

Bible Readings

2 Samuel 10

New International Version

David Defeats the Ammonites

10 In the course of time, the king of the Ammonites died, and his son Hanun succeeded him as king. ² David thought, "I will show kindness to Hanun son of Nahash, just as his father showed kindness to me." So David sent a delegation to express his sympathy to Hanun concerning his father.

When David's men came to the land of the Ammonites, ³ the Ammonite commanders said to Hanun their lord, "Do you think David is honoring your father by sending envoys to you to express sympathy? Hasn't David sent them to you only to explore the city and spy it out and overthrow it?" ⁴ So Hanun seized David's envoys, shaved off half of each man's beard, cut off their garments at the buttocks, and sent them away.

⁵ When David was told about this, he sent messengers to meet the men, for they were greatly humiliated. The king said, "Stay at Jericho till your beards have grown, and then come back."

⁶ When the Ammonites realized that they had become obnoxious to David, they hired twenty thousand Aramean foot soldiers from Beth Rehob and Zobah, as well as the king of Maakah with a thousand men, and also twelve thousand men from Tob.

⁷ On hearing this, David sent Joab out with the entire army of fighting men. ⁸ The Ammonites came out and drew up in battle formation at the entrance of their city gate, while the Arameans of Zobah and Rehob and the men of Tob and Maakah were by themselves in the open country.

⁹ Joab saw that there were battle lines in front of him and behind him; so he selected some of the best troops in Israel and deployed them against the Arameans. ¹⁰ He put the rest of the men under the command of Abishai his brother and deployed them against the Ammonites. ¹¹ Joab said, "If the Arameans are too strong for me, then you are to come to my rescue; but if the Ammonites are too strong for you, then I will come to rescue you. ¹² Be strong, and let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. The LORD will do what is good in his sight."

¹³ Then Joab and the troops with him advanced to fight the Arameans, and they fled before him. ¹⁴ When the Ammonites realized that the Arameans were fleeing, they fled before Abishai and went inside the city. So Joab returned from fighting the Ammonites and came to Jerusalem.

¹⁵ After the Arameans saw that they had been routed by Israel, they regrouped. ¹⁶ Hadadezer had Arameans brought from beyond the Euphrates River; they went to Helam, with Shobak the commander of Hadadezer's army leading them.

¹⁷ When David was told of this, he gathered all Israel, crossed the Jordan and went to Helam. The Arameans formed their battle lines to meet David and fought against him. ¹⁸ But they fled before Israel, and David killed seven hundred of their charioteers and forty thousand of their foot soldiers. He also struck down Shobak the commander of their army, and he died there. ¹⁹ When all the kings who were vassals of Hadadezer saw that they had been routed by Israel, they made peace with the Israelites and became subject to them.

So the Arameans were afraid to help the Ammonites anymore.

Ephesians 6:10-20

New International Version

The Armor of God

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹² 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. ¹³ Therefore put on the full armor 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. ¹⁴ Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵ and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷ Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸ And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. ¹⁹ Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

Sermon

Be Strong in the Lord (2 Sam 10 and Ephesians 6:10-20) 06-Sep-20

We're continuing our series on 2 Samuel.

We're up to chapter 10

It would be great to have your **Bibles open** there.

Let me pray before we begin...

Let's pray...

Intro

Throughout the **Israelites history** as they entered the **Promised Land** (known as Israel) and as they established themselves in this land - as God's people - they have always had to deal with **various enemies**.

- The Canaanites
- The Philistines
- The Amalekites
- The Amorites
- The Jebusites
- The Ammonites

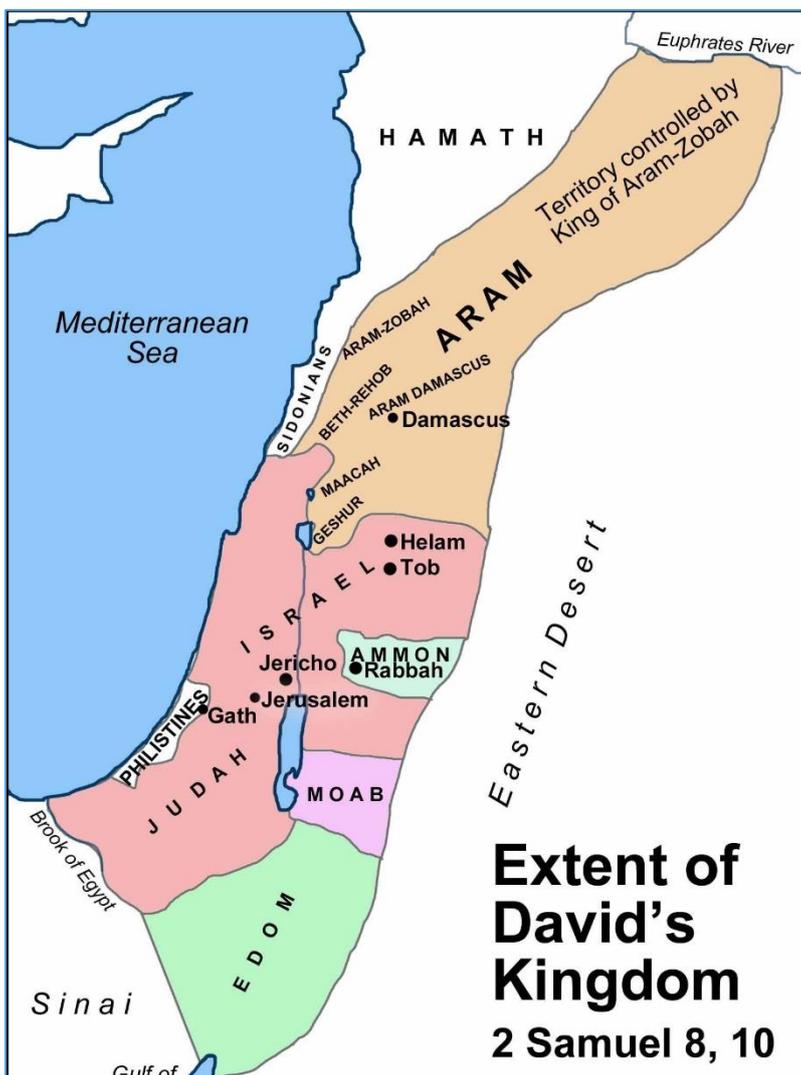
The **fight**s that Israel had with these various **enemies** - always related to the **fact** that **God** had **chosen** the **Israelites** as His people - **to live** in the **Promised Land**.

Their **enemies** didn't worship the **God of Israel** - they worshipped false gods and **idols** - and so there was **constant tension**

Israel's Battle (2 Samuel 10:1-19)

So, we pick up the story in 2 Samuel 10 - where a problem occurs with one of these enemies - The Ammonites

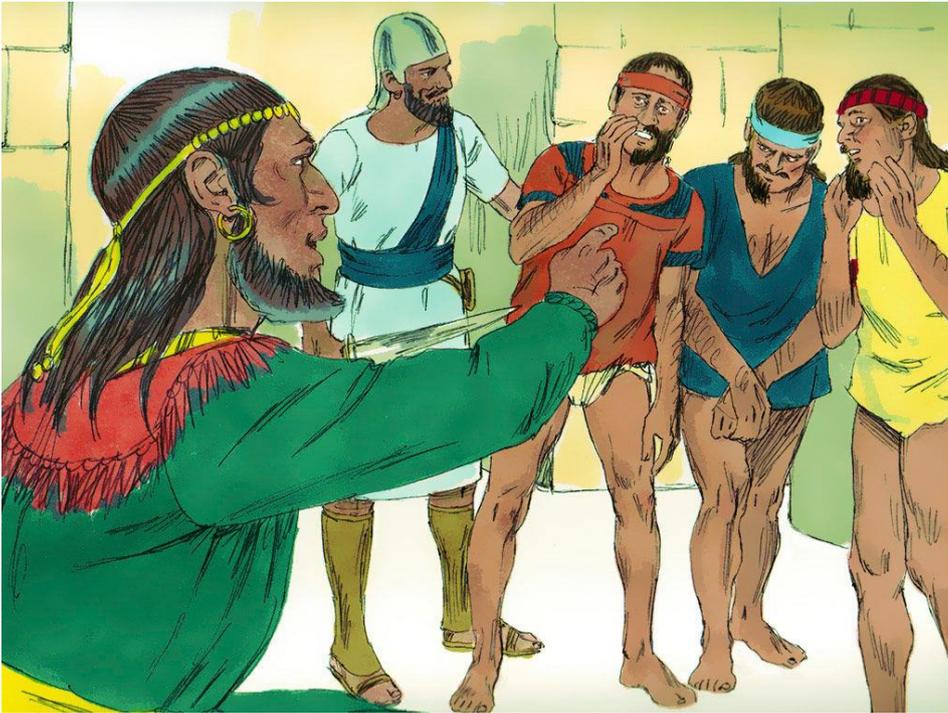
[PowerPoint 1-Map]



- See v1 - The King of the Ammonites died
- **Ammon** is just a **small place** within **Israel's territory** but not owned by Israel

- **David - v2 - thought** it would be a **nice idea** to send a **delegation** to the King of Ammon's son, Hanun, **offering** his **condolences** at the death of his father
- It seems the **deceased King** of Ammon had **previously shown kindness** to David
- A **nice thing** to do - **right?**
- I don't know about you - sometimes when I **do something nice** - it **backfires** - I'm **misunderstood** - or **something goes wrong** -
- Like when you **lend** your **car** to someone - and then it **gets written off!**
- When David's **delegation** arrives in Ammon - the **commanders** of the Ammonite army **suggest** to the Hanun, son of the deceased king - they suggest that **David's men** are actually **spies** - just **checking out Ammon** - so they can **attack** their **city later**
- **David might** have **expected** that just as the deceased **King** had **been kind** to him - so would his son - but sometimes sons are not like their fathers - and this son - wants to establish his regime differently
- David's men are **treated badly** - the Ammonites **shaved off half** of the **beards** of David's men

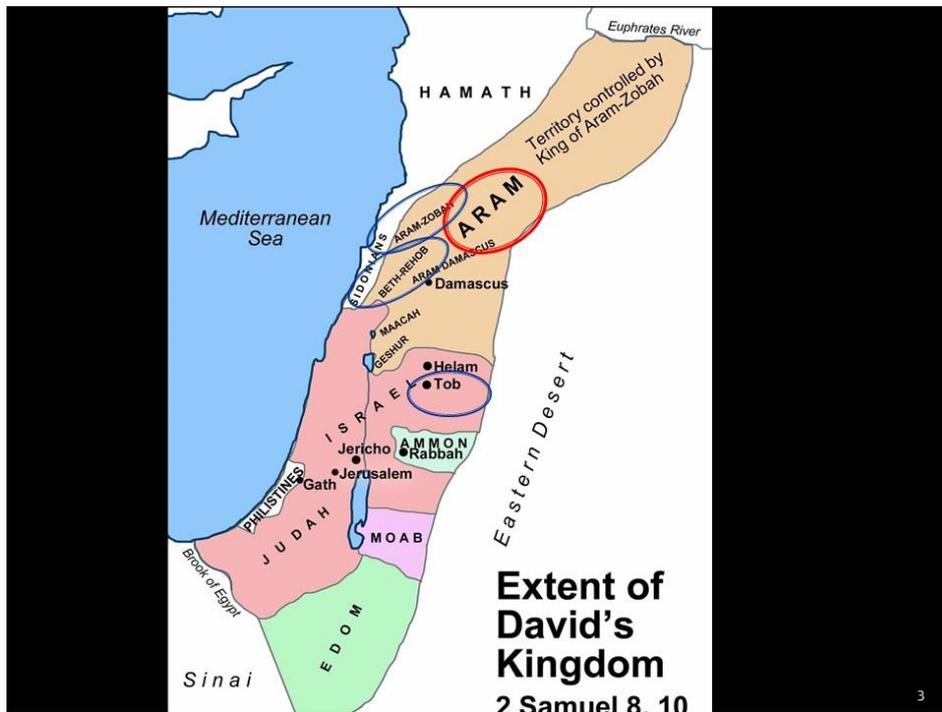
[PowerPoint 2]



- And they also cut off their garments from the buttocks down!
- David's men are humiliated!
- In the culture of the day - being clean shaven meant you were a slave - and having a beard meant you were a free man - so having their beards half shaven was very embarrassing for David's men
- Not only that - walking around half naked - is always embarrassing
- King David takes pity on his men - and allows them to stay in Jericho - until their beards have regrown
- Have you got the feeling that the Ammonites shouldn't have done that to David's men!
- See v6 - The Ammonites realized that they had become obnoxious to David
- One translation says - the Ammonites had become a stench to David's nostrils.

- In our culture - we'd say the Ammonites were "on the nose"

[PowerPoint 3-Map]



So, the Ammonites call for help from the Arameans and from the towns of Zobah, Rehob and Tob - and prepare for battle. [See map]

- The **Ammonites** basically had **2 battle fronts** - one in front of the city of Ammon and one in open country
- So, the commander of David's Army - **Joab** - David's nephew
- **Splits his army into two groups** - one led by **himself** and one led by his brother **Abishai**
- Joab's plan is - if Abishai's group needs help - then Joab's group will come and help Abishai's group - and if Joab's group needs help - Abishai's group will come and help Joab's group
- **A great plan** as long as **both groups** don't need help!
- But here's the KEY VERSE for me
- V12 - Joab says this:

[PowerPoint 4-v12]

Be Strong And Let Us Fight
Bravely For Our People And
The Cities Of Our God. The
Lord Will Do What Is Good
In His Sight.”

2 Samuel 10-12

BibleWordings.com

- What Joab is saying here is:
 - We, Israelites, are **God's people**
 - We're fighting for **God's cities**
 - And **God will do what is good in His sight**
- In other words - God's in control - He will do what is right - **The Israelites worship the one true God** - whereas these **Ammonites and Arameans worship false gods** -
- As Romans 8:31 says - **if God is for us who can be against us**

Applications

- Like Joab we need to **trust God in all things**
- When we face our problems - we need to **trust God will either fix the problem - or give us the strength to cope with the problem and bring us through it - that amounts to **trusting God in all things****
- **We can also have confidence** that the **Lord will always do what is good in His sight**
- Why can we be confident of this?

- Well because - when it comes to the **problem of people's sin** - the Lord did what was **good** in His sight and He **sent** His Son, **Jesus**, to fight a **spiritual battle against Satan** - and to wage a **war on sin and death**, and claim the victory for His people - so they can live in the Promised Land of Heaven.
- Jesus has **fought and won the battle against** the enemy of **sin** and its punishment - **AND** - Jesus has **fought and won the battle against** the enemy of **death** - by being raised to life - and offering eternal life - to all who believe.
- If the Lord has done this **BIG** thing - we can trust the Lord in the **small things** too

- Back to the story in 2 Samuel 10
- With Joab trusting the Lord
- When the **Ammonites** and **Arameans** saw Joab and Abishai's troops - they **ran away!**
- And even when the **Arameans regrouped** - when they saw David and the whole army of Israel approaching, they **fled again**
- **God gave Israel the victory!**

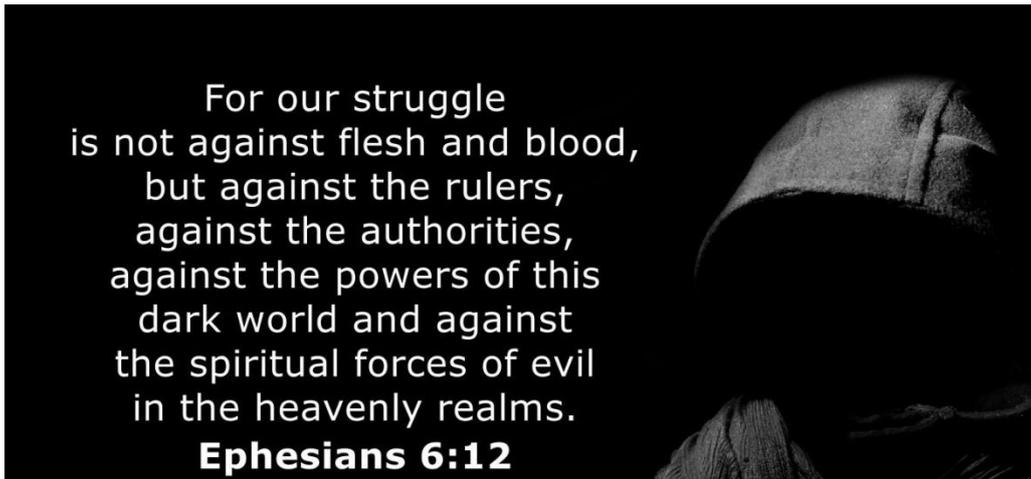
A Christian's Battle (Ephesians 6:10-20)

So, what we've seen from 2 Samuel so far is that as the **Israelites settle** in the **Promised Land** - they are **constantly fighting** against their **enemies** - and yet they are **under God's protection**.

As Christians - we don't so much have a **physical battle** - although - when we are persecuted, we can be physically hurt - especially in countries where Christians are mistreated for believing in Jesus.

In our NT reading - from **Ephesians 6:10-20** the **Apostle Paul** says as Christians we are in a different sort of battle - See v12

[PowerPoint 5-Spiritual Battle] [Read Verse]



What Paul is saying is our **battle might seem** as if it is **against other people** who are anti-Christian.

But the **source** of these **anti-Christian views** is from **spiritual forces of evil**.

That is - from Satan.

And so, we are in a **spiritual battle**.

For example, if **people call for Scripture teaching to be banned** from our schools - our battle is not **against the people** who are calling for the ban - our **battle is ultimately** **against** the power of **Satan - feeding these people** the **anti-Christian** thoughts and **views** they have.

Satan does not want **Scripture** in our schools - or **children at our Youth Group** - or **people joining us for worship at our church** - or **people becoming Christians** - and **Satan will use people and circumstances** - to try and **achieve his wishes**.

It's a **full-on spiritual battle**

And because we are in this **spiritual battle** - **God** has **given** us His **armour** to **protect** us!

[PowerPoint 6-Armour]



So, let's look at **each element** of the **armour**

The **Belt** - the belt **protects** the abdomen - and **gathers up** all the **garments underneath** - so a **soldier** can **fight effectively**. When a **soldier** puts on the **belt**, the soldier is **saying** - I am **prepared for battle**.

In God's armour - we have the **belt of truth** (v13) - confident that **Jesus** is the way, the **Truth** and the life. Confident that **Jesus** always tells the truth. And as Jesus said to Pontius Pilate - **everyone on the side of truth listens to me** (John 18:38).

In a world where truth is often not spoken - how important it is that we **have** the truth of **Jesus** in our armoury.

Remember **Jesus** describes **Satan** as the **Father of Lies** (John 8:44)

Remember too that **Satan** uses doubts and lies to **trick people** - that's what he did to Eve in the Garden of Eden- "*did God really say you must not eat from any tree in the garden*" - there's a **lie** and **doubt** in that statement....

Satan also tells Eve "*You will not certainly die*"- there's a **blatant lie!**

The **Breastplate** - the breastplate **protects** the **vital organs** - and **protects** the soldier's **back** from attacks from behind. A **soldier** can't fight without a **breastplate**.

We can't fight without the **breastplate of righteousness**.

Righteousness is being **right before God** - found not **guilty** of our sins.

We can't be **righteous** on our **own** because we still **sin**.

But our faith in **Jesus** means we forgiven of our sins and not guilty - which in turn **means** we are **seen by God** - as right with Him - and we **receive Jesus'**

righteousness. When God looks at us as a **Christian** - He **sees Jesus** in front of us.

So, when Satan tries to tell us we're not good enough - we can point to our **breastplate** and say - '**yes, I am - I have Jesus' righteousness** - and it's on my *breastplate*'.

Feet - soldiers had **protective footwear** - which also gave them **balance** and **grip**. A soldier can't fight if they **not standing firm** - with **sure footing**.

In God's armour we have - **feet fitted** with the **readiness** of the **Gospel** of peace.

What that means is - we are **standing on the firm foundation** of the **Gospel**. Gospel is the **Good News** that **Jesus died** for our **sins to be forgiven** and **rose** again so we can have **eternal life**. That's the **sure foundation** we can **build our lives on**.

Notice the verse **says feet fitted** with the readiness of the Gospel.

Our feet **need to be ready** to take the **Gospel** - the Good News of Jesus - **to those who don't know** about Jesus - **Happy Feet** - telling people the Happy News about Jesus.

The **Shield** - the **shield** Paul describes here is not a **small round shield** but an **oblong** one which can **protect the whole body** - and be **joined to the shield** of the **soldiers either side** - to produce an **amazing protective screen**.

This **shield** can **stop** the **enemy** sending spears of **fiery darts** - and **deflect** them **away** from the soldier

In the same way in God's armour we have a **shield of faith**. Our faith in **Jesus** - is like a **shield** - so when **Satan** uses people to **send darts** to **question our faith**, or **lie** about us, or **sow doubts** in us or **discourage us** - we can say no - **I have my protective shield of faith in Jesus** - to turn those darts away!

Next the **helmet** - the helmet - protects the **head** and the **brain**. The helmet also identifies what **regiment** the soldier belonged to

In God's armour - the helmet is the **helmet of the salvation**. It **identifies** that we are in Jesus' regiment - and the **helmet says "saved by Jesus"** - it's telling us we are Jesus people. And the **helmet protects our brain** - reminding us that we **are saved for Heaven** - and no one - not even Satan can take that away.

As Jesus says in John 10:28 - **I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.**

Finally, the **sword** - the **sword** can be used by the soldier **defensively** or **offensively**. And often the sword was **double edged**. So, the soldier can **swing one way then the other**. A **good soldier** would **practice** their **sword skills** and their **thrusts & moves constantly** - so that when in battle - those **moves** would **come automatically**.

In God's armour - we have a **sword of the Spirit**. So, the idea is that the **Spirit** (which we all have as Christians) **provides** us with a **sword** - and that **sword is God's Word**.

If we are to be effective soldiers of Jesus - we **need to practice** with our **sword** - which is the **Bible** - we need to learn it - and know it - and believe it - and apply it to our lives. **Not leave the Bible on the book shelf** or in a **cupboard**.

When Jesus was being tempted by Satan in Matthew 4 - **Jesus answered each temptation with** an answer from the **Word of God**.

And it's the **same for us**.

If someone suggests we steal and that **no one will ever know about it** - we can answer them from scripture - "**You shall not steal**" (Exodus 20:15) and we can also say that "**God knows all about me**" (Psalm 139:1) and **He knows my thoughts** (Psalm 139:2)

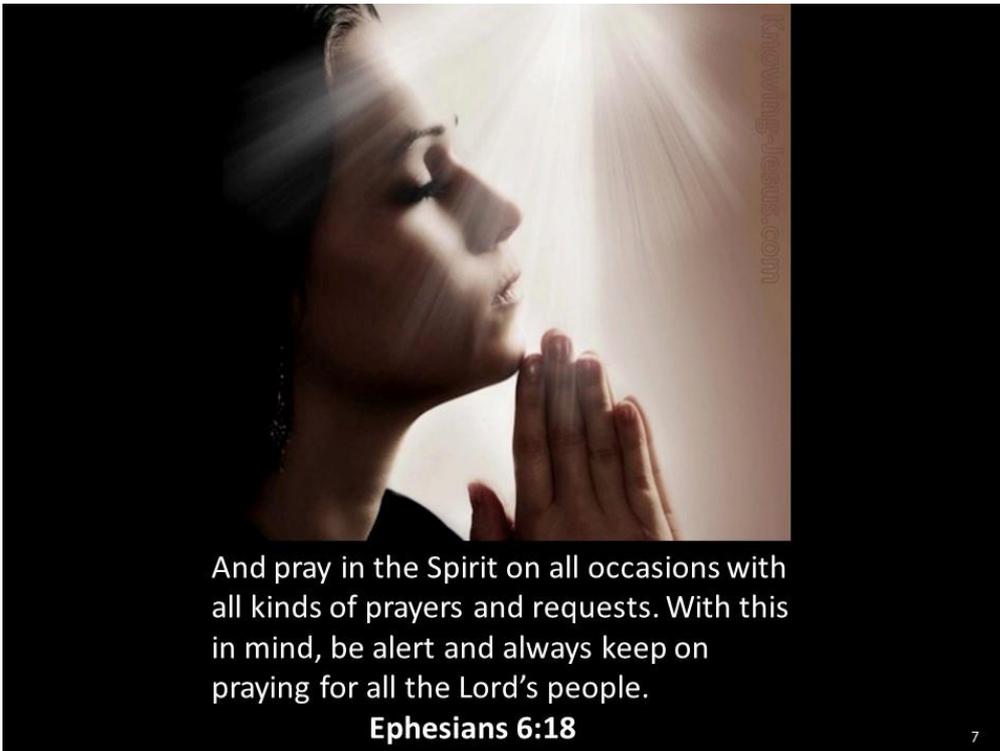
If someone suggests we look at some **pornographic** photo or website - we can **quote** 1 Cor 6:18 - "**Flee from sexual immorality**" - or we can **quote** Matt 5:28 "**But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.**"

What a weapon we have at our disposal - the **sword** - the Word of God.

One final weapon - which **must be used in conjunction** with putting on God's **armour** is found in verse 18

[PowerPoint 7-Prayer]

[Read the verse]



- Notice what Paul tells us to do
- Pray on **ALL** occasions with **ALL** kinds of prayers.
- Also pray that **we are alert** to the dangers that Satan can send our way
- And pray for all the Lord's people - they all need protection from Satan

Conclusion

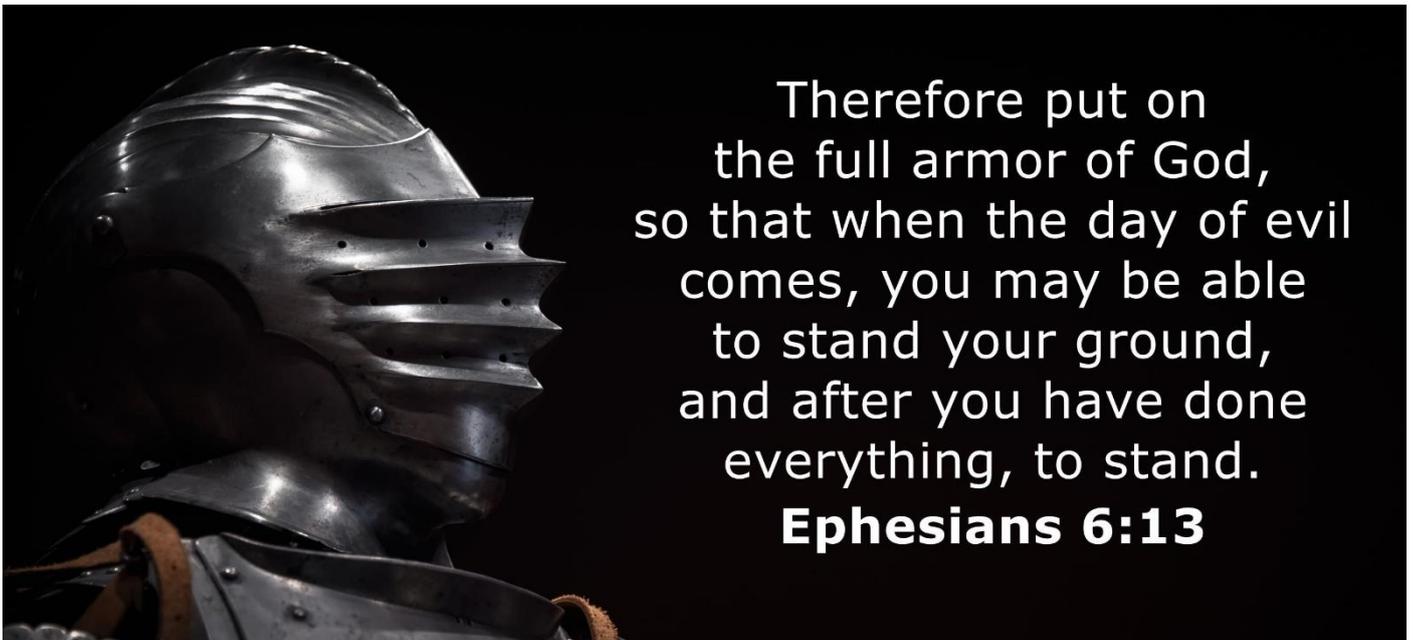
So, there's God's armour

To finish up though we need to **remember one more thing.**

See Ephesians 6:13

[PowerPoint 8-Put on full armour]

[Read Verse]



We must put on the **FULL** armour.

A couple of years ago - I **showed** the high school youth a **video** about God's armour.

The **video** had **2 parallel stories**

The **1st story** was about a **group of teenage boys** planning to go to a **party**

And the **2nd story** was about some **medieval soldiers** with their **armour** on running through streams and forests **in battle**

Two of the teenagers in the group in the **1st story** were **Christians** - **Harry** and **Bobby** - Harry **warned** Bobby - you realize at this **party** we're invited to - there's going to be **drugs** and **alcohol** there - and lots of **people sleeping around** - I'm not going - I don't think you should go. But **Bobby** said - **he'd be fine.**

The video continues with **Bobby** at the party - and he's **offered** some **drugs** and **takes** them.

The **video** then **skips** to the story of the **soldiers** in their armour and one of the soldiers stops from a **drink near a stream** - **takes off** his **helmet** - and scoops up some water from the stream - and at that moment he's **struck by an arrow** in the **back of the head**.

The video returns to **Bobby** at the party - now he's had **2 bottles of wine** - and he's **drunk** - and the **video skips back** to the soldiers - and another **soldier** stops for a rest and **puts down his shield** - and immediately an **arrow strikes** him in the **throat**.

The video returns to **Bobby** at the party - and he's **talking** to a **girl** - they're **both drunk** and **spaced out on drugs** - the **girl grabs Bobby** by the hand and **leads** him upstairs to a bedroom to **have sex**.

The **video skips back** to the **soldiers** again - and to another soldier who **stopped for a rest** - he continues walking after his rest - and realizes **he's left his sword** by the river. Suddenly he's **ambushed and killed**.

In the **1st story** **Bobby** didn't put the **armour of God** on.

In the **2nd story** the **soldiers** left some of their **armour off** when in battle

The **point** of all this is - **God's armour** must be **put on** at all times and we need to be **ready** and **prepared**. **Satan prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour!** (1 Peter 5:8)

Friends, put on the full armour of God so that when the day of evil comes you may be able to stand your ground.

Let's pray...