

## **Imitation Armor**

Ephesians 6:14-20

November 15, 2020

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### **Review**

Chained to a Roman guard  
Inspired by the imagery of the Old Testament  
Isaiah 11 and Isaiah 59 picture God in armor  
Ephesians 6 is more than God simply giving us defensive equipment  
It is a call to stand in God's stead as His ambassador-warriors

### **The Meanings in the Armor Metaphor**

I will draw meaning from OT usage more than Roman guard parallels  
I will stay consistent with the idea that as ambassador-warriors we are imitating God  
More specifically, we are imitating Jesus Who gave us an earthly model  
The six armor parts each have an OT referent and each are apt descriptions of Jesus  
The six armor parts can be viewed as three couplets presenting three big ideas  
Integrity, trust, and bearing witness

### **Integrity: the belt and the breastplate**

The belt of truth is drawn from Isaiah 11:1-9  
"Truth" is capturing the idea of "righteousness and faithfulness": Isaiah 11:5  
"Truth" as integrity, a person without duplicity, pure heart leading to right actions  
This makes metaphorical sense, as lying hobbles a person  
The breastplate of righteousness is drawn from Isaiah 59:17  
"Righteousness" is capturing the idea of right action, doing the right thing  
This makes metaphorical sense as right action protects one's heart  
Jesus, our High Priest without sin: see Hebrews 4:15

### **Trust: the shoes and the shield**

Feet shod with the readiness given by the gospel of peace is from Isaiah 52:7  
"Gospel of peace" in context refers to the announcement, "Our God reigns"  
This makes metaphorical sense that such confidence steadies our feet  
The shield of faith is not in Isaiah, but in Wisdom of Solomon 5:17  
But take a look at Genesis 15: 1-6 and the relation of faith and shield  
"Faith" here refers to unshakeable trust in God  
This makes metaphorical sense as trust douses fiery accusations and attacks of evil  
Jesus' earthly life was lived by trust in and submission to the Father  
At His greatest vulnerability He chose obedience as a sign of trust  
Even His cry "Why have you forsaken me" was a cry of trust (read all of Psalm 22!)

### **Bearing Witness: the helmet and the sword**

The helmet of salvation is drawn from Isaiah 59:17

“Salvation” in this sense carries the idea of deliverance from enemies  
To wear the helmet, in imitation of God, is bring salvation/deliverance to others  
This makes metaphorical sense as a protected head allows the agent to fight on  
The “sword of the Spirit” is defined by Paul as the word of God  
This linkage can be seen in Isaiah 11:4 and 59:21  
God’s word executes judgement and establishes blessing  
This makes metaphorical sense as a sword can both break down and defend  
These two ideas suggest bringing deliverance into the dark  
How? By bearing witness to the light of Christ (Eph 5:8)  
Jesus is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and we are too (Matt 5:14)

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### **Praying at All Times**

How do we not fall asleep like the disciples in the Garden?  
Watch and pray as a constant mode of alert attention  
The mindset of being on high alert  
That we might be bold in serving our ambassadorial role, as Paul requests: vs.19-20  
Our primary mindset: not that we have a battle to win but a victory to complete

### **Up, In, and Out**

Up: Unshakeable, unwavering trust in God  
In: Integrity in all of our dealings with one another  
Out: Bearing witness to light of Jesus with our words and embodied actions

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