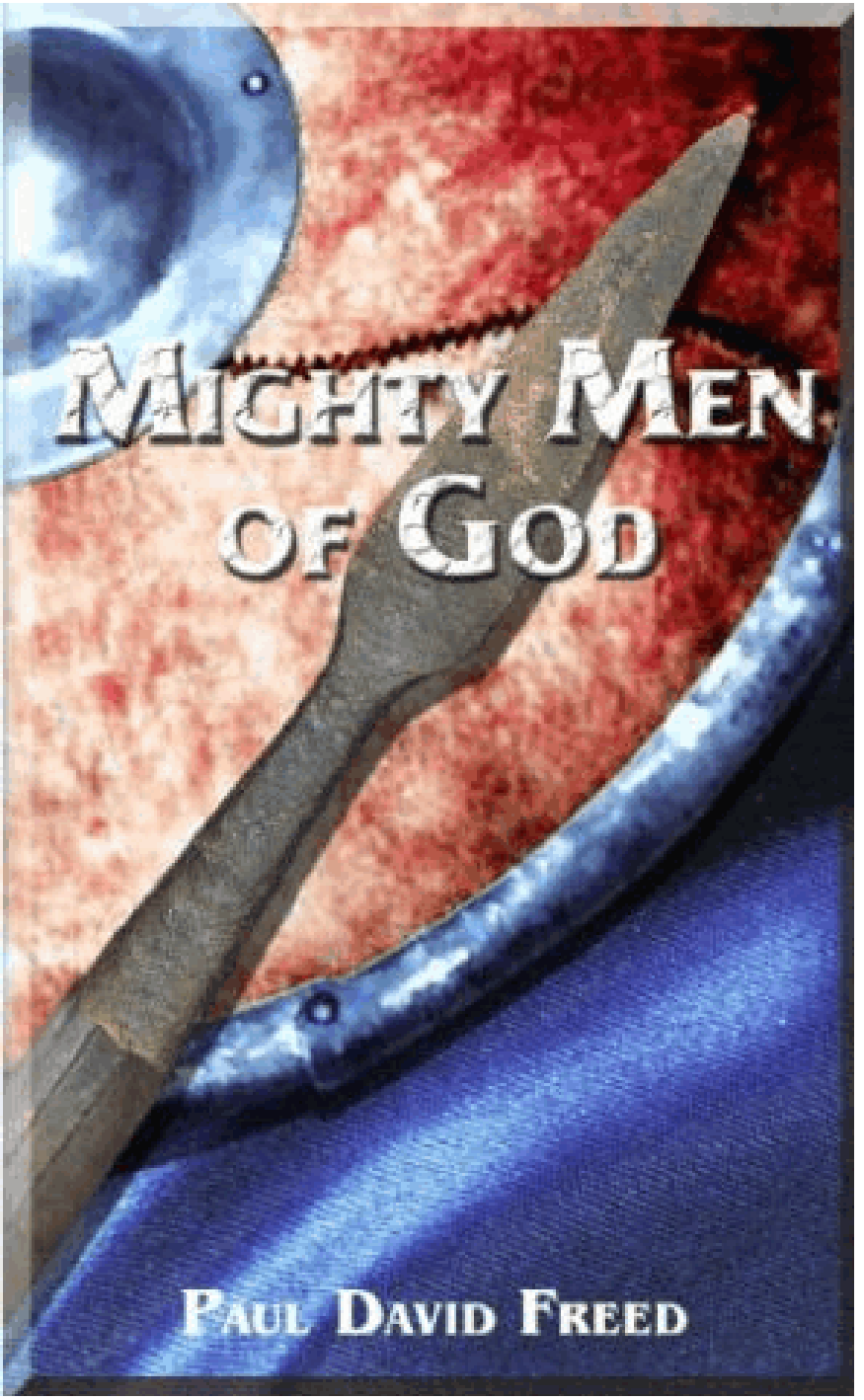
Mighty Men of God
Paul David Freed

Copyright © 2006 by Paul David Freed.

Insight Publishing, Box 72, Orlando, FL 32802

All rights reserved. No portion of this book may be reproduced by any means, except for brief quotations in reviews, without the prior permission of the publisher.

Chapter 1
Cave of Adullam

Dimly lit, the cavernous expanse opened before the band of desperate men. History was unfolding before their eyes; though few understood the moment, peoples yet to be born would be affected by their lives. With char-blackened ceiling, Adullam's cave held men soon to change the course of nations.

Backs cool against the rock, thirty of the greatest fighting machines the world has ever known waited. Adino's night-black eyes looked stalwartly forward, a man who had felled eight hundred enemy in a single battle. Towering resolutely, he was perhaps the eminent victor of the age.

Across the dusty floor Jashobeam, who had felled three hundred enemy with his death-

spear, stood. The sage-clan Hachmonite gazed expectantly ahead, his red-stained javelin strapped quietly between the blades of the guardian's shoulders.

In the shadows, straddling an outcrop of the cave's wall, massive Eleazar stood as a silent sentinel, his leather sheathed sword, scarred from skirmish, hanging loosely by his side. Though the great Barley Field Battle still awaited the warrior, his determined faithfulness already radiated.

Deeper within the recesses of the refuge, renowned Amashai and Shammah peered ahead, pulled inexplicably toward future's realization. Meanwhile priest-son Benaiah, the new-fledged Mighty swayed impatiently as he caressed the gargantuan club strapped at his waist.

Though renown and legends lined the walls, every gaze was drawn to the shepherd-psalmist who poked at the small coal-hot fire nigh the

cave's vortex. The Beloved of God (Dav-id) held the hearts of every soul caught that day in destiny's furnace. [1]

Though we span thousands of years from that moment in Adullam's cave, the God of eternity is today reaching to the hearts and souls of men: Men whose hearts and passions have been gripped by the living God, men who somehow see beyond the mundane dreariness of an empty life. Men who have been apprehended by a zeal and passion for that which supersedes them. Men whose purpose lofts them above the mediocre and foreordains them to distinction. People look at these individuals and question what makes them different. Why do they seem to be uniquely led by a mission beyond themselves?

Men who have been apprehended by a zeal and passion for that which supersedes them.

There was nothing particular about this filthy cave that David and his Mighty Men were in, except that the Spirit of God was there moving in such a way that the future would forever be altered.

Though people had been under Saul, a demented King who had surely lost his path, suddenly something unique was happening.

Let's open the ancient writings and learn. . . .

There came over to David in the stronghold in the wilderness, mighty men of valor, men trained for war, who could handle shield and spear, and whose faces were like the faces of lions, and they were as swift as the gazelles on the mountains .

. . . he who was least was equal to a hundred and the greatest to a thousand.

. . . Then David received them and made them captains of the band. [2]

From heaven's throne room, God calls across eternity's lip to men that would stand forth once more as Mighty Men: men of might, wisdom, vision, and holiness.

From heaven's throne room, God calls across eternity's lip to men that would stand forth once more as Mighty Men.

As with Adino, the warrior's warrior, the tug of divine purpose grips the heart of every man, during a deranged age. While the culture is confused about the meaning of manhood, can maleness be revealed? Can heaven's pattern of biblical manhood be understood? What is a man? Though these be paramount questions, the answers are before us. The crisis of maleness is not just intellectual and ethical, but also has roots in the spiritual realm. To truly see an expression of real manhood requires clear understanding of the issues before us. A wise man once wrote. . . "Let a true organic expression of the church of Jesus Christ arise and you will find trouble coming from everywhere and nowhere." [3]

While the Holy Scriptures state,

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. [4]

If this be true, we as corporate manhood need to be prepared for great confrontation. Consider: whether we desire it or not, the engagement is upon us. As the men of renown in ancient time, so should we be **men trained for war, who could handle shield and spear.** [5]

This powerful visual of the shield and spear captivates our need for this age as well. The shield of David's Mighty was of hardened, stretched leather with rimmed metal bands. Advancing into conflict, it was readied by hand-rubbed oil used to deflect projectiles hurled by adversaries. May we ever be readied by God's

> May we ever be readied by God's oiled anointing presence and rimmed by His metal-hardened purpose.

oiled anointing presence and rimmed by His metal-hardened purpose.

"The Thirty" of David's elite protectors (actually numbering thirty-seven) would advance on their antagonists shield-to-shield. This covenant-born clash formation would explode onto blood-strifed battlefields, foreshadowing what centuries later generals would mimic. The Greek phalanx is a well known sequel.

Rome followed with its own rendition, employing the fearsome Roman Turtle. Numbering one hundred soldiers, they advanced toward their counterpart's front, the troops holding their shields with predetermined design. The men at the front would march with their shields directly in front of them; soldiers in the center holding their protection above their heads; warriors on the left and right flanks advancing forward while maintaining their shields to their sides; and finally the combatants at the rear countermarching with their armor rearward of the formation. Opponent's arrow and lance were virtually ineffective.

Each man protecting his fellow while leaving himself vulnerable created a nearly invincible fighting machine. Using this innovative formation the legions advanced. With far fewer casualties and the ability to bring the contest within close proximity of their enemy, Rome was able to have far greater success using far less resources. Hence, international conquest.

The spiritual and natural implications for Mighty Men of God are staggering. How important it is to resist selfish individualism and covenant together so we will be stronger. Elementarily. . . we need each other! If the man near you cares about your family, it strengthens your home. If your friend truly wants your marriage to last, it encourages your union. If your spiritual brother is truly concerned about your job loss and financial hardships, it will secure you.

In a culture where individualism is considered the ultimate, a self sacrificing man can be perceived as nearly bizarre. The resource of the senior men and the strength of the young men coupled "shield-to-shield" can become formidable. While the enemy of our souls would seek to separate and divide us generationally, there must be a higher motivation of unity for the cause of Christ. Financial, prideful, sexual, and egotistical temptations haunt manhood, while in unity there is greater protection.

The resource of the senior men and the strength of the young men coupled "shield-to-shield" can become formidable.

One might ponder, "To truly help anther man will take time, finances, and effort." It's time to ponder! How many

marriages will have been saved; how many children's lives will have been set on a correct course; how many individuals' worth will be realized as men irrevocably catch the vision of "shield-to-shield."

Joshua had taken up the *kidon* (javelin) in the early conquest days of Canaan's occupation. Now David's men were using it for Israel's forthcoming glory. This weapon kept the enemy at bay rather than allowing him close proximity with his threatening sword. The hazard of hand-to-hand combat was thereby greatly diminished by using the spear.

Why have your spiritual enemy hovering on top of you when you can defeat him while he still is at a distance? Once more the ramifications are obvious. Why have adultery destroy the glory of your marriage, if you could have kept the temptation at a distance by avoiding being alone with a woman who is not your wife? Why have financial ruin destroy the economic blessing to your children, if debt and greed could have been forestalled early on?

How many marriages will have been saved; how many children's lives will have been set on a correct course; how many individuals' worth will be realized as men irrevocably catch the vision of being MIGHTY MEN OF GOD.

May we as Mighty Men of God be trained and adeptly be able to **handle shield and spear.** [6]

Endnotes

1. *Based on* 2 Samuel 23
2. 1 Chronicles 12:8, 14, 16-18
3. T. Austin Sparks, *Our Warfare*
4. Ephesians 6:12
5. 1 Chronicles 12:8
6. Ibid.

Order this 175-page, hard back book now!
Go to MightyMenofGod.com