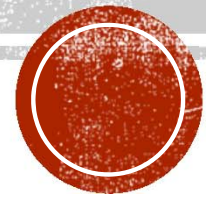


# **THE ARMOR OF GOD**

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Ref. Free Bible Study Guides



# TAKING UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

- *Paul tells us to take up the whole armor of God. But what is this armor, and how do we put it on? Is it still relevant for Christians today?*



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# **TAKING UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**

- Paul, an apostle of God's first-century Church, has a story for us today:
- Accused of sedition, beaten, arrested, almost assassinated, shipwrecked, attacked by a snake and placed under house arrest: Most would call this list an unfortunate run of bad luck. Paul would recognize it as just part of his job description.
- Imprisoned in Rome for two years under the watchful eyes of Roman soldiers, Paul was able to write four epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians and Philemon) and continue preaching "the kingdom of God and teaching the things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ" to all those who came to hear him (Acts 28:30-31).



# **TAKING UP THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD**

- Living for two years with soldiers of the Roman army must have made an impression on Paul. Likely he saw the soldiers' armor enough to become well acquainted with it, learned to understand the function of each piece, what purpose it served and why it was important.
- At some point, a God-inspired analogy began to form in Paul's mind. Just as the Roman soldiers required physical armor to fight their wars, we Christians require spiritual armor to successfully fight ours. As the pieces fell into place, Paul saw that each piece of Roman armor had a powerful correlation with our own spiritual defenses. It is this analogy that the church in Ephesus received and which God has preserved for two thousand years for our benefit.



# **WHAT DO WE NEED ARMOR FOR, ANYWAY?**

- "We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9).
- How is it that, as Christians, we are expected to withstand incredible pressures and not be defeated? How can we possibly stand up against everything the world has to throw at us and still expect to emerge victorious?
- The answer lies not in ourselves, but in a divine and unbeatable defense: the armor of God.



# WHAT IS THE ARMOR OF GOD?

- **Ephesians 6:10-20**
- Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 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.
- Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.
- And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints—and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



Take upon you the  
Whole Armor of God

BREASTPLATE OF  
RIGHTOUSNESS

HELMET OF SALVATION

SHIELD OF FATH

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

FEET SHOD WITH  
PREPARATION  
OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

LOINS GIRT ABOUT  
WITH TRUTH

EPHESIANS 6:10-18

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# THE ARMOR OF GOD

- The armor of God is an amazing metaphor for action we need to take in our spiritual lives. Paul sets the scene for us: We are fighting a war, and the stakes are higher than they have ever been in human history.
- Our enemy? Not flesh and blood, no human foe—we fight against a much more fearsome opponent whose forces are described in Ephesians 6:12. Our adversary, Satan the devil, and his host of demons have a single, driving purpose: Obliterate the children of God.





# THE ARMOR OF GOD

- Faced with the cares of this world, we can easily forget about the severity of this battle. But make no mistake: Our spiritual lives and future in God's Kingdom are on the line. If we lose this war, we lose everything. What can we do in the face of such overwhelming odds? Is there any hope?
- Paul has the answer. In Ephesians 6:13, he gives the call to arms. By putting on all of God's armor, which we will be exploring piece by piece in the following lessons, we can be assured of withstanding our enemy's onslaughts.



# **ARE THERE ANY OTHER REFERENCES TO THIS ARMOR IN THE BIBLE?**

- **Isaiah 59:17**

For He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on His head; He put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloak.

- **Romans 13:11-14**

And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.



# **ARE THERE ANY OTHER REFERENCES TO THIS ARMOR IN THE BIBLE?**

- **2 Corinthians 6:7**

...by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left..

- **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.



# THE WHOLE ARMOR

- In these passages Paul calls it the armor of righteousness and reveals its purpose. We put on the armor and strength of God to effectively wage war against our enemy, the devil. Without it, we are helpless—but with it, we are soldiers of the living God, and "more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

