

# Ready for battle?



“...put on the full armour of God...”

## Week 1:

“... so you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.”

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. **Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.** For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able **to stand your ground**, and after you have done everything, **to stand.**

**Stand firm then,** with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace.

In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”  
(Ephesians 6:10–17, NIV)

### Think / Talk it over....

Where do you think evil originates? What is your understanding of evil/ the adversary/Satan?

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Read 2 Kings 6:15-17. Do you need to “see” a different perspective?

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Paul may have been drawing from the Divine Warrior motif of the Old Testament. As we can see in Isaiah 59:14–21, the Lord puts on armour. Why does Paul instruct the Ephesian believers to put on the armour of God?

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Read Ephesians 6:11–13 and think about how you prepare yourself (or don't) to confront the spiritual realm in spiritual warfare.

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Note the two references to the “full armour of God”. What does this tell us? What is our responsibility?

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How easy do you find it to stand firm? What areas do you find most difficult?

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Find the references to “stand” in Ephesians 6:10-14. Explore the differences between what is “to stand” and “to fight”.

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The Greek imperatives Paul uses are all plural, indicating that all believers - the Church as a collective - are to put on the Armour of God. How can you support others to put on their Armour? How can we stand together as a church?

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A soldier does not want to be taken captive. What does Paul warn us about how we might be taken captive in Colossians 2:8? How might this happen in twenty-first century life?

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## A CLOSER LOOK

### Helmet

The iron helmet was forged from one piece of metal and lined with leather. Crests made of dyed horsehair indicated rank. Plates hung down along the cheeks and another plate protected the back of the neck and shoulders.

### Breastplate

The iron or bronze scaled armour was built in four sections to cover each shoulder and side of the chest. The plates were sewn to a stiff leather vest, which was put on like a jacket before the front plates were tied with leather straps.

### Sword

The sword was carried on the right side and hung from the belt or a leather strap over the shoulder.

### Belt

The leather belt was tied around a wool tunic. Connected bronze plates hung from the belt to protect the soldier's groin area.

### Shield

The curve was created using three bonded layers of thin wood strips. Covered by linen or leather, the shield was painted according to legion. A bronze rim covered the rounded edges as additional protection.

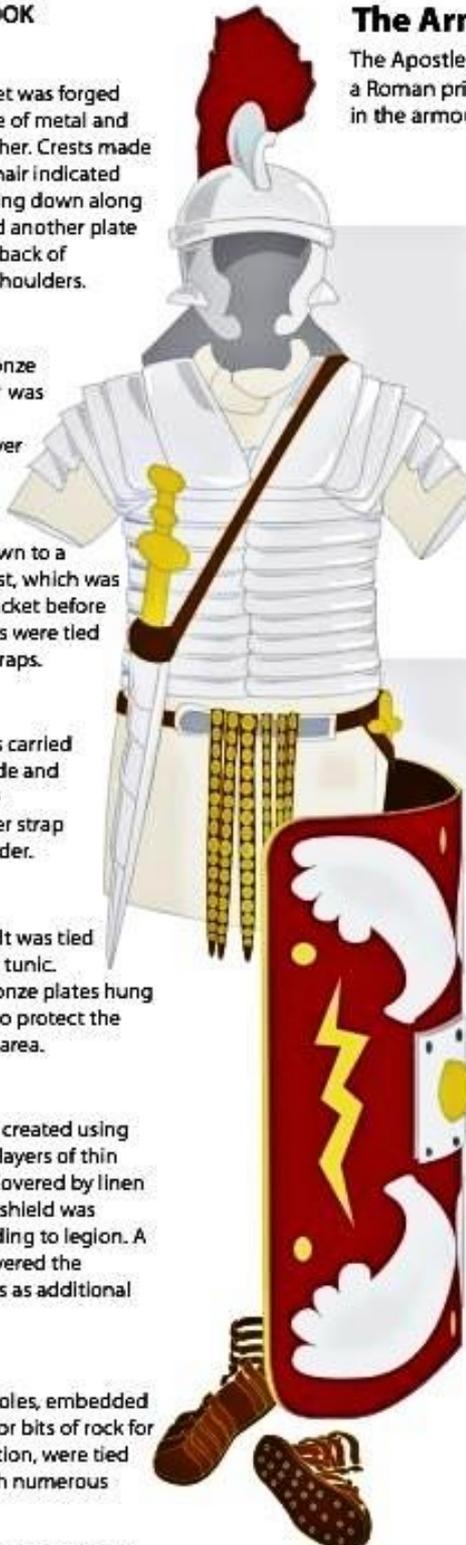
### Sandals

Thick leather soles, embedded with hobnails or bits of rock for increased traction, were tied to the feet with numerous leather straps.

Scripture: English Standard Version

## The Armour of God

The Apostle Paul, inspired by God, wrote a letter to the church of Ephesus from a Roman prison. As he wrote, Roman soldiers guarding the prison walked about in the armour of first century legionary.



### ARMOUR OF LEGIONARY

#### Galea (Helmet)

Protected head and neck from enemy attacks

#### Lorica Segmentata (Breastplate)

Guarded vital organs

#### Gladius (Sword)

Powerful offensive weapon in the hand of a skilled soldier

Waving it served as a word of warning to the enemy

#### Cingulum (Girdle or Belt)

Supports sword, dagger and bronze apron

Worn at all times, even without other armour pieces

#### Scutum (Shield)

Overlapping shields allowed soldiers to advance together

Shield was used to defend the entire body, including the back

#### Calligae (Sandals)

Fit for both marching and fighting

Became more comfortable with constant wear

### ARMOUR OF GOD

#### Helmet of Salvation

"...and take on the helmet of salvation..." Ephesians 6:17a

#### Breastplate of Righteousness

"...and having put on the breastplate of righteousness..." Ephesians 6:14b

#### Sword of the Spirit, Word of God

"...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God..." Ephesians 6:17b

#### Belt of Truth

"Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth..." Ephesians 6:14a

#### 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

#### Readiness/Preparation of the Gospel of Peace

"...and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace." Ephesians 6:15

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