



Items of Interest

THE STUFF OF THE BIBLE

1 Samuel

the Armor of the King 1 Samuel 17:38,39

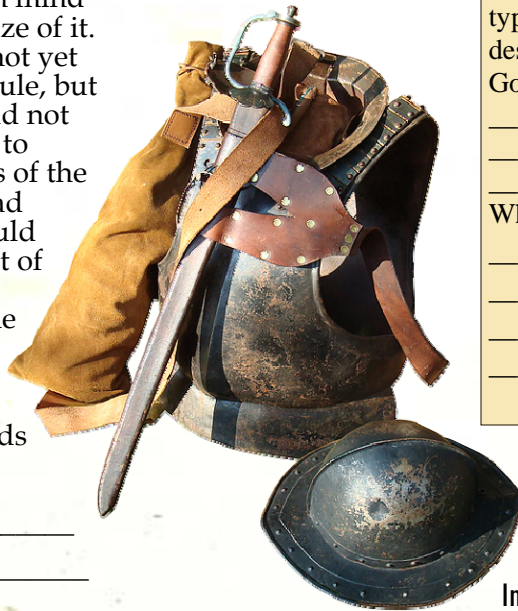
Virginia Woolf said "there is much to support the view that it is clothes that wear us and not we them; we may make them take the mould of arm or breast, but they would mould our hearts, our brains, our tongues to their liking."

I wonder if perhaps David held the same view when he refused Saul's offer of the royal armor before meeting the challenge of Goliath. The king's most personal belongings were a mark of identity, of position and authority as king. The sword especially was viewed by the ancient world as a mark of the bearer's legitimate right to rule. In fact, in 1 Samuel 13:22, who were the only Israelites said to possess swords?

The transfer of clothing and weapons was considered a transfer of status. Not only was David fighting Goliath in Saul's stead, but Saul was effectively offering David all of the markings of kingship as well. By refusing Saul's armor as a poor fit, David may have had more in mind than the actual size of it. Not only was it not yet David's time to rule, but also David would not be a king chosen to please the whims of the people as Saul had been. David would be a different sort of king. He made that as clear to the ancient world by his refusal of Saul's gear as he did with his words in 1 Samuel 24:6. What were those words?

How did Elijah call Elisha to replace him as God's prophet in 1 Kings 19:19? _____

Whose clothing do we accept through baptism according to Galatians 3:27? _____



Special points of interest:

The term "two-edged sword" was first used in the English language in 1525 by William Tyndale in his translation of Hebrews 4:12.

Why does this particular type of sword so aptly describe the Word of God? _____

What is its function? _____

The Robe of the Heir

What did Jonathan, the prince of Israel, give David in 1 Samuel 18:4?

Why do you think David accepted the armor of Jonathan when he had not accepted Saul's?

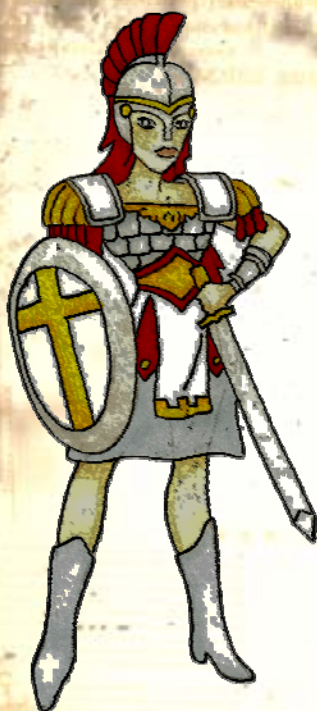
Whose garments will you wear? Are you willing to wear the attire that the world hands to you, or do you hold out for what the prince Himself offers? What does Romans 8:17 say is the privilege, and the cost, of accepting His offer?

What attitude toward David did Jonathan reveal in 1 Samuel 23:17?

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Wearing the Full Armor of God



How does Romans 13:12-14 describe the kind of people our choice of clothing makes us?

Describe some of the ways that you see David using God's armor as described in Ephesians 6:10-17.

In his battle with Goliath:

As he fled the wrath of Saul:

In what ways does wearing God's armor differ than wearing Saul's armor?

Which of the pieces of armor listed in Ephesians 6 are offensive?

Which are defensive?

What piece of armor does David credit God with giving him in Psalm 18:35 (written when he was rescued from Saul, perhaps at his death)?

Getting Dressed

In Ephesians 6:11, we are told to put on the full armor of God. The Greek word translated "put on" is *endyo*, which means to get dressed, or clothe yourself. That is one of those things that I do every single day of my life. I may get lazy about other things, but I always, always, clothe myself.

Do I take the same care in the daily donning of my spiritual armor that I do in my choosing my socks?



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Sources:

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Strata: A Biblical First." Biblical Archaeology Review, Sep/Oct 2006. <http://members.bib-arch.org/publication.asp?PubID=BSBA&Volume=32&Issue=5&ArticleID=31> (accessed 7/12/2010)

Getting Dressed p.2

Key Word Study Bible. 1996.

Find the six pieces of armor described in Ephesians 6, and match with the spiritual armor that they represent:

The Word of God _____
Truth _____
Peace _____

Faith _____
Righteousness _____
Salvation _____

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