

#### **B. Men follow a model man who stands alone.**

1. Derelicts and debtors came to David (1 Sam. 22:2).
2. Christ called common men to be His disciples (Matt. 10:1-4).

#### **C. A true leader leads his men through rigorous training.**

1. David trained his men while he fled from Saul (1 Sam. 24:6-7).
2. Christ trained His men as He overcame the world (Matt. 10:5-25).

#### **D. A true leader teaches his men truth.**

1. David relied on God and wrote a great hymnody (2 Sam. 23:1-12).
2. Christ taught Scripture and revealed new truth (Matt. 5-7).

#### **E. David and Christ's followers became like them, doing great deeds and attaining glory.**

1. David's men slew giants and did great deeds; their names were entered in a roll call of honor (2 Sam. 23:8-35).
2. Christ's men did miracles and died well; their names are written on the Holy City forever (Acts 9:36-43; Rev. 21:14).

### **III. More About the Model: Mentors and Manuals**

Men maximize their productivity (whether commercial, academic, military, or spiritual) in organizations led by men, designed for men, and focused on men. In the past, our society was characterized by such institutions—the military and its academies, law schools, med schools, seminaries, and a great array of gender-segregated social and sporting organizations. Now the professional sports franchises are among the few models left in our society of such exclusively male, highly competitive, and rigorously objective organizations.

Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were enrolled in a Babylonian version of just such an academy designed to produce high-ranking servants for the empire of that day (Dan. 1:3-7). These men excelled in that system and suffered persecution for God in it.

#### **Manuals of Manhood: You can't make men without truth.**

Men need objective truth in order to function, to rule the earth, to set goals, to make decisions. Women need truth as well, but they will muddle along with fluid wisdom about relationships, at least for a while. It is men who have suffered first and most with our culture's shift to relativism.

**The Bible** is the first manual of manhood. It is filled with the masculine

## ***The Arranged Marriages of God***

### ***An ongoing prayer challenge***

#### **The Women God Gives in Marriage**

According to the book of Proverbs, God takes a direct hand in giving prudent women in marriage. A man receiving such a rare and valuable treasure should know that he has *obtained favor from the Lord* (Prov. 18:22) for such a wife *is from the Lord* (Prov. 19:14).

#### **Shall we pray for the blessing or let the curse have its way?**

When God is angry with His people, He brings many judgments upon them, one of which is described in Psalm 78:63—*Fire devoured their young men, and their young women had no marriage songs*. Generally, this curse is fulfilled when a nation is judged with military defeat, but we can also see this curse because of decadence, immorality, and homosexuality. Young men don't marry because they are not manly enough to need wives.

#### **Praying for Core Couples (2006-2015)**

We are in the fifth year of our ten-year prayer campaign for "Arranged Marriages of God." This specific challenge is an important part of our overall prayer for men and is an investment in future generations. Pray for the wedding and formation of Core Couples for the first half of the 21st Century. When we are specific in our requests to God, we can more readily see His answers!

1. Pray that many wise marriages will be formed between future leaders and prudent young women.
2. Pray that these wise and potentially productive matches will not be set aside for worldly or fleshly reasons. *An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.* (Prov. 12:4). A foolish marriage can be contracted in a few weeks, producing a lifetime of havoc and destruction.
3. Pray that these well-matched core couples will be united and flourish, our future leaders thereby strengthened with the crown of excellent wives.