

The “Full” Armor

Righteousness is for Battle

Romans 6 :13 Neither yield ye your members as **instruments** (hoplon) of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as **instruments** (hoplon) of righteousness unto God.

hoplon (Macedonian hoplites)

Usually, once a summer, Grecian citizen-soldiers would be called upon to fight. This was usually at the beginning of harvest... to sustain the invasion, corrupt the enemy’s harvest, or burn it.

Strike force battle...quick and decisive conflicts.

The Line of Battle

The interlocking phalanx:

March side by side, evenly and determinedly (slowly). A common and unyielding sense of purpose. To stand and push forward. Don’t break and chase

The first two phalanx lines directed their spears forward, and the remaining lines to the rear directed spears upward, while using their shields to push the front lines forward.

Required individual strength, courage, commitment, and goal. The armor was heavy. Plato’s Republic commented that the only way these soldiers could bear the weight of their armor was through continuous exercise and rigorous, individual training.

The less experienced or “weaker” soldiers were usually placed in the center... to ensure accountability and to be “forced” by the collective strength of the right and left.

Both the young and the old (up to sixty) were ingrained in the phalanx. Preserved writings suggested a soldier reached peak in their early thirties...but the arrangement of the phalanx itself compensated for the challenges of age.

Diodorus wrote of Alexander’s “crack” troops, the Silvershields...the youngest were “at least seventy.” Alexander was said to have prized these warriors more than the younger, more athletic ones, as they were experienced in battle and had proven themselves on many occasions. They served as examples, but also as a testament to the younger ones

that somehow these older ones had survived...giving testament to the virtues of the phalanx itself.

Defeat would come if there were a collapse, collective loss of nerve, or panic in the rear of the phalanx, where small groups broke off.

This structure was known and referenced by Greek philosophers throughout the centuries. They would often warn about the influence of terror, the dissolution of the cohesiveness of the phalanx...or, at times, the effect of the “general” being killed: This would be shouted by the enemy along the opposing ranks, which would on most occasions cause the army of the fallen leader to break and run in terror...usually resulting in death.

Plutarch : “The phalanx is like some animal of invincible strength, but only as long as it is one body and can keep its shields locked together as one. If it has been broken up into its parts, each of the fighting men loses their individual force. Its strength lies in the mutual support of the parts of the whole body rather than oneself.”

Righteous Armour

Instances of hoplon in New Testament

2 Corinthians 6:7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the **armour** of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

Romans 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the **armour** of light.

Breastplate

Ephesians 6:14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

*Isaiah 59:17 God’s breastplate is righteousness

*Genesis 28:15 Priest breastplate of judgment

*I Thessalonians 5:7 breastplate of faith and *agape*

Shield

Held by left hand – forearm strap and handle. The right hand held the dory spear.

Curved (conclave) and round– keeping center extended; strengthened in this way on the exterior circle .. as opposed to a flat shield...which could be splintered by side blows

It did not extend all the way to the ground. They depended on each other for protection

Helmet: Corinthian helmet

It covered most of the head, with distinctive strips of metal covering the sides of the face (almost like large teeth on either side). It impeded sight and hearing (no ear holes), relegating the warrior to keep vision forward ahead of the phalanx.

Feet shod with preparation of the gospel of peace

The “greaves” of brass covered the shins....feet shod

Spear

The spear - King’s weapon. Front and second line forward, secondary lines upward.

The main weapon was the spear, which had a “butt spike” in case the lance head was snapped off or blunted in combat.

If a man lost his spear, he was not permitted to break rank and go individually into the enemy hosts, swinging a sword. The lines were not to be broken

Sword of the Spirit /Word (rhema) of God Short sword...individual, close contact.

2 Corinthians 10: 3 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the **weapons** of our warfare (*strateia*) are not carnal, but mighty (dunamis) through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. 7 Do ye look on things after the outward appearance? If any man trust

Saints Network Fall 2026 Patience Seminar
Friday, 9/18 @ 4 p.m.

Sessions 11,12
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to himself that he is Christ's, let him of himself think this again, that, as he is Christ's, even so are we Christ's.