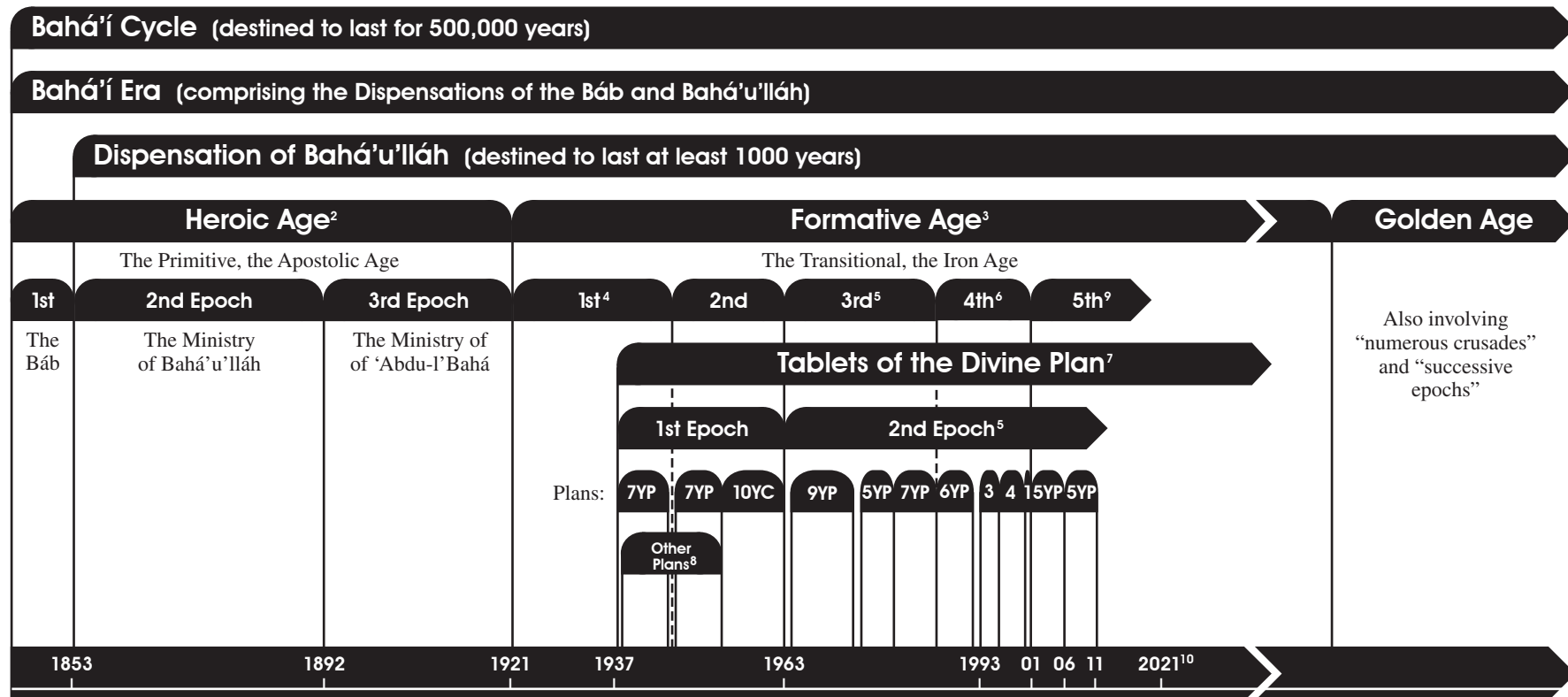
Second Epoch of the Divine Plan 1963- (continued)

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>References</i>
Four Year Plan	1996-2000	Single aim: a significant advance in the process of entry by troops through marked progress in the activity and development of the individual believer, the institutions, and the local community; prepare for large scale sustained growth; establish networks of training institutes to systematically develop resources for expansion and consolidation—large numbers of believers trained to foster and facilitate the process of entry by troops with efficiency and love; integration of arts into expansion and consolidation activities; near completion of ARC buildings and terraces; expand SED and external affairs endeavors.	World-wide system of training institutes established; emergence of a culture of learning, resulting in a high degree of integration of thought and action; increase in individual initiative; growth in institutional and community functioning and capacity; appreciation for role of systematization in growth and dev.; est. Regional Bahá'í Councils; 3,300 long/short term pioneers; 5 mil visit Temple in India; Bahá'í world web-site launched; 8 new NSAs.	Letters of the Universal House of Justice: 12-26-95 to Counselors; 12-31-95 to Bahá'ís of World; Ridvan 2000; 1-9-01 to Counselors
Twelve Month Plan	2000-01	Continue the single aim of advancing the process of entry by troops: raise institutes to full operation; more systematic education of children and jr. youth; “Area Growth Programs” established in selected sites on all continents.	Enter 5th Epoch of Formative Age; 300+ training institutes; nurturing and integration of children and junior youth in Bahá'í community life; institutes emphasize training of children’s teachers; experience gained from Area Growth Programs for next Plan.	Letters of the Universal House of Justice: Ridvan 2000; 1-9-01 to Counselors; 1-16-01 to Bahá'ís of the World; Ridvan, 2001
Five Year Plan	2001-06	Continue to pursue the single aim of advancing the process of entry by troops through two movements: guiding a growing number of individuals through the sequence of institute courses and advancing clusters from one stage of development to the next; systematization of teaching efforts through the establishment of intensive programs of growth in clusters that have achieved certain prerequisites; establish 3 core activities open to all: study circles, devotional gatherings, children’s classes; periodic reflection meetings to foster learning in the cluster; begin Chilean Temple.	Increasing capacities of individuals, institutions and communities; over 230,000 in Book 1 and 30,000 in Book 7; over 16,000 clusters mapped; combination of core activities and institute courses creates coherent pattern of action leading to intensive programs of growth in more than 200 clusters; devotional meetings increase sixfold; children and junior youth classes sixfold and study circles surpass 11,000; completion of current phase in the development of the buildings on the Arc; Inauguration of the Terraces of the Shrine of the Báb; <i>Summons of the Lord of Hosts</i> , <i>Gems of Divine Mysteries</i> published; Chilean Temple design chosen; NSA of Iraq restored.	Letters of the Universal House of Justice: 1-9-01 to Counselors; 1-16-01 to Bahá'ís of the World; 1-17-03 to Bahá'ís of the World; Ridvan 2001; 12-27-05 to Counselors; 12-28-05 to Bahá'ís of the World; Ridvan 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

Second Epoch of the Divine Plan 1963- *(continued)*

<i>Plan</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Objectives</i>	<i>Outcome</i>	<i>References</i>
Five Year Plan	2006-11	Continue to pursue the single aim of advancing the process of entry by troops through two movements: guiding a growing number of individuals through the sequence of institute courses and advancing clusters from one stage of development to the next; bring hundreds of thousands more into the institute process; establish intensive programs of growth in 1500 clusters; increasing teaching by reaching receptive populations; emphasis on the role of the tutor; classes for Jr. youth as 4th core activity; mobilize pioneers and direct them toward support for cluster development; enhance the culture of learning; strengthen institutional support at all levels for the movement of clusters.		Letters of the Universal House of Justice: 12-27-05 to Counselors; 12-28-05 to NSAs; 12-31-05 to Bahá'ís of the World; Ridván 2006

Unfoldment of the Bahá'í Faith¹



- This chart was adapted from a previously published source. For a description of the concepts see *Citadel of Faith* 4-5 (page 17 in this book) and *God Passes By* xiii-xv.
- The passing of 'Abdu'l-Bahá marks the close of the Heroic Age and the beginning of the Formative Age (*God Passes By* xiv); however, the Guardian also indicated that the Heroic Age concluded with the passing in 1932 of 'Abdu'l-Bahá's sister, Bahíyyih Khanum (*The World Order of Bahá'u'lláh* 98).
- The epochs of the Formative Age are described in a letter written by the Research Department of the Universal House of Justice dated February 5, 1986.
- Shoghi Effendi placed the end of the first epoch of the Formative Age between the years, 1944 (*Citadel of Faith* 5) and 1946 (*Messages to the Bahá'í World* 89).
- The third epoch of the Formative Age and second epoch of the Divine Plan were announced by the Universal House of Justice in 1963 (*Wellspring of Guidance* 12-18).
- The fourth epoch was entered at the start of the Six Year Plan (see *A Wider Horizon* 41).
- Shoghi Effendi foresaw "the penetration of that light" of Bahá'u'lláh's Revelation, "in the course of numerous crusades and of successive epochs of both the Formative and Golden Ages"

- (*Messages to the Bahá'í World* 155). The first epoch of the Divine Plan ended with the Ten Year Crusade (*Messages to the Bahá'í World* 41). While a specific time is not given for completion of the Divine Plan, the Guardian noted there would be "successive epochs reaching as far as the fringes of that Golden Age" (*Citadel of Faith* 20).
- Other plans held at this time were "national" and "international" (*Messages to the Bahá'í World* 17) as opposed to global plans that began with the Ten Year Crusade (see page 18).
 - The January 2001 entrance of the Faith into the fifth epoch of the Formative Age was announced by the Universal House of Justice in its letter of 16 January 2001 at the close of the Counselors' conference.
 - The Universal House of Justice in its 26 November 1999 message stated that a Five Year Plan launched at Riḍvan 2001 will "initiate a series of worldwide enterprises that will carry the Bahá'í community through the final twenty years in the first century of the Faith's Formative Age. [2021] These global Plans will continue to focus on advancing the process of entry by troops and on its systematic acceleration." 2021 marks the centenary of the passing of the Master.