

THE ARMOR OF GOD

"The Loinbelt of Truth"

Eph 6:13-14a

- 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
14a Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, (KJV)

Now we begin to actually dress our soldier. The first implement in the armor that is donned is the belt of truth.

There are many universal themes regarding armor throughout the Bible. In this series, however, we will be viewing the armor of God as represented by Roman armor specifically. Why do we use the Roman model for the armor of God in Ephesians 6? Several reasons:

Rome was the military might of the era.

Paul, who wrote Ephesians was a free-born, Roman citizen. (Acts 16:37; 22:27-28)

Praenomen	-	given name	-	Saul
Nomen	-	tribal name	-	Benjamin
Cognomen	-	family name	-	Tarsus
Honorific	-	Acts 13:9	-	Paul (small, dwarfish - 2 Cor. 10:10)

Thus, his Roman name: Saulus Benjaminus Tarsus Paulus.

Roman soldiers saved his life from the Temple mob. (Acts 21:30-37)

Roman soldiers (470 of them) escorted him out of Jerusalem, saving him from the Jewish assassination plot. (Acts 23:20-24)

He was taken to Rome under the supervision of the Centurion Julius of the Imperial Regiment. (Acts 27:1)

He was guarded by soldiers for two years in his own house in Rome during his first imprisonment. (Acts 28:30)

It is quite possible that he was chained to his watchmen every hour of the day. (Eph. 6:20; Phil. 1:12-14)

The Roman soldiers who guarded Paul were of the Praetorian Guard. (The palace guard of Phil. 1:12-14; 4:22.)

Following is a description of these guards that I got from the Grace Notes Library at <http://www.realtime.net/oud/library/armor.html>.

"The Praetorian Guard represents everything that is famous in Roman history. Their ranks were made up of the best and most experienced combat tested centurions, comparable to the finest from West Point, Sandhurst, St. Cyr. They were comparable to the best combat units of modern times, such as Special Forces, 1st Marines, Patton's 3rd Army, the Coldstream Guard, Big Red One, etc. In Roman history, the man who wanted to be Emperor had first to win the favor of the Praetorian Guard.

Every man in the ranks was a centurion, the most highly trained warrior in history. The commander of the Guard was a chiliarch who maintained the strictest discipline and combat

training, even though all ranks were seasoned combat veterans."

It was during his first imprisonment while being guarded by such men that Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesians. It stands to reason then, that not only can we take the universal symbolism in all of scripture for different types of armor, but that we can also concentrate specifically on the model provided for us in Ephesians, the Roman soldier.

We are told to gird our loins with truth. The action of girding is very symbolic in Scripture. It speaks of preparation and readiness for mobility, service, and battle.

I. For Mobility-

The Passover meal and the Exodus:

Exod 12:11

And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the LORD's passover. (KJV)

Exod 12:11, 39

11 This is how you are to eat it: with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the LORD's Passover.

39 With the dough they had brought from Egypt, they baked cakes of unleavened bread. The dough was without yeast because they had been driven out of Egypt and did not have time to prepare food for themselves. (NIV)

Elijah and Ahab's chariot:

1King 18:41-46

41 And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

42 So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees,

43 And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times.

44 And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not.

45 And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel.

46 And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel. (KJV)

The NIV in verse 46 reads, "tucking his cloak into his belt." From Mt. Carmel to Jezreel is about 25 miles "as the bird flies". Elijah, under the hand of the Lord, outran Ahab's cariot!

II. For Service-

Aaron, the High Priest:

Exod 28:8

And the curious girdle of the ephod, which is upon it, shall be of the same, according to the work thereof; even of gold, of blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen. (KJV)

Lev 8:7-9

- 7 And he put upon him the coat, and girded him with the girdle, and clothed him with the robe, and put the ephod upon him, and he girded him with the curious girdle of the ephod, and bound it unto him therewith.
8 And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim.
9 And he put the mitre upon his head; also upon the mitre, even upon his forefront, did he put the golden plate, the holy crown; as the LORD commanded Moses. (KJV)

Aaron was girded for service in the Tabernacle by the curious girdle, which held to and was part of the ephod to which was bound the breastplate of judgment.

Jesus and his disciples:

Luke 12:35-37

- 35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning;
36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.
37 Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. (KJV)

John 13:1-5

- 1 Now before the feast of the passover, when Jesus knew that his hour was come that he should depart out of this world unto the Father, having loved his own which were in the world, he loved them unto the end.
2 And supper being ended, the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him;
3 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God;
4 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.
5 After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. (KJV)

III. For Battle-

David and Jonathan:

1 Sam 18:3-5

- 3 Then Jonathan and David made a covenant, because he loved him as his own soul.
4 And Jonathan stripped himself of the robe that was upon him, and gave it to David, and his garments, even to his sword, and to his bow, and to his girdle.
5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants. (KJV)

The father (Saul) sends out the soldier (David) who has been equipped by the son (Jonathan). Sword (rhema), bow (prayer), belt (truth).

King Jesus:

Ps 45:1-4

- 1 My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.
- 2 You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever.
- 3 Gird your sword upon your side, O mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.
- 4 In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness; let your right hand display awesome deeds. (NIV)

Jeremiah the prophet:

Jer 1:17-19

- 17 Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them.
- 18 For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land.
- 19 And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee. (KJV)

This sounds a little like the "Go, stand, speak," of Acts 5:20!

*God tells us to gird up our loins with truth. Since he put a loinbelt of truth in the arsenal, **What do you think he wants us protected from?***

What type of attack from the enemy is the belt of truth designed to defend against? LIES.

Remember, the armor is to stand against the wiles of the devil (Eph. 6:11). He is called the DEVIL. The Greek word is diabolos, which simply put means ACCUSER, SLANDERER (Rev. 12:9).

The same Scripture informs us that he deceives the whole world. Thus, he is a DECEIVER. Remember, he deceived the woman (1 Tim. 2:14) with the lie "ye shall not surely die . . . ye shall be as gods." (Gen. 3:1-6). He is not an original. His wiles have not changed.

The Lord Jesus calls him a LIAR and the FATHER OF LIES.

John 8:44

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. (NIV)

You see, when he opens his mouth, he is lying.

Do you know how you can tell when the devil is lying? His mouth is open.

He used to worship God and be a reflection of His glory. When he came against God in pride, he could no longer reflect God's glory. Not only could he no longer reflect God's glory, he had no light of his own. He, the created thing, sought the worship of other creatures and worshipped his own beauty. In worshipping the creature instead of the Creator, he changed the truth of God into a lie (Rom. 1:25). His only light is darkness, his only verity falsehood.

GOD IS TRUE. *He is a faithful God!*

Rom 3:4

God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged. (KJV)

Titus 1:2

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; (KJV)

Heb 6:18

That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: (KJV)

Num 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? (KJV)

God sent his son Jesus.

John 1:17

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. (KJV)

JESUS IS TRUTH.

John 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. (KJV)

The truth is not a thing. It is a person. Pilate did not understand this and thus sent an innocent man to his death.

John 18:33-38

33 Then Pilate entered into the judgment hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto him, Art thou the King of the Jews?

34 Jesus answered him, Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me?

35 Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me: what hast thou done?

36 Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom

not from hence.

37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice. [1 Tim 6:13]

38 Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault at all. (KJV)

1 Tim 6:13

I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; (KJV)

He gave unto us the SPIRIT OF TRUTH.

John 14:17

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (KJV)

John 15:26

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (KJV)

John 16:13

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (KJV)

*It is spiritual armor, the armor of God. We have the spirit of truth **in us**. What God has placed in us he expects us to put **on** ourselves. The spirit of truth makes available the loinbelt of truth. How are we to put it on? Well, we're not done with the good news.*

THE WORD IS TRUTH.

John 17:17 "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (KJV)

The logos is the truth. As God is true, as Jesus is the full embodiment of truth (the living word), as the spirit is the empowerment of truth, the wonderful word of God is the documentation of the truth. We do not need for our adversary to write a book, as Job prayed (Job 31:25). The devil is not a faithful witness. But our adversary has been exposed, defrocked, disarmed, and dominated by our Lord who had it documented in his word!

*Once we recognize that God is true, that Jesus is the truth, that we have received the spirit of truth, and that the inspired word of God is truth, then we need to put on the **WORD OF TRUTH.***

Eph 1:13

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in

whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (KJV)

James 1:18

Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. (KJV)

Our loins are to be girt about with truth. The loins are the center of generation, procreation, and creativity (Heb. 7:5, 10; Acts 2:30). As James states, we were birthed by the word of truth. Now, this word of truth girt about our loins will make us fruitful in the kingdom of God.

How do we don it?

Study it.

2 Tim 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

Engraft it and do it.

James 1:21-25

21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (KJV)

Luke 6:46-49

46 And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:

48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great. (KJV)

Col 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. (KJV)

We do not put on the belt of truth by passivity or even by some formulaic prayer (i.e.. "Lord, I now put on the belt of truth, etc.). No, discipline, discipleship is required to put on the belt of truth. It is the centerpiece of the body armor. It holds the weapons (sword, dagger, and darts),

supports and fastens in place the breastplate, and helps carry the weight of the shield.

We are in the army of God. Many components go into making an effective soldier and a well operating army. Among them are:

Proper respect for commanders.

Esprit de corps with leaders and fellow soldiers.

Clear communications.

Personal honor and sense of duty.

Freedom of mobility.

1. Proper respect for commanders. The belt of truth is necessary for worship. (John 4:23-24; Mark 12:32-34; Rom. 1:25)
2. Esprit de corps with leaders and fellow soldiers. The belt of truth is necessary for fellowship with the Lord and the brethren. (1 John 1:6-7)
3. Clear communications. (Eph. 4:20-25, 15; John 18:37)
4. Personal honor and duty. The belt of truth is necessary to keep us blameless. (Eph. 5:26-27, Rev.14:5). It is necessary to do our Christian duty, which is to love. (Rom. 13:8; 1 John 3:18).
5. Freedom of Mobility. "The truth shall make you free." John 8:32.

Free from what?

John 8:31-36

31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. (KJV)

Free from sin!

Ps 119:11

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. (KJV)

1 Pet 1:13-16

13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your

ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;
16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy. (KJV)

Amen, amen, amen!!