

Armor of God - Weapons

Ephesians 6:10–20

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. ¹³Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; ¹⁹And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (KJV)

Purpose of this passage (3 questions)

- **What does Paul want us to do?**
 - **Be strong (v. 10)**
 - **in the Lord**
 - **In the power of His might**
- **How does he want us to do it?**
 - **Putting on the whole armor of God (v. 11)**
- **Why does he want us to do it?**
 - **To be able to stand against...the devil (v. 11)**
 - **The enemy is not human, but spiritual and he's stronger than us**

The whole armor of God

- The panolpy (full armor) of a soldier
- πανοπλία *panoplia* – the complete equipment of a heavy-armed soldier (usually infantry)
 - Full armor for endurance in battle, providing protection for the whole person, a complete or perfect covering
 - Implies having all distinguishing characteristics and enjoying all authorized rights and privilege, not lacking in any essential equipment, training, or power

Within the NT, this Greek word is only used in the Eph 6 passage.

3 categories of “panoplia”

1. Protective armor
2. Weapons
 1. Spear
 2. Ax, club, mace
 3. Sling
 4. Chariot
 5. Battering Ram
 6. Bow & Arrow
 7. Sword
3. Tactics and Strategies

- The armor of God is not something the believers put on to fight on their own.
- The armor is Christ himself.
- Putting on the armor is equivalent to putting on Christ
- The power of Christ is sufficient to stand against all evil and temptation that a believer will encounter

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.” (NIV)

Armor and Weapons are the primary instruments enabling three basic elements within the art of warfare:

- **Mobility**
- **Firepower**
- **Security**
- **Weapons consisted of various instruments to engage the enemy at long or medium range and in (short range) personal battle**
 - **The bow and the sling were the principal weapons developed for long-range firepower**
 - **the javelin and the spear for medium-range**
 - **the sword, the ax, and the mace for short-range.**

Long distance weapons of ancient battle

Bow and arrow

Early bows were fashioned from one piece of seasoned wood. Gradually the idea was conceived of combining several natural materials—wood, sections of animal horn, animal tendons and sinews, and glue—in the construction of a bow to meet all the demands placed on it. Composite structure gave a bow lightness, strength, and elasticity. Use of a double-convex form gave increased range and power of penetration.

The form of the arrowhead was a response to the enemy's defense and armor. In the late Bronze period, for example, a battle arrowhead was generally of bronze and was thick in the middle, tapering to a spine. Its shape was dictated by the fact that the coats of mail in widespread use at the time could be penetrated only by a spined or ribbed arrowhead. The arrow shaft was usually made from reed, a material that combined strength with pliability.

- **Launched with a bow or catapult**
- **Used as missile projections at mostly long range**
- **Pitch and cloth was often attached to allow for fire as a distraction as well as destruction**

Larger and heavier long range instruments of war

Chariot and Battering ram

- Larger and heavier long range instruments of war
 - Chariot
 - A mobile fighting platform
 - Allowed for heavy arms and firepower to be quickly deployed
 - An ancient form of the armored vehicles like personnel carriers and tanks
 - Battering ram
 - Sometimes called an Engine of War
 - An instrument used to destroy walls and gates
 - Many different shapes and sizes, usually large and fitted to apply great force

Personal weapons of ancient battle (with long range)

Sling

Complementing the bow was the sling, devised originally by shepherds to drive off animals molesting their flocks. It gradually assumed importance as a weapon of war, its supreme advantage being simple construction. Not only did a sling require little technical skill to produce, but the stones used as projectiles were readily available on the ground. In the hands of a trained slinger a missile could be hurled as far as 600 feet (183 meters) in any terrain. Its principal disadvantage was that strenuous training and experience were required to achieve accuracy in its operation.

A sling was commonly made from two leather thongs to which were attached a pocket for holding the stone. With the thongs pulled taut the pocket became a bag. The slinger held his arms above his head, the bag in his left hand and the ends of the taut thongs in his right hand. After swinging the sling several times around his head with great force to give it momentum, he suddenly released the end of one of the thongs to discharge the missile.

- A strip of cloth or leather
- Able to launch missiles of odd shapes at close and long ranges
- Was not extremely accurate without training and experience
- This is the weapon David used to kill Goliath

Medium range weapons of ancient battle

Javelin and Spear

Two weapons employed for medium-distance warfare were similar in appearance but different in length and operation. The javelin, generally lighter and shorter than the spear, was designed for throwing. It was like a large arrow that was hurled by the hand. Javelin heads were designed for penetration and altered in shape and material as enemy armor became more effective. A head fashioned with sharp hooks or barbs was difficult and painful to extract from a wound. The spear was similar in appearance to the javelin but was larger, heavier, and designed primarily as a thrusting weapon

- Sometimes called a handpike or staff
- Javelins were primarily used by throwing while the heavier spear was kept in hand
- Provides pinpoint accuracy for penetration and protection from fast advancements

Short range weapons of ancient battle

Mace and Ax

The mace and the ax, developed as alternatives to the sword before hard metal could be forged, were designed for hand-to-hand fighting. The weapons were swung like a hammer to deliver a striking blow. The mace was designed to batter and smash, the ax to pierce and cut. The mace was a very primitive weapon. The hieroglyphic sign for the infinitive to fight represents hands holding a mace and a medium-size shield.

- **Ax, club, cudgel, mace or maul**
 - **Large heavy personal weapon**
 - **Some had blades, blunts, hammer heads, steel balls, spikes**
 - **Provides powerful application of blunt force trauma**

Personal weapons of ancient battle (close quarters)

- **Sword**

One of the earliest objects made of iron was the sword. Swords were designed for either stabbing or striking. The stabbing sword developed as a long straight blade, tapered toward the point for piercing the body. Its tapered edges were sharpened so that it could also serve as a cutting instrument. The striking sword, on the other hand, had only one sharp edge, with the thickest part of the blade not along the center but along its blunt edge. Both allowed for cutting or slicing.

- **Sometimes referred to as a cherub**
- **A metal blade of various weight, shapes**
- **The most versatile and effective personal weapon that can be used for**
 - **Penetration**
 - **Blunt force**
 - **Slicing**
 - **Protective blocks**
 - **and in desperation can be thrown**

“And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

- **The sword is the final piece in preparation for battle for a Roman soldier**
- **For most soldiers, the sword is his only offensive weapon.**
- **It is the last article he dons and the first he grabs at the moment of the fray.**
- **The sword Paul is referencing is the sharp two-sided one used in close hand-to-hand, face-to-face conflict**

- The “Sword of the Spirit” is specified and described as the “Word of God”
 - It is the only offensive weapon of the Christian and it is provided exclusively and distinctively by the Spirit.
 - “Of the Spirit” refers to the source or origin of the sword; hence it is “the weapon given by the Spirit.”
 - The reference also includes the preached Word—the telling of the Good News of Christ (John 1).
 - It also implies the “still small voice” as an utterance of God occasioned by the Holy Spirit in the heart of the Christian.
- Why with all of the weapons would God choose His Word to be a sword?
 - The battle is already at hand
 - The battle is at close range, personal engagement
 - God’s army is an attacking, moving, mobile force
 - Need for versatility and effectiveness
- Believers need this “sword” to combat the enemy’s assault, much as Christ did three times when tempted by the devil (Matt. 4:1-11).

When the church, or the Christian, used the rotten sticks of culture, science, experience, theories, traditions, or commands of men, defeat is inevitable.

The significance of spiritual weapons

With the Word as our only weapon, it is important for us to understand that the spiritual battle, the warfare in principles is not fought in the carnal realm, but in the realm where God is sovereign and His Word carries all authority and power.

2 Corinthians 10:3–5

We are human, but we don’t wage war as humans do. We use God’s mighty weapons, not worldly weapons, to knock down the strongholds of human reasoning and to destroy false arguments. We destroy every proud obstacle that keeps people from knowing God. We capture their rebellious thoughts and teach them to obey Christ.” (NLT)

- **Weapon musts:**
 - **Must be able to work in combat – *designed for the combat environment***
 - **Must be powerful, incisive, and astute – *dominant, intimidating, and the latest technology***
 - **Must be reliable – *long lasting and endure combat hardships***
 - **Must be effective – *has to do its job very well***
 - **Must be personal – *individual application for best results***

The essence of God's Word

Isaiah 55:8–11

“I don't think the way you think. The way you work isn't the way I work.” GOD's Decree. “For as the sky soars high above earth, so the way I work surpasses the way you work, and the way I think is beyond the way you think. Just as rain and snow descend from the skies and don't go back until they've watered the earth, Doing their work of making things grow and blossom, producing seed for farmers and food for the hungry, So will the words that come out of my mouth not come back empty-handed. They'll do the work I sent them to do, they'll complete the assignment I gave them.” (MSG)

- **Must be able to work in the spiritual realm (our combat environment)**

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (NKJV)

- **Must be the most powerful, intimidating, astute weapon available**

Hosea 6:5

That's why I use prophets to shake you to attention, why my words cut you to the quick: To wake you up to my judgment blazing like light." (MSG)

Revelation 1:16

In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance." (NIV)

- **Must be dependable, consistent, trustworthy**

1 Peter 1:23–25

for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and enduring word of God. For, "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF, BUT THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER." And this is the word which was preached to you." (NASB)

- **Must be devastatingly effective against Satan**

Revelation 19:15–16

A sharp sword came from His mouth, so that He might strike the nations with it. He will shepherd them with an iron scepter. He will also trample the winepress of the fierce anger of God, the Almighty. And He has a name written on His robe and on His thigh: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." (HCSB)

- **Must be personally applied**

Isaiah 49:2

He gave me speech that would cut and penetrate. He kept his hand on me to protect me. He made me his straight arrow and hid me in his quiver." (MSG)

- **This weapon must be**
 - **Read**
 - **Preached**
 - **Memorized**
 - **Spoken (or recited)**
 - **Meditated on**
 - **Relied upon**
 - **Practiced, lived by**

The significance of spiritual warfare is our relationship with Christ!

Romans 13:12–14

The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” (KJV)