

*Leading Your  
Marriage  
Into the  
Promised Land*

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## ***PREFACE***

This is not a book about marriage counseling – nor is this a book that will diagnose marital problems and then suggests solutions. This is a book about leadership. This book educates men on a process for successfully leading their marriage.

The idea for writing “Leading Your Marriage into the Promised Land” originated from a marital problem that me and my wife were facing which could have resulted in a divorce. The challenge for me was how I was going to keep my marriage blessed and fruitful while avoiding the continuing disagreements which resulted from blaming each other for the problem. A greater concern was that I knew that my wife is a strong willed intelligent woman. So, how was I going to lead my wife in such a manner that was not only acceptable to me and my wife but also glorified God? “Leading Your Marriage into the Promised Land” educates the husband on a leadership process that ensures that the husband and wife develop family goals

as a team. The husband and wife develop goals that embrace the different values that they have learned since childhood which influences their perceptions of the different roles for the husband and wife.

“Leading Your Marriage into the Promised Land” includes six chapters and an appendix. Chapter one: Your Promised Land provides a brief history of marriage by reviewing the role of the husband and wife from beginning biblical times to present times. The chapter continues with the societal influences on marriage and God's intent for marriage. In chapter two: Defensive Nature of Marriage, I define and discuss the five different organizational defensive levels that influence marriages. Chapter three: Teamwork provides a closer look at advantages of teamwork for husbands and wives and concludes with a communication activity for husbands. In chapter four: Shared Vision, I discuss the term and provide biblical examples for its usage. Chapter five: Leading Your Marriage includes the entire leadership process. During the process, the husband and wife develop a shared vision and work as a team

to develop and expand spiritual, family, social, educational, physical, employment/work, recreation/fun, and financial goals. Chapter 5 concludes with developing a timeline and budget for the developed goals. Chapter 6: New Beginnings is the conclusion. The appendix includes a step by step, outline of the process in table format and scriptures that were referenced in the text but not expanded upon.

All scripture included and referred to in the text are from the King James translation of the Holy Bible.



## ***ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS***

First I would like to give God all of the praise and honor. Without Him this book would not have been possible. It reminds me of when Joseph responded to his brothers about them selling him to strangers who eventually took him to Egypt.

*But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. (Genesis 50:20)*

I would also like to acknowledge my wife Sheila for participating in the process that resulted from the different organizational transformation strategies that I learned in the process of completing my doctorate degree. I would also like to acknowledge my wife's friend Carol who reminded me of the need for making this process available to husbands.



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# 1

## ***YOUR PROMISED LAND***

Since the departure of Jesus Christ, the world's changing social and economic systems have had an impact on the family and the roles of the husband and the wife.

The history of marriage in Western civilization has its roots in the Ancient Greek, Roman, German, and Hebrew cultures. In Ancient Greece, the father arranged the marriage with a signed contract. Normally, the groom was in his thirties, while the bride was a teenager. There was also a disparity in equality and education. Ancient Greek society considered women inferior. Women were confined to the home and their primary functions were to produce children and manage the household, while husbands were responsible for public affairs.

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Early in Roman history, the husband had the authority to punish, sell, or kill his wife or children. Eventually, women gained increased control over their lives and property. The authority of the Roman husband is remarkably contrasted by the authority of an Israelite husband. Early in Israel's history the primary purpose of the wife was to reproduce a male who would receive the family inheritance. It was the responsibility of the husband to care for and provide for his family.

In today's world, the purpose of the wife has evolved. Many wives have equal responsibility for contributing to the household finances by working daily. They also care for children and the husband, as well as perform other duties. These new values influence the Christian home and ultimately influence the relationship between the Christian man and his wife.

There are also many other influences that exist in the world that can make it difficult for a Christian man or woman who desires to have a marriage based on the principles that exist in the Word of God. Those influences are shaped by

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societal values that tend to embrace “same sex marriages,” “open marriages” and divorce for any reason. The scriptures clearly define marriage as a relationship between one man and one woman.

Genesis 2:24 reveals that the original intent for marriage is a permanent relationship between one man and one woman.

*Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh (Genesis 2:24, KJV).*

Marriage is a major adjustment for the husband and wife. The man must embark on a monumental shift in thinking. While under the care of his father and mother, the man is permitted and encouraged to operate independently while interacting interdependently with his siblings. During this time, his love is expressed towards his family members.

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Once married, the scriptures direct him to focus his love on his wife (Ephesians 5:32-33, KJV).

*This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless, let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband (Ephesians 5:32-33, KJV).*

The husband must now learn to become the leader of his wife and family. He must love and lead his wife as Christ loves and leads the Church. However, the different values that the husband and wife bring to the marriage can present many challenges.

This requires that the husband take on a leadership style that fosters respect for each both partners' values and roles in the marriage.

When a man does not utilize appropriate leadership strategies, the outcome can be disconnect, separation, or divorce. Divorce is in direct opposition to God's intent and design for

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marriage. Marriage is an unconditional lifetime commitment between a man and a woman that is supported by scripture. Jesus emphasized God's intention that marriage be a lifetime commitment in Matt. 19:4-9 and Mark 10:5-9.

*And He answered and said to them,  
“Have you not read that He who made them at the beginning made them male and female, and said, ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’? So then, they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” They said to Him, “Why then did Moses command to give a certificate of divorce, and to put her away?” He said to them, “Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, permitted you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so. And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for sexual immorality, and marries another, commits adultery; and whoever marries*

***her who is divorced commits adultery.”(Matt. 19:4-9)***

*And Jesus answered and said to them, “Because of the hardness of your heart he wrote you this precept. But from the beginning of the creation, God ‘made them male and female. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh’; so then they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate.” (Mark 10:5-9)*

Unfortunately, the divorce rate among Christians at one point exceeded that of non-Christians. If the husband desires to lead his marriage in the manner which has been set forth by God, he must separate himself from the world's ideals, corrupt morals and values and embrace those values that have been set forth in the Word of God. When a marriage is based on the principles that come from the scriptures, the result is greater harmony, peace, and prosperity.

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Leading Your Marriage to the Promised Land will show the Christian man how to overcome the defensive nature of marriages. Both the husband and wife may try to protect themselves and their values using defensive mechanisms that they learned as children.

In the next chapter, I will discuss the cycle of the defensive nature of organizations, which has an influence on the marriage.