

THE ARMOR OF GOD

"Going to Battle with the Boots of Peace"

Eph 6:14-15

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; (KJV)

We have examined the loincloth of truth and the breastplate of righteousness and seen that what God has birthed within our spirits through Jesus Christ he wants us to clothe ourselves in to stand against the devil and his schemes.

Today, we are going to be talking about what is commonly referred to as the "shoes of peace." Already it seems an oxymoron. We are getting dressed in armor and the "shoes" are called the "preparation of the gospel of peace." In other words, we are to go into battle with boots of peace.

I call them boots, because to call them shoes or sandals doesn't do them justice. The Roman soldier's boot, or caligae, was a highly advanced and specialized piece of weaponry whose equal even in concept would not be seen for over a thousand years after the fall of the empire. But before we look at these marvellous products of the cobbler's craft, let's examine where they are placed. -- THE FEET!

Gen 3:15-16 (KJV)

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

The first prophecy of coming Messiah involves the foot crushing the enemies head! The first symbolism of the foot in Scripture, then, is victory over the enemy. The commands of the Lord to Adam to subdue and have dominion are seen accomplished and obeyed in the promised seed subjugating the serpent. Feet placed on the earth/sea declare a formal possession.

Gen 13:14-18

14 The LORD said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west.

15 All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.

16 I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted.

17 Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

18 So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the LORD. (NIV)

Josh 1:3

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. (KJV)

Rev 10:2-4

2 He was holding a little scroll, which lay open in his hand. He planted his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land,

3 and he gave a loud shout like the roar of a lion. When he shouted, the voices of the seven thunders spoke.

4 And when the seven thunders spoke, I was about to write; but I heard a voice from heaven say, "Seal up what the seven thunders have said and do not write it down." (NIV)

The devil was judged and defeated at Calvary on the cross. Looking forward to this victory, the Lord sent Abram into the land to claim it by walking in it. The feet are indicative of our walk and behavior in the ways of God. Joshua was promised that all that the sole of his foot should step on would be his. And Jesus, in Revelation is seen as a mighty one with the right foot on the sea (Gentiles) and his left foot on the land (Israel) indicating his ownership of the entire world and its inhabitants.

Planted feet are indicative of rulership (we are told to "stand therefore") and dominion.

Gen 49:10

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. (KJV)

Michael Esses, a converted Jewish Rabbi with a Doctorate in Hebrew Language [I think! D.H.L.?], in his book Jesus in Genesis, states that "the word Shiloh in Hebrew means, 'the exact image and reflection of God.'"¹ (Heb. 1:3; John 14:9). The lawgiver is between his feet and his feet is where we worship.

Matt 28:9

And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. (KJV)

Josh 10:24-26

24 And it came to pass, when they brought out those kings unto Joshua, that Joshua called for all the men of Israel, and said unto the captains of the men of war which went with him, Come near, put your feet upon the necks of these kings. And they came near, and put their feet upon the necks of them.

25 And Joshua said unto them, Fear not, nor be dismayed, be strong and of good courage: for thus shall the LORD do to all your enemies against whom ye fight.

26 And afterward Joshua smote them, and slew them, and hanged them on five trees: and they were hanging upon the trees until the evening. (KJV)

¹Michael Esses, D.H.L., *Jesus in Genesis*, 1974, Logos International, Plainsfield, N.J.
p.254

In this dramatic object lesson, Joshua encourages his captains by having them place their feet on the neck of defeated kings. Another picture is buried in this story.

Josh 10:3

Wherefore Adonizedek king of Jerusalem sent unto Hoham king of Hebron, and unto Piram king of Jarmuth, and unto Japhia king of Lachish, and unto Debir king of Eglon, saying, (KJV)

Adonizedek is "the Righteous Lord", who happened to be king of Jerusalem (like Melchizedek was king of Salem), King of Peace. He was hung on a tree to show the victory of Israel!

Ps 18:29

For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall. (KJV)

Ps 18:33-42 (NIV)

33 He makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to stand on the heights.

34 He trains my hands for battle; my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

35 You give me your shield of victory, and your right hand sustains me; you stoop down to make me great.

36 You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn.

37 I pursued my enemies and overtook them; I did not turn back till they were destroyed.

38 I crushed them so that they could not rise; they fell beneath my feet.

39 You armed me with strength for battle; you made my adversaries bow at my feet.

40 You made my enemies turn their backs in flight, and I destroyed my foes.

41 They cried for help, but there was no one to save them-- to the LORD, but he did not answer.

42 I beat them as fine as dust borne on the wind; I poured them out like mud in the streets.

Needless to say, the battle imagery of feet in Scripture is deep. With our feet we stand, walk, leap, and run. And God it is who broadens our path and grants us victory over our enemies.

Luke 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. (KJV)

What is special about the Roman soldier's boot?

The ankle-high boots were made of one-piece uppers that were open in design and laced all the way up the front. The soles of the boots were hard-wearing platforms of three or four layers of vegetable-tanned cattle hide. Until the boot of the Roman Legion, no such specialized shoe is seen. And after the demise of the Empire, its like would not be seen for a thousand years.

One of its major innovations would probably escape our observation all together: the fact that there is a left and a right shoe. This development in footwear comes to us from the Roman era. Having a shoe fitted for the specific foot offers greater stability to the wearer. Also, knowing our right from our left gives us greater confidence in the direction of our walk. Knowing right from wrong, God's best from the world's good, aids us to walk in the way of holiness and peace.

The sole of the Roman boot was held on by large, ergonomically placed conical iron hobnails. These nails offered greater traction on bad footing, extended the wear and life of the shoe, and optimized the transfer of weight between the different parts of the foot when placed on the ground. At times, these nails were fitted with spikes. Whether spikes or nails, these boots were weapons in their own right when used to stomp on a fallen foe.

But wait, stomp of foes? These shoes are the preparation of the gospel of peace! First of all, don't go too fast and call them the shoes of peace. They are the shoes of preparation. To have our "boots" on is to be ready for the battle. In worship, it may be appropriate to take off our shoes (Ex. 3:5), but in warfare we are instructed to put on the Gospel of peace to be properly prepared for the battle.

Let's look at some scriptures regarding preparedness.

Matt 25:1-13

- 1 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.
- 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise.
- 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.
- 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.
- 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.
- 6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'
- 7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps.
- 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'
- 9 "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'
- 10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.
- 11 "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!'
- 12 "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.'
- 13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. (NIV)

Titus 3:1-6

- 1 Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good,
- 2 to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and to show true humility toward all men.
- 3 At one time we too were foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another.
- 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared,
- 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
- 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,(NIV)

We are prepared to do good keeping in mind the gospel of peace. What is the gospel of peace? That by Jesus dying on the cross, God's enmity against us was satisfied. He bought peace for us.

Rom 5:1-2

- 1 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
2 through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. (NIV)

Rom 5:10-11

- 10 For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
11 Not only is this so, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (NIV)

Our rift with God was healed. We are justified by faith in Jesus' redeeming act and are at peace with God. What type of an attack would the shoes of peace defend against?

James 4:4

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. (KJV)

Rom 8:7

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. (KJV)

Eph 2:12-20

- 12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.
13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.
14 For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,
15 by abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace,
16 and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.
17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near.
18 For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.
19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,
20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (NIV)

1 Pet 3:15-16

- 15 But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
16 keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior

in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. (NIV)

Our walk must reflect our message for our witness to have integrity. We advance on the devil's kingdom with the gospel of peace. Knowing what pit we were dug from, we are protected from pride and arrogance. Walking in the way of holiness proclaiming the gospel of peace, we set captives free.

Rom 10:8-15

- 8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming:
- 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.
- 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame."
- 12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile-- the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him,
- 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
- 14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?
- 15 And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (NIV)

Rom 16:19-20

- 19 Everyone has heard about your obedience, so I am full of joy over you; but I want you to be wise about what is good, and innocent about what is evil.
- 20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. (NIV)