

## **THE ARMOR OF GOD**

### **“Prayer: The Long-range Weapon”**

Eph 6:13-18

13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints. NIV

*Something in this picture is explicitly incomplete. We have verified from a Biblical and historical standpoint that the soldier that Paul was referring to in type was the Roman foot soldier. [Foot soldier because of the emphasis on standing. Being part of the cavalry is a reward (Rev. 19).] We are admonished in this section of Scripture to put on the whole armor of God. All the regular pieces of armor that a Roman infantryman might carry are mentioned: the belt, the breastplate, the boots, the shield, the helmet, and the sword. Only one piece of regular equipment is glaringly left out, the spear. For an army whose infantry were known to carry up to five darts, a javelin, and a pilum each, this is peculiar.*

*But more peculiar than this is that in a list of spiritual implements, God mentions six things. This is odd enough to arrest our attention. Six is the number of man. Six is the number of incompleteness. Seven, on the other hand, is the number of perfection. Why would God only mention six weapons if we are to take on the whole armor? He didn't. He mentioned seven. Prayer is the seventh weapon and speaks to the glaring omission of the types of spears Romans used.*

*Unlike the other implements which were more or less standard (or as standard as anything gets in something as complex as an army), the variations in what is generically called a “spear” were vast. From small javelins (called darts) about three feet long to the six-foot-long pilum, each had its own special adaptation and purpose. Prayer is much the same way. There are specific types of prayers (genus) and specific types of delivery (species), each for its own purpose and time. I believe that if the Lord had mentioned the spear by name, we might have gotten bogged down on one specific word and missed the “praying . . . with all kinds of prayers and requests.”*

#### **Pray in the Spirit:**

Eph 6:18a “And pray in the Spirit.”

Rom 8:26-27

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. NIV

1 Cor 14:13-15

13 For this reason anyone who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret what he says.

14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. NIV

Phil 1:19

for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. NIV

Jude 20 NIV

But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

*Once again, we are talking about spiritual armor. We need to pray in the spirit. We also need to recognize that when we pray a prayer that God has had written in His word by His Holy Spirit, then we are praying a Spirit directed prayer. Prayer moves things in the spirit realm.*

Dan 10:1-14

1 In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision.

2 At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks.

3 I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over.

4 On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris,

5 I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist.

6 His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

7 I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves.

8 So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless.

9 Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

10 A hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees.

11 He said, "Daniel, you who are highly esteemed, consider carefully the words I am about to speak to you, and stand up, for I have now been sent to you." And when he said this to me, I stood up trembling.

12 Then he continued, "Do not be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.

13 But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia.

14 Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come." NIV

*The Old Testament was given to us in part to show spiritual truths by physical examples, following the principle of "first the natural, then the spiritual."*

John 8:18-19; 24-26

18 I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me."

19 Then they asked him, "Where is your father?" "You do not know me or my Father," Jesus replied. "If you knew me, you would know my Father also."

24 I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am [the one I claim to be], you will indeed die in your sins."

25 "Who are you?" they asked. "Just what I have been claiming all along," Jesus replied.

26 "I have much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable, and what I have heard from him I tell the world." NIV

*Though there are all types of prayers, we are talking specifically in reference to prayers used in warfare.*

Luke 18:1-8

1 Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up.

2 He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men.

3 And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

4 "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men,

5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!'"

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.

7 And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off?

8 I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" NIV

*The context of the parable is to "always pray" and never give up. The subject matter of the prayer is "grant me vengeance against my enemy."*

2 Cor 10:4-6 NIV

4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

- 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.
- 6 And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete.

Rev 6:9-10

- 9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.
- 10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" NIV

Rev 18:21-19:3

- 21 Then a mighty angel picked up a boulder the size of a large millstone and threw it into the sea, and said: "With such violence the great city of Babylon will be thrown down, never to be found again.
- 22 The music of harpists and musicians, flute players and trumpeters, will never be heard in you again. No workman of any trade will ever be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will never be heard in you again.
- 23 The light of a lamp will never shine in you again. The voice of bridegroom and bride will never be heard in you again. Your merchants were the world's great men. By your magic spell all the nations were led astray.
- 24 In her was found the blood of prophets and of the saints, and of all who have been killed on the earth."
- 1 After this I heard what sounded like the roar of a great multitude in heaven shouting: "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, 2 for true and just are his judgments. He has condemned the great prostitute who corrupted the earth by her adulteries. He has avenged on her the blood of his servants."
- 3 And again they shouted: "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up for ever and ever." NIV

Jer 50:41-46

- 41 "Look! An army is coming from the north; a great nation and many kings are being stirred up from the ends of the earth.
- 42 They are armed with bows and spears; they are cruel and without mercy. They sound like the roaring sea as they ride on their horses; they come like men in battle formation to attack you, O Daughter of Babylon.
- 43 The king of Babylon has heard reports about them, and his hands hang limp. Anguish has gripped him, pain like that of a woman in labor.
- 44 Like a lion coming up from Jordan's thickets to a rich pastureland, I will chase Babylon from its land in an instant. Who is the chosen one I will appoint for this? Who is like me and who can challenge me? And what shepherd can stand against me?"
- 45 Therefore, hear what the LORD has planned against Babylon, what he has purposed against the land of the Babylonians: The young of the flock will be dragged away; he will completely destroy their pasture because of them.
- 46 At the sound of Babylon's capture the earth will tremble; its cry will resound among the nations. NIV

Ps 35:1-6

- 1 Contend, O LORD, with those who contend with me; fight against those who fight against me.
- 2 Take up shield and buckler; arise and come to my aid.
- 3 Brandish spear and javelin against those who pursue me. Say to my soul, "I am your salvation."
- 4 May those who seek my life be disgraced and put to shame; may those who plot my ruin be turned back in dismay.
- 5 May they be like chaff before the wind, with the angel of the LORD driving them away;
- 6 may their path be dark and slippery, with the angel of the LORD pursuing them. NIV

2 Sam 23:6-7

- 6 But evil men are all to be cast aside like thorns, which are not gathered with the hand.
- 7 Whoever touches thorns uses a tool of iron or the shaft of a spear; they are burned up where they lie." NIV

*Thorns are gathered up with the shaft of a spear!*

Joel 3:9-11

- 9 Proclaim this among the nations: Prepare for war! Rouse the warriors! Let all the fighting men draw near and attack.
- 10 Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears. Let the weakling say, 'I am strong!'
- 11 Come quickly, all you nations from every side, and assemble there. Bring down your warriors, O LORD! NIV

2 Thess 1:11-12

- 11 With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith.
- 12 We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. NIV