

# THE ARMOR OF GOD

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH PASTOR JACK ABELEN

## Knowing our Adversary and the Armor of God Week 7: Ephesians 6:16 - Shield of Faith

### Introduction

- A. We spent three weeks looking at knowing our adversary -- Satan's character and person, and his method of operations against both the world under his grasp and the saints of God whom he seeks to oppose.
- B. We then spent three more weeks focusing on the Armor God has provided us to withstand the enemy and to remain standing. Thus far, all three parts of the armor we have seen were constantly worn by the soldier: the belt, breastplate, and shoes.
- C. The purpose for the armor is simple -- though we have victory in Christ (Rom.8:37)(1Co.15:57)(2Co.2:14)(1Jn.5:5), we have to appropriate this armor to enjoy practically what is a positional truth given to us by faith in Him.

### The Roman Shields of War

- A. The Asp: a small round shield strapped to the forearm and used in hand-to-hand battles.
- B. The Thureon: a large wooden shield (4' x 2') covered with metal or treated leather, with hooks on the end to be able to latch onto the soldier next to you. It provided protection by being stuck into the ground at a 45 degree angle so the soldier could climb underneath.
- C. It is the thureon that is mentioned here and it is the first of three pieces of armor that were not worn daily but kept within arms reach to be employed as needed. It is introduced by the word taking in our text, as opposed to the first three pieces that were introduced by the word having.
- D. The purpose of this shield was to provide safe haven from surprise attacks from flaming arrows shot from afar. Fiery arrows were never used in close combat, only from a distance; the equivalent to our modern day bombing run.

### Spiritually Applied

- A. This is a shield of faith. Though it is the word most often used for faith in the Scriptures (pistis), its context demands we understand it not as saving faith or a gift of faith, but rather the daily exercise of faith that is to be found in every saint as he engages in this warfare with the enemy.
- B. This faith will quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Satan does attack from every direction while staying out of sight (1Jn.2:16). Yet, whatever the strategy, the shield of faith is the solution.
- C. These specific attacks, however, fall into a category all of their own. Not the run-of-the-mill daily harassment, these rather are vicious, come out of nowhere, and seem to besiege your entire being all at once.
- D. The answer from the Lord at these overwhelming times is specific and difficult: get down behind the shield of faith and stay there until the onslaught is over. To run is to be further exposed to danger. Simply sit tight and hang on, faith in the Lord will be your shield!

### Walking with the Giants

- A. When the enemy comes in like a flood, it is the Lord who will raise up a dam (a standard) against him (Isa.59:19). A standard is a way out, an escape hatch, a resolution. Even great men of God have been plagued with doubts and difficulties while being greatly used. We should not be surprised to face them, too (1Pe.4:16-17).

- B. This armor is not a quick fix but a lasting help. Foundational truths of God's Word will keep us when the circumstances seem to challenge our understanding (Ps.73:1)(Rom.8:28,31)(1Co.10:13). There is no way to wield a sword at a fiery arrow, instead we must simply take cover.
- C. That He is our hiding place takes on new meaning (Ps.91)(Heb.11).

### **The Just Shall Live by Faith**

- A. Six little words change our lives: the just shall live by faith (Hab.2:4)(Gal.3:11)(Heb.10:38-39).
- B. So faith may require sitting and waiting for deliverance to come (1Pe.5:8-9)(1Jn.5:4). This shield is simply a defense, having no offensive properties whatsoever.
- C. Look at Abraham's example (Rom.4:18-25). We turn to our Lord and find shelter indeed (Gen.15:1)(Ps.46:1)(Ps.84:11)!

### **Conclusion**

- A. Next week we will cover the helmet of salvation (Eph.6:17a), so read ahead.