

"The Sword of the Lord"

Ephesians 6.17-20

FINAL Scene of Ephesians describes Battle, Enemy, Armor, Warfare

For many it is CUTE Ending – Buy our Children TOY Christian Armor SUITS

For Paul this Picture is NO JOKE > Soldier CHAINED to him > Deadly Serious!

Given very LIFE for this Cause > GLORY of Jesus Christ & His Church

Paul's UNWAVERING GOSPEL Allegiance thrust him into Roman Cell

IF he simply declared "Caesar is LORD!" and burn incense before Statue

Paul would have been SET FREE > REFUSES to do so and will be Executed

Wm Gurnall - WIDELY Acclaimed 900 page book on 7 vss in Ephesians 6

"This war is a spiritual holocaust. Either you destroy the power of Satan in your life by putting on the whole armor of God and keeping it on, or Satan will destroy you. The great saints of every century have been tried in the fires of temptation. And to a man they have been singed whenever Satan found the smallest chink in their graces. Do not disregard what history has repeatedly shown to be true."

from "The Christian in Complete Armour," William Gurnall 1617-1679
(Cited in ZGC Study Notes, Miriam Fisher)

APOSTLE Paul describes the ARMOR OF GOD - NEEDED FOR WARFARE

So far > FIVE PIECES PRIMARILY DEFENSIVE

Risen Jesus GIVEN Us HIS ARMOR – Believers ORDERED TO PUT IT ON

- 1) Belt of Truth / vs. Satan the LIAR
- 2) Breastplate of Righteousness / vs. Satan the ACCUSER
- 3) Sandals for the Gospel of Peace / vs. Satan the SERPENT
- 4) Shield of Faith / vs. Satan the TEMPTER
- 5) Helmet of Salvation / vs. Satan wants you to join him in DAMNATION

LAST Piece of Armor SOLELY OFFENSIVE

v. 17 Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

So far – Alliance of Nations DROPPED more 10,000 BOMBS on ISIS – \$2 BN
ISIS Still ADVANCING - Remote Control WARFARE Not been Successful

Neither will ARMY of JESUS WIN VICTORY by Playing DEFENSE ONLY
GOSPEL BOOTS must Get ON THE GROUND – and MOVE FORWARD
CANNOT WIN EMPTY-HANDED – Must CARRY SWORD OF ATTACK

See Example of SWORD WIELDED by our COMMANDER IN CHIEF

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit
in the wilderness... Luke 4.1

MOSES and ELIJAH went thru Similar WILDERNESS ORDEALS

Paul LOCKED in Wilderness of Prison Cell v. 20 I am an ambassador in chains

Although he (Jesus) was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and,
once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey
him Hebrews 5.8,9

JESUS: NO SINS to UNLEARN – Being PREPARED for Huge Work of Cross
BECOMING SOURCE of ETERNAL SALVATION – By the CROSS

1. The Attacks of Satan Released

a. on Jesus' Person - "IF you are the Son of God"

DEVIL FOUND JESUS AT A VERY VULNERABLE POINT Hungry, Weary
Most of Us struggle to endure from Lunch to Dinner, Jesus 40 days NO FOOD!?

v. 2 for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days,
and at the end of them *he was hungry*. ---- OF COURSE!!

...he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals
Mark 1.13

v. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God..."

IF you are the Son of God - Raises DOUBT against Jesus Person, God's Promise

...the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."
Luke 3.22

3 TIMES IN GOSPELS - FATHER SPEAKS FROM HEAVEN

ALL 3 OCCASIONS HE AFFIRMS THAT JESUS IS HIS BELOVED SON

The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"? And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."
Hebrews 1.3-6

JUST AS HE DID TO ADAM AND EVE IN EDEN -

SATAN ATTACKS GOD'S WORD and the GOD WHO SPOKE the WORD

IF YOU were REALLY GOD'S SON - HOW Could YOU be SO HUNGRY?

IF YOU REALLY a CHRISTIAN- WHY ARE YOU HAVING PROBLEMS?

It is the primary task of the Devil to remove from us the Word of God, primarily the good news of the Gospel. He attacks our faith. In the parable of the sower, our Lord Jesus identified the birds who steal the newly sown seed as the Devil. He does not want us to believe, confess, stand upon the Word of God. Don Matzat

AS A REAL MAN – JESUS was VULNERABLE TO TEMPTATION

"Jesus was not only God; he was also man. Moreover, his soul was not hard as flint or cold as an icicle. It was a thoroughly human, deeply sensitive soul, affected and afflicted by suffering of every description." William Hendriksen

TEMPTATION REVEALS JESUS IN THE FULLNESS OF HIS PERSON

Prophet - who Speaks the Word of God with Power

Priest - who Suffers on behalf of his People

King - who Battles the Enemy and Sends him Running Away Defeated

b. on Jesus' Purpose SATAN WANTED TO STOP MISSION OF JESUS

vs. 5-7 The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, "I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. So if you worship me, it will all be yours."

WAY Jesus would WIN KINGDOM was by CRUSHING HEAD False KING
Self-Appointed god of THIS WORLD WOULD BE DESTROYED

SATAN lures...."Take the kingdoms already, you can have them"

JESUS WOULD NOT MAKE IT THAT EASY ON SATAN

Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. John 12.31-33

3 WEAPONS SATAN OFTEN USES –

Satan's Strategies	Characterized by	Expressed in
Active	Sins	Open Rebellion
Passive	Accusations	Anxiety, Doubt, Fear
Dormant	Strongholds	Despair, Hopelessness

Mindset of HOPELESSNESS in which we accept as UNCHANGEABLE
Something we know is CONTRARY to WILL OF GOD > God doing Nothing
MARRIAGE - Spouse Never Change / TRAPPED Forever!...UNTIL DEATH!
CHILD / RUN Far from GOD – You – Bad Relationship, Friendships, Lifestyle

CHURCH - God wants Holy – Stuck in Addictions, Bad Habits, DESPAIR
 "THAT'S JUST the WAY IT IS, WILL NEVER CHANGE - HOPELESSNESS"

Persistent Gossip- Addictions - Spirit of Laziness - Lack of Growth

COME Against SATAN in POWERFUL Name of JESUS - EVICTION Notice

BREAK STRONGHOLD in POWER of PRAYER & PROCLAMATION

JESUS CHRIST has ALREADY Served Satan EVICTION Notice

The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work. 1 John 3.8

NOTICE OF EXECUTION was FILED by GOD in the GARDEN OF EDEN

GOD SPOKE TO THE SERPENT - "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."
 Genesis 3.15

c. on Jesus' Purity Tried to FORCE JESUS into GREAT DISOBEDIENCE

v. 8 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

HE HAD COME TO SUBMIT TO GOD - NOT to TEMPT HIM

Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;...Then I said, 'Here I am--it is written about me in the scroll-- I have come to do your will, O God.'" Hebrews 10.5,7

AS THE OBEDIENT SON, HE WORSHIPPED the FATHER WE WORSHIP

HE Taught US TO PRAY "OUR FATHER" - HE IS OUR ELDER BROTHER

FIRST 4 COMMANDMENTS - DEMAND ABSOLUTE LOYALTY TO GOD

"You shall have no other gods before me."

Exodus 20.3

"You shall not make for yourself an idol in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God" Exodus 20.4

"You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name." Exodus 20.7

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." Exodus 20.8

NOT WRITTEN with ERASABLE INK on a STICKY NOTE PAD
ON STONE to LAST FOREVER- INERRANT Word of UNCHANGING GOD

IF Jesus HAD to WORSHIP – So Must WE - DANGER of Failing to WORSHIP
PRIMARY WAY WE ACKNOWLEDGE HIM AS GOD IS BY WORSHIP
ACT OF SUBMISSION AND SURRENDER - HE IS LORD AND KING
PROSTRATE OURSELVES BEFORE HIM AS HIS OBEDIENT SERVANTS
MOST DANGEROUS THING YOU CAN DO EVERY WEEK
IS FAILING TO GIVE GOD ONE HOUR OF YOUR TIME

A LIFELONG BATTLE – not just a ONE-OFF Meeting with Devil....

v. 13 When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time

2. The Attack Successfully Repelled

a. Word of God Jesus MASTERFULLY WIELDS SWORD of the SPIRIT

v. 3 The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread."

TAKE Matters into Own Hand!! > Get FOOD for yourself and FOLLOWERS!!

BOULDER-SIZED Loaves of Bread would bring Lots of Happy Eaters

John 6 – Feeds 5000 – then they want to Make Him – FREE LUNCH KING!

Promise of PAINLESS PROMOTION > Get KINGDOM without a CROSS!

v. 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone.'"

Luke ABBREVIATES Quote from Deut – Jesus hearers KNEW the Full Phrase

“know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD”
Deuteronomy 8.3

JESUS is ONE ISAIAH WROTE ABOUT 700 YEARS BEFORE HIS BIRTH

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power...He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.
Isaiah 11.2,4

Ah, sword of the Lord! How long until you are quiet? Put yourself into your scabbard; rest and be still! How can it be quiet when the Lord has given it a charge?
Jeremiah 47.6,7

HE HIMSELF IS THE WORD - THE WORD OF GOD - INCARNATE

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1.1,14

"Let me put it very directly. Here is Jesus Christ - the Holy Son of the Almighty God, the one in whom neither Satan nor man could find any wrong or gain even the tiniest foothold, Jesus, whose eyes were always on the glory of God the Father and who always lived in the closest possible communion with Him. If this Jesus, your Lord and Savior, had to know Scripture in order to resist Satan and win a victory over him, how much more do you and I need it to win a victory!"
James Boice

b. Specifically Applied

TITLE USED BY APOSTLE JOHN TO DESCRIBE JESUS = WORD "logos"

LOGOS - exalted Greek word in use before Jesus came to earth

Everything changes and nothing stands still. You could not step twice into the same river. All entities move and nothing remains still.

Heraclitus of Ephesus c. 535 BC – 475 BC

Greek Philosopher from EPHESUS - Wrestled with Question -

"How could there be order in a world in a constantly changing world?"

ONE THING REMAINS SAME / UNCHANGING - says Heraclitus

THE LOGOS - THE WORD - Stands behind Everything, Governs

POWER OF JOHN'S GOSPEL - In the beginning was LOGOS - Jesus!

Contextualization > JOHN lived in EPHESUS - Speaks Gospel to that Culture

v. 17 Apostle Paul does NOT use "logos" – for Word > uses "RHEMA"

LOGOS = embraces everything - all the Scripture

RHEMA = word with less weight "a saying" PARTICULAR VERSE

JESUS DID NOT BEAT SATAN OVER THE HEAD WITH Whole BIBLE

JESUS COMBATS LIES of SATAN with PARTICULAR SCRIPTURES

To do this Jesus Needed to RIGHTLY HANDLE the Word of God

UNDERSTOOD its CONTEXT and APPLIED it Accurately and Faithfully

Word for SWORD IN 6.17 - ROMAN SOLDIER'S SHORT SWORD

FOR CLOSE PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

vs. 18, 19 praying at all times...and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel

Each PIECE of Armor must be PUT ON with PRAYER

If we DO NOT PRAY the Armor that we TRUST in will be POWERLESS

Jesus the TRUE Israel – NO Complaints even in FAMINE in Wilderness

He was WELL ARMED in the WORD OF GOD

Specifically from Deuteronomy chs 6 - 8 - WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

"God's written it is word...still today His sword, for he still uses it to cut through people's defenses, to prick their consciences and to stab them spiritually awake. He puts his sword into our hands so that we may use it both in resisting temptation and in evangelism" John Stott

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2.15

c. Rightly Interpreted DEVIL ALSO TRIES TO USE THE SWORD

WELL, if you NEED SOME SCRIPTURE to MAKE YOU DO WHAT I SAY...

vs. 9-11 The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down from here. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you to guard you carefully; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

I'VE BEEN READING THE BIBLE TOO JESUS!

MANY GROUPS USE BIBLE - NOT ALL CORRECTLY - JW's, MORMONS

NOT Always EASY THING to Understand - COMPLICATED PROCESS

...our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures. You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people and lose your own stability. But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3.15-18

WHATEVER Think Bible says it Cannot CONTRADICT Other SCRIPTURE

JESUS USES SCRIPTURE TO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE -

Love for God provides the zeal needed to employ the weapons he provides...the battle will not be without effort or pain, it is, after all, spiritual warfare...the Devil always begins and presses his attack with an alienation of our affections. Thus the most powerful tool we have to equip others for spiritual battle, and the

most effective participation we have in the work of the Spirit, is consistent praise of the beauties of the grace of God.

Bryan Chapell

3. The Advantages of God's Sword

a. Compelling **THERE IS NO OTHER BOOK LIKE IT - IT IS GOD'S BOOK**

DISCIPLES taught by **RISEN JESUS ON EMMAUS ROAD**

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" Luke 24.32

CAMERON TOWNSEND - sold Spanish Bibles in South America

TRIBE HE WENT TO DID NOT SPEAK SPANISH -

WHY SHOULD WE READ OF YOUR GOD your God cannot speak Quetchua!

Townsend's Early Estimate - Maybe 500 Languages in **WORLD!!**

FOUNDED THE WYCLIFFE BIBLE TRANSLATORS

Now Found at least 6000 - Languages and Dialects

1000+ have Some **PORTION OF WORD OF GOD IN THEIR LANGUAGE**

The law of the **LORD** is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the **LORD** is sure, making wise the simple...More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Psalm 19.7,10

COMPELLING WORD – Wise and Precious – INFINITELY DESIREABLE

"The Bible itself is not merely an incidental human record of Jewish history and early Christianity; rather the Bible is God's self-witness. It is God speaking to us....God is very concerned, not only that we believe in Christ, but also that we believe the Word which tells us about Christ, the very Word of God" John Frame

b. Convicting

assuming that you have heard about him and were taught in him, as the truth is in Jesus

Ephesians 4.21

LIT = you heard him" – How did Ephesians – Decades after Resurr – HEAR?
 JESUS NEVER went to EPHESUS - HIS MESSENGER SPOKE HIS WORD
 To HEAR HIS WORD is REAL ENCOUNTER with the LIVING CHRIST

O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? It was before your eyes that Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified. Galatians 3.1

CROSS was Consistently PROCLAIMED – Jesus CLEARLY PORTRAYED

PEOPLE SAY YOUR SERMON WAS TALKING ABOUT ME - I DID THAT
 EVIDENCE of GOD the HOLY SPIRIT Using WORD - Are YOU Responding!

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4.12

GREAT IMPACT of Preached Word by Peter on PENTECOST

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2.37

PASTOR > Visitor, MEDICAL Doctor, Multimillionaire, ABORTION Centers

DOCTOR CAME FOR COUNSELING - TROUBLED - GUILTY

Pastor GAVE HIM NT - TOLD TO READ GOSPEL OF JOHN

Later that Day TOLD PASTORAL STAFF TO PRAY

"what did you give him" - JUST THE BIBLE?!? - no tapes, books??

FEW WEEKS LATER DR. brought BIBLE BACK - Had BOUGHT HIS OWN

CLOSED his Abortion Slaughterhouses – Returned to Wife - CONVERTED

THE WORD OF GOD IS CONVICTING

c. Converting APOSTLE PAUL AND HIS TEAM PREACHED IN PHILIPPI

We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia...The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. Acts 16.13

He chose to give us birth through the word of truth James 1.18

HARRY IRONSIDE Preached GOSPEL -SALVATION ARMY IN SF - 1900's
CHALLENGED by POPULAR ATHEIST SPEAKER to a DEBATE

Ironsides agreed but asked the ATHEIST to BRING 2 PEOPLE

"First, you must promise to bring with you a man who was for years what we commonly call a 'down and outer'...a man who for years was under the power of evil habits from which he could not deliver himself, but on some occasion entered your meetings and heard this glorification of agnosticism and your denunciations of the Bible and Christianity, and whose heart and mind as he listened to such addresses was so deeply stirred that he went away from the meeting saying, 'From today, I too am an atheist!' and as a result of imbibing that particular philosophy found that a new power had come into his life. The sins he once loved he now hates, and righteousness and goodness are now the ideals of his life. He is now an entirely new man, a credit to himself and an asset to society - all because he is an agnostic.

Secondly, I would like you to bring with you a woman...once a poor, wrecked, characterless outcast, the slave of evil passions, and the victim of man's corrupt living but who also entered a hall where you were loudly proclaiming your agnosticism and as you spoke, hope was born in her heart and she said, 'this is just what I need to deliver me from the slavery of sin!' She followed the teaching and became an intelligent agnostic or infidel. As a result her whole life revolted against the degradation of the life she was living. She fled from the den of iniquity where she was held captive for so long; and today, rehabilitated, she has won her way back to an honored position in society and is living a clean, virtuous, happy life, all because she is an agnostic"

FIND THOSE 2 PEOPLE AND BRING THEM TO THE DEBATE

I WILL FIND 100 PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN CHANGED BY CHRIST

THERE was NO DEBATE - THERE WAS NO 2 PEOPLE - NEVER WILL BE

I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation
of everyone who believes Romans 1.16

d. Consoling

WORLD OFFERS ITS EMPTY WORDS OF HOPE AND COMFORT -
GREETING CARDS "things will get better" - "hang in there" - "be strong"
"every cloud has its silver lining"

COMFORT NOT IN OUR SELVES – Our Strength, Fitness, Intellect, Health
COMFORT IN ALMIGHTY GOD - OUR ONLY SOURCE OF STRENGTH
BIBLE REALLY SAYS "God helps those who cannot help themselves"

vs. 17,18 the word of God, praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and
supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication
for all the saints

Jesus: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me."
John 14.1

he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you
may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world
2 Peter 1.4

v. 20 for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I
ought to speak.

Ephesians 6.¹⁷and take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,¹⁸ praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,¹⁹ and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Luke 4¹And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness² for forty days, being tempted by the devil. And he ate nothing during those days. And when they were ended, he was hungry.³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.”⁴And Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone.’”⁵And the devil took him up and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time,⁶and said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been delivered to me, and I give it to whom I will.⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”⁸And Jesus answered him, “It is written, “‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and him only shall you serve.’”⁹And he took him to Jerusalem and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,¹⁰for it is written, “‘He will command his angels concerning you, to guard you,’¹¹and “‘On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.’”¹²And Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”¹³And when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from him until an opportune time.

PSALM 130

1 Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

2 O Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

4 But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope;

6 my soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

7 O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption.

8 And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.