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3 **Ephesians 6: 10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. **11** Put on the **whole**
 4 **armour of God**, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. **12** For we wrestle not against flesh
 5 and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against
 6 spiritual wickedness in high places.

7 **13** Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to **withstand** in the evil day, and
 8 having done all, to **stand**. **14 Stand** therefore, having your loins **girt about with truth**, and having on the
 9 **breastplate of righteousness**; **15** And your **feet shod with the preparation** of the gospel of peace;

10 **16** Above all, taking the **shield of faith**, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

11 **17** And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God:

12 **18** Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance
 13 and supplication for all saints;

14 Our protection against Satan and his demonic horde is outlined. We must be proactive as Christians if
 15 we want to “run the race” in this life in a way that brings glory to God, peace in our lives, and eternal rewards in
 16 Heaven. Paul used a very familiar example to give a picture of the spiritual armor of the believer.

17 A Roman soldier was very effective, skilled, hardened, and conditioned. Roman legions went far into
 18 Germany, England, Africa, and other great distances conquering for the Roman rulers. We will remark on each
 19 item of gear upon which Paul remarks as we look at the passage.

20 1) Our strength comes from God. v. 10 means to be strong in the power of God which flows into us and makes
 21 us strong, not the notion of our own power.

22 2) The **WHOLE** armor of God (Panoplian) This is the word from which we get “panoply”, or complete array.

23 3) The **WILES** of the devil. (2 Cor. 2:11). We are not taught here that we can directly oppose or defeat Satan,
 24 but rather to armor ourselves against his **METHODIA**, or schemes, tricks, deception. When we submit to
 25 God, the devil flees from us (James 4); only in God can we expect to successfully repel Satan.

26 4) Our enemies are spiritual beings.

27 a) Principalities (arche)—leaders, directors of demon armies. Angels obey God always. Demons are
 28 **SUBJECT** to God but never willingly obey him. But like spiritual gangsters, they have hierarchies and
 29 appear to have rank or order. From the top down, they are at work against us.

30 b) Powers—the demons who actively assert their evil powers

31 c) Rulers—Satan and his closest allies

32 d) Darkness—the **SPIRITUAL** darkness and depravity of sin in the world, blindness and opposition to God

33 e) Spiritual wickedness in high places—literally, evil, iniquitous beings in the heavenlies

34 f) Withstand—the idea of resisting, defending, fighting to hold ground

35 g) Stand—the idea of firmly holding your position after all has been done to defend.

36 5) The Armor

37 a) the **GIRDLE** was a strong, thick belt worn around the waist outside of the tunic. A soldier's belt was the
 38 symbol of his military office. It was to be worn **ALWAYS**, even when off duty; and only a soldier could
 39 wear it. He would hang swords, daggers, pouches, straps, medals, insignia and such on it. It was the
 40 support for all such things. Can you see it: The **TRUTH OF GOD** is the foundation of our identity as
 41 believers, the centerpiece for gear, weapons, and supplies, and is to be around us at all times.

- 42 b) The breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS. The breastplate was to protect the heart and vitals from sword,
43 spear, and dagger thrusts. Our righteousness in Christ is our protection of the vitals of our walk.
- 44 c) Feet shod with the PREPARATION of the gospel of peace. Not with the gospel, but with the
45 PREPARATION of the gospel. The soldier's boot had a very thick sole, with hobnails on the bottom as
46 studs for traction, the intimidation of marching noise, and protection. We are told that our
47 PREPARATION is our footwear. How clearly, we see that we must study the gospel, prepare our
48 explanation of it, memorize Scripture, and be ready to give it. This leads to the delivery of the gospel of
49 peace. This is God's peace, the reconciliation of Christ, not the "Pax Romana" enforced by the sword.
50 The Christian's readiness with the gospel provides his usefulness as salt and light.
- 51 d) The SHIELD of faith. This item was defensive. It was used to protect mainly against archers. When used
52 in concert with other, the "turtle" formation of shields in front, on top, and around protected the entire
53 group from arrow volleys. What an example for the body—our intact faith, when joined with others,
54 can protect our church as a whole as well as just us. This shield had to be prepared, maintained, and
55 carried to be of value. It was also painted with identifying colors or designs.
- 56 e) Fiery darts—a weapons at the time, flaming arrows dipped in pitch or oil. The wicked is the Devil.
- 57 f) The helmet of salvation—the most vital, protection against a fatal head wound. Our salvation is the one
58 protection against spiritual death, regardless of what else may happen.
- 59 g) The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. This was the personal, up close shorter sword. It is personal
60 spiritual combat for us when we use the Word against sin and Satan.
- 61 6) What happens if your armor is faulty?
- 62 a) from unconfessed sin (breastplate of righteousness dirty)
- 63 b) from neglect or disregard of the Word (no sword)
- 64 c) from lack of faith (no shield)
- 65 d) from no preparation, no training in the Christian faith or walk (no boots)
- 66 e) from false doctrine, laziness about the truth—compromises the foundation on which all your tools for
67 Christian living hang (no girdle of truth)
- 68 7) What can the evil ones do to you if God allows?
- 69 a) Job 1 and 2—can cause storms, fire, destruction, and hurt you physically Job 1, I Cor. 5:5
- 70 b) Can incite deception even in Christians—Ananias and Sapphira Acts 5:3
- 71 c) Can misdirect believers—Peter when Jesus rebuked Satan to Peter Mark 8:33
- 72 d) Desires to destroy your life ("sift you as wheat") Luke 22:31
- 73 8) Believers are not assured of no attacks. In fact, we are warned of the opposite. (I Pet. 5:8) We are also given
74 safety in Christ. (Rom. 8:39). But a degree of that safety depends on our spiritual condition with God.
- 75 a) Not every attack is the result of sin. Testing is one reason. (1 Peter 4:12) and Job 1-2
- 76 b) Satan battles God through His children (Job 1-2)
- 77 c) Satan tries to mock God by harming us (Job 2:5).
- 78 The Holy Spirit, present and filling us, pushes out and keeps away demonic dangers. I Jn. 4:4. Let us not
79 grieve Him. Eph. 4:30 and invite discipline I Cor. 5:4-5
- 80 An armored, prepared believer has God's protection from evil (Prov. 19:23) and His presence in trials. (I Pet.
81 4:12-13)