

## The Whole Armour of God

**Eph 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. 11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For 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. 13 Wherefore 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. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; 19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, 20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

As we see in this text; the whole armour of God is the defensive garments that we put on in preparation to going to battle. Why do we put it on? To be able to withstand the onslaughts of the wicked one against us, by which we would be led into temptation and finally into sin if we yield, which would give us disfavor in the eyes of God. You see; as born again sinners, we are drafted into the army of God, upon the earth, to fight against the wicked one and his minions.

The helmet is the topmost piece of defensive armour that protects the head and its vital parts. The head is the place where your cognitive functions are born. The head is the place of seeing. The head is the place of hearing. The head is the place where we taste. The head is the place through which we are fed. The head is the place from which all the other parts of the body get their instructions. Now take all these thoughts and make application to your spiritual life. Christ in you is the direction of all your thoughts. Christ is the light of your life. Christ is the source of the gospel. Christ is the delightful taste of salvation by grace. Christ is the bread of life upon which we are fed. Christ is the total focus of the Christian life and directs all the other aspects of our bodily functions.

"**And take the helmet of salvation,**" The **helmet of salvation**, if you are born again, is the most important defensive weapon have. It protects your head where the knowledge resides; that your eternal salvation is of Christ Jesus. Putting on the helmet of salvation is the equivalent of putting on Christ, as seen in:

- **Ro 13:14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.** Christ first is the Christian way and reminds us of another text: **Mt 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.**
- **Ga 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.** If you have been born again you have been baptized into Christ. Now you make that profession of faith in Christ public knowledge.

Now I want to demonstrate that Israel, God's people in the Old Testament, had the whole armour of God to their defense. We can find in the Old Testament; scripture that testifies that God was the "**helmet of salvation**" to Israel, before the 10 commandments were given as seen in:

- **Ex 14:13 And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will shew to you today: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen today, ye shall see them again no more forever.** Surely, you can see that God is the salvation of Israel.
- **Ex 15:2 The LORD is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.** Surely, you can see that Israel understood the obligation to remove all self-sufficiency and to be willing and obedient to God.

We can find in the Old Testament; scripture that testifies that God was the "helmet of salvation" to Israel, after the 10 commandments were given as seen in:

- **Isa 45:17 But Israel shall be saved in the LORD with an everlasting salvation: ye shall not be ashamed nor confounded world without end.** What a wonderful eternal promise of salvation.
- **Jer 3:23 Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the LORD our God is the salvation of Israel.** You just can't misunderstand this without blatant refusal of God.

The word "**salvation**" is used in the Old Testament 115 times, and 43 in the New Testament.

Now let's consider one of the 10 Commandments, scripture from the Old Testament. **Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.** Do you understand; the Ten Commandments were pieces of defensive armour to be put on by God's people, Israel? Why would you say they are defensive armour? Israel had just left a land of idolatry, and was on their way to take possession of a land of idolatry. God is telling Israel; put me first in your life in all things, and you will be under my protection, and you will be saved from your enemies. I will deliver your enemies into your hands, and I will even destroy them before you.

Do you see; the first Commandment, and the helmet of salvation, accomplish one and the same thing? Israel trusting in God only, as their Saviour; and the born again sinner putting on Christ and trusting in Christ only, as Saviour; are the same thing. If we put on Christ; we have put on the helmet of salvation. If Israel put God first; they had on the helmet of salvation. Salvation, for God's people Israel, in the Old Testament came from God. Salvation in the New Testament, for all of God's people, comes from Christ.

We understand that God is directing the affairs of Israel on earth and eternally. We must understand that God is directing our affairs concerning our earthly salvation, since the eternal salvation is already accomplished and promised through Jesus Christ. Application of these thoughts of defensive armour is for our earthly walk in Christ. In the eternal we won't need any defensive armour.

The whole of the Ten Commandments were to teach Israel, God's chosen people on earth, to worship and adore God only, and how to treat one another in brotherly love. When we go to the New Testament we find the same thing condensed and restated by Jesus in: **Mr 12:29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: 30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.**

If we are blessed by God to fulfill the first commandment, of God being preeminent in our lives, all the rest will come into place. May God help us; to arise, each new day we are given, and put on the whole armour of God, in defense of the glorious Gospel of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, to the glory and honor of the name of God, our heavenly Father.

As an exercise; go through the 10 commandments and see if you can figure out how they were a defensive weapon for Israel. Then make New Testament of the same principle to your own life.

The point of the sermon is this; many regard the commandments of God (thou shalt and thou shalt not) as burdensome and restrictive, hindering them from performing their free will, which is true if you are not a born again sinner. However, for the born again sinner they are not burdensome or restrictive, but are rather viewed as instruments for our own protection. Think about the blessing of protection and provision Israel had if they were obedient to God. Think about the protection and provision we have in our own lives if we are obedient to Christ. If we live the life of a Christian to the full, we will have "Showers of Blessings" in our lives, here and in eternity. Hallelujah! Praise ye the Lord!

Elder Clarke Lee, 2021-04-25