

- C. If we don't stand together on the day of evil, we won't stand at all. We must stand wearing garments of truth and righteousness announcing peace and quenching doubt by faith all for our Lord and head, Jesus Christ.



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LIVE THE STORY

The following questions are designed for use in our Community Groups as an aid to growth in the Gospel and Community.

- What are some ways that we are blind to our own “militaristic” demonstrations (literally or figuratively)? (Recall swearing in ceremony.)
- Whose armor does Ephesians 6 tell us to put on? Why might the Roman soldier plastic set help us miss the point of the text?
- In Isaiah 59, what is the background, the need, to which God would send his own arm to resolve? Why is this important?
- What do you think the day of evil is? Why must we be prepared for it in order to stand? How should we prepare?
- Who is it that is to wear the armor? Why is this important?
- What is the irony in calling what we are to put on “armor”?
- How do each of the pieces of armor answer to the need of Isaiah 59 and the need in the world today?

Imagining the Kingdom – 16: *Preparing Yourselfs for the Evil Day*

Jerry Cisar — September 24, 2023

Text: Ephesians 6:10-17

Introduction

Paul calls the church to prepare itself for the day of evil as the messianic warrior, Jesus the Promised King, did, knowing that the enemy is not other humans.

I. Whose Armor?

- A. Are we borrowing it from a Roman soldier?

i. Injustice abounds (Isa. 59:3-9, 14-15)

ii. His own arm would have to intercede.

a) Isa. 59:17

b) Isa. 11:5

c) Isa. 52:7

➤ Eph. 2:17

- B. So that we will be able to stand (6:13)

i. Preparation for readiness

ii. Jesus was ready when the day came:

a) Matt. 26:45.

b) John 12:23, 32

Gale D. Webbe: “There are dozens of ways to deal with evil and several ways to conquer it. All of them are facets of the truth that the only ultimate way to conquer evil is to let it be smothered within a willing, living human’ being. When it is absorbed there like blood in a sponge or a spear into one’s heart, it loses its power and goes no further.”

- iii. Jesus came as the divine warrior-king riding forth “victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice” (Psa. 45:4). Mounted on “a white horse” being “called Faithful and True....with justice he judges and wages war” (Rev. 19:11).

II. Whose Fit?

A. Why are we wearing Jesus’ armor?

B. The Church as the Fulness of Christ

- i. Eph. 1:22-23
- ii. Eph. 3:17-19
- iii. Eph. 4:11-13
- iv. Eph. 5:18-19
- v. Eph. 2:19-22

III. What Armor?

A. This armor will never fool anyone into thinking we are at war.

- i. Belt of Truth:
 - a) Isaiah 11:5
 - b) Isaiah 59:13-15 “truth was no where to be found”

ii. Breastplate of righteousness (Isa. 59:17)

iii. “feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace”

a) Isaiah 52:7

b) Isaiah 11:6-9

iv. “the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.” (16)

v. The helmet of salvation

a) The nature of this salvation

b) The helmet goes on the head.

B. No longer children of rage, but warriors of light... of shalom.

Alan Kreider: “Origen envisioned the world as a great theater filled with spectators, all of them watching to see how the Christians respond to persecution. In the theater a wide variety of people, including neighbors, scorn the believers and ‘shake their heads at us as fools.’ **The way Christians play their part in this ‘spectacle’ is critical to their witness.** God is with them—they must never forget that; when they are under torture, ‘the eye of God is present with those who endure.’ ... Origen believes that patience—Christians treating their neighbors well and behaving courageously in the arena—is at the core of the church’s witness.” (The Patient Ferment of the Early Church, 19. Emphasis added)