

NOON BIBLE STUDY: EPHESIANS 6

EPHESIANS 6:10-13 - SPIRITUAL BATTLE

V. 11 - "SCHEME": MW: A CLEVER AND OFTEN DISHONEST PLAN TO DO OR GET SOMETHING. DECEIT. NAB: "TACTICS". NLT: "STRATEGIES"

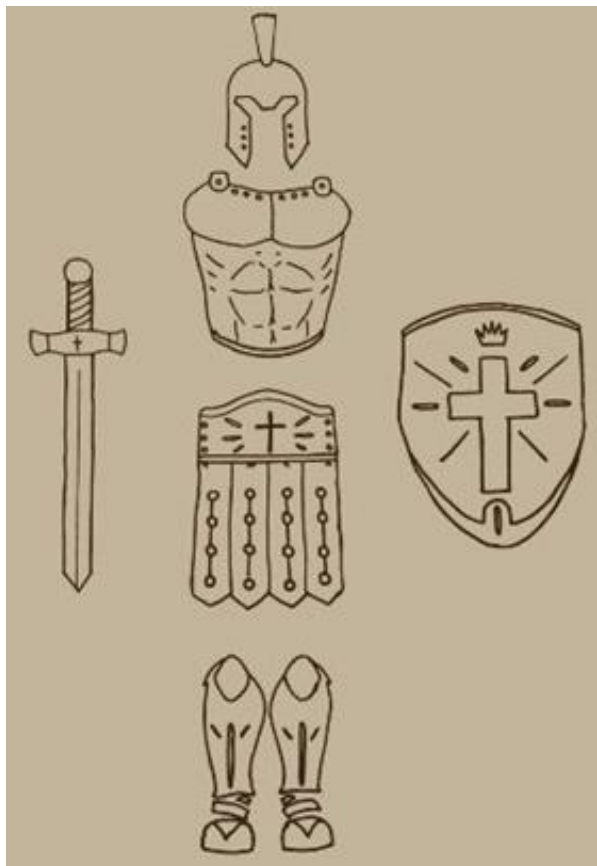
Q - WHAT COMES TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEAR OF A SCHEME? GIVE SOME EXAMPLES OF HOW THE DEVIL IS DECEITFUL AND SCHEMING?

HUMANITY IS IN THE MIDST OF A WAR BETWEEN THE FORCES OF GOD AND CHRIST V. THE DEVIL AND HIS FORCES. MANY PEOPLE ARE UNAWARE OF THIS, AND AS A RESULT ARE ON THE LOSING SIDE OF THE BATTLE! THIS IS A "STRUGGLE" (FIGHT) THAT CANNOT BE WON BY NATURAL POWER, SINCE IT IS A SUPERNATURAL BATTLE.

V. 12 - STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST "FLESH AND BLOOD" = NOT AGAINST PEOPLE SPECIFICALLY OR NATURAL THINGS
- RULERS, POWERS, WORLD FORCES OF THIS DARKNESS, SPIRITUAL FORCES OF WICKEDNESS IN HEAVENLY PLACES

EPHESIANS 6:14-18 - ARMOR OF GOD

BASED ON ROMAN SOLDIER'S ARMOR. THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY COMMONLY UNDERSTOOD BY THE EPHESIAN CHURCH. PAUL WAS VERY FAMILIAR WITH THE ROMAN SOLDIER'S ARMOR AS WELL AND WAS UNDER GUARD FROM A ROMAN SOLDIER AT THE TIME HE WROTE THIS LETTER.



LOINS GIRDLED WITH TRUTH/BELT OF TRUTH - COVERS SENSITIVE AREA OF SOLDIER. HOLDS PANTS UP. HOLDS SWORD IN PLACE. TRUTH CRITICAL IN BATTLE AGAINST DEVIL.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS - COVERS HEART AND CRITICAL AREA OF LIFE. RIGHTEOUSNESS OF CHRIST & CORRESPONDING RIGHT LIVING.

FEET SHOD WITH GOSPEL OF PEACE - WHAT YOU STAND ON, ALSO REPRESENTATIVE OF WHERE YOU GO. SHOES CRITICAL FOR ROMAN ARMY SUCCESS.

SHIELD OF FAITH - PROTECTIVE COVERING. SPECIALLY DESIGNED TO STOP & EXTINGUISH. FAITH IN WHAT GOD HAS SAID/PROMISED IS THE WAY YOU COMBAT THE DEVIL'S ARROWS. ALSO, WHEN UNITED IN FAITH TOGETHER WE CAN MOVE AHEAD IN THE BATTLE (TORTOISE FORMATION)

FLAMING ARROWS - COME OUT OF NOWHERE, ATTEMPT TO CAUSE SOLDIER TO THROW AWAY SHIELD

HELMET OF SALVATION - COVERS HEAD. RELATES TO THOUGHTS. KEEPING MIND FOCUSED ON SALVATION AND THE VICTORY IN THE BATTLE. KNOWING WHO WINS CHANGES EVERYTHING!

SWORD OF THE SPIRIT - GOSPEL MESSAGE AND TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE IS OFFENSIVE WEAPON AGAINST THE EVIL ONE. THE SWORD IS POWERFUL AGAINST WHAT OUR ENEMY REALLY IS.

HEBREWS 4:12 - FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS LIVING AND ACTIVE AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWO-EDGED SWORD, AND PIERCING AS FAR AS THE DIVISION OF SOUL AND SPIRIT, OF BOTH JOINTS AND MARROW, AND ABLE TO JUDGE THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTIONS OF THE HEART.

PRAYER/SPIRITUALLY POWERFUL PRAYER - CRITICAL ELEMENT TO THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE. UNLESS IN CONSTANT COMMUNICATION WITH COMMANDING OFFICER, SOLDIER IN TROUBLE. ONE OF THE MAIN SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL IS AGAINST PRAYER.

REMEMBER, THE **FULL ARMOR** OF GOD IS MENTIONED 2X IN THIS SECTION (V. 11, 13) - BECAUSE WE CANNOT LEAVE ANY AREA OF OUR LIVES EXPOSED TO THE ENEMY OR HE WILL EXPLOIT OUR WEAKNESS.

EPHESIANS 6:19-20 - PAUL'S PRAYER REQUEST

EPHESIANS 6:19-20 (NLT) - AND PRAY FOR ME, TOO. ASK GOD TO GIVE ME THE RIGHT WORDS SO I CAN BOLDLY EXPLAIN GOD'S MYSTERIOUS PLAN THAT THE GOOD NEWS IS FOR JEWS AND GENTILES ALIKE. 20 I AM IN CHAINS NOW, STILL PREACHING THIS MESSAGE AS GOD'S AMBASSADOR. SO PRAY THAT I WILL KEEP ON SPEAKING BOLDLY FOR HIM, AS I SHOULD.

IF THIS IS SOMETHING THAT PAUL PRAYS FOR, CERTAINLY WE SHOULD TOO!

EPHESIANS 6:21-24 - CLOSING REMARKS

V. 21 - **TYCHICUS** - FAITHFUL BROTHER OF PAUL WHO PROBABLY CARRIED THE LETTER TO THE EPHESIANS

ACTS 20:4 - AND HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY SOPATER OF BEREA, THE SON OF PYRRHUS, AND BY ARISTARCHUS AND SECUNDUS OF THE THESSALONIANS, AND GAIUS OF DERBE, AND TIMOTHY, AND TYCHICUS AND TROPHIMUS OF ASIA.

COLOSSIANS 4:7-8 - AS TO ALL MY AFFAIRS, TYCHICUS, OUR BELOVED BROTHER AND FAITHFUL SERVANT AND FELLOW BOND-SERVANT IN THE LORD, WILL BRING YOU INFORMATION. 8 FOR I HAVE SENT HIM TO YOU FOR THIS VERY PURPOSE, THAT YOU MAY KNOW ABOUT OUR CIRCUMSTANCES AND THAT HE MAY ENCOURAGE YOUR HEARTS:

2 TIMOTHY 4:11-12 - ONLY LUKE IS WITH ME. PICK UP MARK AND BRING HIM WITH YOU, FOR HE IS USEFUL TO ME FOR SERVICE. 12 BUT TYCHICUS I HAVE SENT TO EPHEBUS.

TITUS 3:12 - WHEN I SEND ARTEMAS OR TYCHICUS TO YOU, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO COME TO ME AT NICOPOLIS, FOR I HAVE DECIDED TO SPEND THE WINTER THERE.

EPHESIANS IS A POWERFUL LETTER FOR THE CHURCH OF GOD. IT REMINDS US SOME OF THE AMAZING THINGS GOD HAS DONE FOR US THROUGH CHRIST AND TELLS US THAT THE PURPOSE OF OUR EXISTENCE IS TO PRAISE AND GLORIFY GOD (EPH 1). IT CALLS US TO REMEMBER WHO WE WERE BEFORE CHRIST AND WHO WE ARE NOW BY HIS GRACE, THROUGH FAITH (EPH 2). IT UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE AGES - AND COMMANDS THAT THE JEWISH AND GENTILE BELIEVER'S BE UNITED IN HEART AND MIND (EPH 3-4). IT SHOWS US WHAT IT IS LIKE TO LIVE AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD, A NEW WAY OF BEING HUMAN - NO LONGER LIVING LIKE EVERYONE ELSE. WE ARE CALLED TO PUT AWAY THE "OLD WAY" AND EMBRACE THE "NEW WAY" (EPH 4-6). AND IT CONCLUDES WITH A TRUMPET CALL TO STAND FIRM AND FIGHT AGAINST THE WORKINGS OF THE DEVIL AND HIS FORCES - KNOWING THAT THROUGH HIS STRENGTH, WE WILL BE VICTORIOUS IN THE END! (EPH 6.)