

The Armour of God – Part II

Background

- Paul writes from prison, circular letters
- Roman soldiers standing guard
- Old testament imagery
- Believers' spiritual experience in imperial worship

Ephesians 6:10-18

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to **stand against the schemes** of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to **stand firm**.

¹⁴ **Stand therefore**, having fastened on the **belt of truth**, and having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the **helmet of salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ **praying at all times** in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints.

The Scheme

Genesis 3:1-5

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, **Has God indeed said**, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'? ² And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; ³ but of the fruit of the tree which *is* in the midst of the garden, **God has said**, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' ⁴ Then the serpent said to the woman, "**You will not surely die**. ⁵ For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

2 Corinthians 2:11

¹¹ lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not **ignorant of his devices (noema)**.

The Command

Put On + Stand. Ephesians 4:24 + Colossians 3:10 + Luke 24:49

Belt of Truth

- **Scheme** = God is not able to win. Do not bother praying.
- **Truth** = Our victory is secured through the death and resurrection of Christ
- **Prayer** = Declare God's Sovereignty
- **Isaiah 11:5** *Righteousness shall be the **belt** of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.*
- Psalm 95:3-5 + Isaiah 40:22-23, 28-29 + 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Breastplate of Righteousness

- **Scheme** = God will not listen to sinners
- **Truth** = I am worthy
- **Prayer** = Declare God's Righteousness
- **Isaiah 59:17** *He put on **righteousness as a breastplate**, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.*
- Isaiah 51:7-8, 61:10 + Romans 5:1

Helmet of Salvation

- **Scheme** = You will believe anything I say
- **Truth** = I have a sound mind
- **Prayer** = Declare God's Salvation
- **Isaiah 59:17** *He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a **helmet of salvation** on his head...*
- 2 Timothy 1:7 + 1 Corinthians 2:16 + 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 + James :7