

ABLE TO STAND

PART 5 THE FULL ARMOR

“Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day...” Ephesians 6:13a (ESV)



“And Yahweh saw,
and it was displeasing in his eyes that there was no justice
16 And he saw that there was no man,
and he was appalled that there was no one who intercedes,
so his arm came to assist him,
and his righteousness [was what] sustained him.
17 And he put on righteousness like a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head,
and he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and he wrapped himself in zeal as in a robe.”

Isaiah 59:15–17, LEB

“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 firm. 14 Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; 17 and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

Ephesians 6:13- 17 (ESV)

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called *Faithful and True*, and *in righteousness He judges and makes war*. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood*, and His name is called *The Word of God*. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. 15

Now out of His mouth goes a *sharp sword*, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a *rod of iron*. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has *on His robe* and on His thigh a name written:

**KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.”**

Revelations 19:11-16 (NKJV)

THE BELT OF TRUTH

“Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth” (Ephesians 6:14a, ESV)



*“And righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.”*

(Isaiah 11:5, LEB)

WHAT IS TRUTH?

GREEK: ἀλήθεια (*alētheia*). n. fem. **truth, true, sincerity, integrity**. Indicates the quality or state of being **real or genuine**—often in the sense of visible and verifiable reality, demonstrated by facts, actual events, or proven character.[1]

Meanings of “Truth”:

- 1.The revelation of God in Christ and in Scripture (John 8:31–36; 14:6)
- 2.Sincerity, integrity, genuineness (Ps. 51:6; Col.3:9; Eph. 4:25)

"To be deceitful, to lapse into hypocrisy, to resort to intrigue and scheming, *this is to play the devil's game, and we shall not be able to beat him at his own game*. What he abominates is transparent truth. He loves darkness; light causes him to flee. For spiritual, as for mental health, honesty about oneself is indispensable.”[2]

THE REVELATION OF GOD IN CHRIST AND IN SCRIPTURE

John 8:31 (NKJV)

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:34-36 (NKJV)

Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

John 14:6 (NKJV)

6 Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

SINCERITY. INTEGRITY. GENUINENESS

Ps. 51:6 (NKJV)

"Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts,
And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom."

Col. 3:9 (NKJV)

"Do not lie to one another, since you have put off the old man with his deeds,"

Eph. 4:25

"Therefore, putting away lying, "Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor," for we are members of one another."

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*“... and having put on the breastplate of
righteousness” (Ephesians 6:14b, ESV)*



“And Yahweh saw,
and it was displeasing in his eyes that there was no justice
16 And he saw that there was no man,
and he was appalled that there was no one who intercedes,
so his arm came to assist him,
and his righteousness [was what] sustained him.
17 And he put on righteousness like a breastplate, ...”

Isaiah 59:15–17a, LEB

4 WORDS THAT TRANSLATE TO “RIGHTEOUSNESS” AND/OR “JUSTICE”:

שפט *špṭ* Lemma

judge, pass judgment; administer justice; rule

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- judge, judged, judges...
- ruler, rulers
- leader, leaders

משפט *miš-pāṭ* Lemma

decision, judgment; dispute, case, claim; measure, law

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- justice
- judge, judges, judgment...
- regulation, regulations

צדק *šē'-dēq* Lemma

accuracy, what is correct; right thing, what is honest; equity, what is right; communal loyalty; salvation, well-being

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- righteous, righteousness
- justice
- right

צדקה *šē-dā-qā(h)* Lemma

honesty; justice; justness; community loyalty; entitlement, just cause; just deeds

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- righteous, righteousness
- justice
- deeds of justice

The Righteous Reign of the Branch

- 11 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

Isaiah 11:1–5, ESV

“But first and most importantly seek (aim at, strive after) His kingdom and His righteousness [His way of doing and being right—the attitude and character of God], and all these things will be given to you also.”

(Matt. 6:33, AMP)

GOSPEL RUNNING SHOES

“... as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace.” (Ephesians 6:15, ESV)



ROMAN LEGIONARY SHOES



“READINESS” IS THE KEY CONCEPT

READINESS

THE STATE OF BEING
FULLY PREPARED

- Preparedness
- Fitness
- Available
- On Hand
- Standing by
- On Alert

WILLINGNESS TO DO
SOMETHING.

- Willingness
- Enthusiasm
- Eagerness
- Cheerfulness
- Inclination
- Keenness

IMMEDIACY. QUICKNESS.
OR PROMPTNESS.

- Speed
- Punctuality
- Timeliness
- Skillfulness
- Fervor
- Zeal

“Salvation involves a profound change of realm and allegiance; it takes the believer out of the realm of darkness and into the kingdom of light and life. As a result, it brings inescapable conflict with the powers of darkness. Since this conflict is spiritual,² it follows that only spiritual resources will suffice.”

Ken Totten,

“Pauline Metaphors – Part 5: Warfare and Soldiering.”

N.T. WRIGHT ON THE GOSPEL

“It is important to stress, ... that when [Paul] referred to “the gospel” he was not talking about a scheme of soteriology [doctrine of salvation]. Nor was he offering people a new way of being what we would call “religious”. ... for Paul “the gospel” is the announcement that the crucified and risen Jesus of Nazareth is Israel’s Messiah and the world’s Lord. It is, in other words, the thoroughly Jewish, ... message which challenges the royal and imperial messages in Paul’s world.

(<https://ntwrightpage.com/1998/01/01/pauls-gospel-and-caesars-empire/>)

"Preach the word; be ready *in season* and *out of season*; *reprove*, *rebuke*, and *exhort*, with complete patience and teaching. ... As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry. "

(2 Tim. 4:2 & 5, ESV)

“Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David according to my gospel, in connection with which I suffer misfortune to the point of [imprisonment] as a criminal, but the word of God is not bound.”

(2 Tim. 2:8-9, ESV)

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

“In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;” (Ephesians 6:16, ESV)



ROMAN LEGIONARY SHIELD



Fresco of an [ancient Macedonian](#) soldier bearing a *thyreos* shield. Archeological museum in Istanbul.

“PROTECTION” IS THE KEY CONCEPT

FIRST TESTAMENT REFERENCES

Proverbs 30:5 (ESV)

Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Psalms 91:4 (ESV)

He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Psalms 28:7 (ESV)

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

Psalms 18:2 (ESV)

The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.



THE HELMET OF SALVATION

“Take the helmet of salvation” (Ephesians 6:17)

“For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. ⁵We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ.”

2 Corinthians 10:4-5, ESV

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”

2 Timothy 1:7, NKJV

“And he put on righteousness like a breastplate,
and a helmet of salvation on his head,
and he put on garments of vengeance for clothing,
and he wrapped himself in zeal as in a robe.”

Isaiah 59:17, LEB

“Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and *in righteousness He judges and makes war.* 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He [e]had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 *He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood,* and His name is called The Word of God.”

Revelations 19:11-13, NKJV

THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT
THE WORD OF
GOD

“... and the sword of the Spirit—which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17b)



“But he shall judge the poor with righteousness,
and he shall decide for the needy of the earth with rectitude.
And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and he shall kill the wicked person with the breath of his lips.”

Isaiah 11:4, LEB

“Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written:
KING OF KINGS AND
LORD OF LORDS.”

Revelations 19:15-16, NKJV

“For the word of God is *living* and active and *sharper than any double-edged sword*, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, both joints and marrow, and able to judge the reflections and thoughts of the heart. 13 And no creature is hidden in the sight of him, but all things are naked and laid bare to the eyes of him to whom [we must give our account].”

Hebrews 4:12-13, LEB