

## “THE HELMET OF SALVATION”

EPH. 6:17- ‘AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION ...’

### THE HELMET OF SALVATION:

A FASCINATING PIECE OF ARMOR. A FLAMBOYANT PIECE OF WEAPONRY, VERY ORNATE, INTRICATE.

SOME HAD HUGE PLUMES OF HORSEHAIR, OR FEATHERS STANDING STRAIGHT UP FROM THE TOP, DRAPING DOWN THE BACK OF THE SOLDIER.

HELMET WAS MADE OF BRONZE, EQUIPPED WITH SIDE PIECES WHICH PROTECTED THE CHEEKS & JAWS.

EXTREMELY HEAVY, SO THE INTERIOR WAS LINED WITH SPONGE TO PAD THE WEIGHT UPON THE HEAD.

SO MASSIVE, THAT NO WEAPON COULD PIERCE IT – NOT A HAMMER OR A BATTLE AX.

SO NOTICEABLE, YOU WOULD HAVE TO NOTICE THE SOLDIER WHEN HE HAD THE HELMET ON.

### GOD’S MOST GORGEOUS GIFT

SO WHY WOULD THE HOLY SPIRIT TAKE A PIECE OF WEAPONRY LIKE THIS AND COMPARE IT TO SALVATION?

OUR SALVATION IS THE MOST GORGEOUS, MOST INTRICATE, MOST ELABORATE, MOST ORNATE GIFT GOD EVER GAVE TO US.

HE LIKENED THE VERY NOTICEABLE HELMET ON THE SOLDIER’S HEAD TO THE NOTICEABLE SALVATION GOD GIVES TO A PERSON. WHENEVER ANYONE IS CONFIDENT IN HIS/HER SALVATION & WALKS IN IT; THEY WILL BE NOTICED BY OTHERS - CHRISTIANS OR THE WORLD.

‘HELMET’= (PE-RI-KE-PHA-LAI-A)= *PERI* = ‘AROUND’ & *KEPHALAIA*= ‘HEAD’ MEANING= ‘THAT WHICH FITS VERY TIGHTLY AROUND THE HEAD.’

THE ROMAN SOLDIER NEEDED THE HELMET BECAUSE HE FACED ENEMIES FIGHTING HIM WITH SHORT HANDLED AX'S CALLED 'BATTLE-AXES' - WHICH COULD CHOP THE HEAD OFF IN ONE SWOOP.

IT WOULD LITERALLY SAVE A MAN'S LIFE TO WEAR THE HELMET.

NOTE: WHAT SALVATION WILL DO FOR YOU & ME WHEN WE WEAR THE HELMET ON OUR HEADS/MINDS.

IF WE DON'T WALK IN ALL THAT OUR SALVATION HAS ACCOMPLISHED FOR US, WE WILL FEEL THE BRUNT OF THE ENEMIES ATTACK ON OUR **MINDS** WHICH STEALS OUR VICTORY.

IF SALVATION IS NOT FIXED TIGHTLY AROUND OUR HEADS, THE ENEMY WILL COME WITH HIS BATTLE AX OF **DOUBT- FEAR –ACCUSATION** & CHOP THE MULTIPLE BENEFITS & BLESSINGS OF OUR SALVATION OFF.

HE WILL WACK AWAY AT OUR FOUNDATION, TRYING TO LIE & STEAL THE TRUTH ABOUT HEALING, DELIVERANCE, PRESERVATION OF MIND & SOUNDNESS THAT JESUS PURCHASED FOR US IN HIS REDEMPTIVE WORK ON THE CROSS.

- TOO MANY CHRISTIANS TRY TO DO THE WORK OF GOD W/O MAKING IT A PERSONAL GOAL TO WALK IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR SALVATION, AND THEY GET SPIRITUALLY SLAUGHTERED.
- REMEMBER THE ENEMY ATTACKS THE MIND- WITH 'MIND GAMES'.
- REMEMBER THE 'WILES, DEVICES, AND DECEPTIONS' OF THE DEVIL.
- 'WILES' = METHODS = 'A ROAD' AN ENTRANCE, AVENUE OF THE MIND.
- 'DEVICES' = MIND = THE SCHEMING OF THE MIND.
- 'DECEPTIONS' = *DOLIOS*= MEANS TO 'DECEIVE WITH A PURPOSE' INTENTIONAL.  
'TO BAIT' TRAP, LIKE BAITING A HOOK TO CATCH A FISH.

SATAN'S PROCESS:

HE COMES WITH A 'WILE' MEANING 'A ROAD, A METHOD.', IT IS HEADED FOR THE MIND, BY BEATING DOWN OUR RESISTANCE, WEARING US OUT, THROUGH 'MIND GAMES', ONCE THE 'MIND GAMES' ARE IN OPERATION, HE 'BAITS' THE BELIEVER WITH LYING ACCUSATIONS AND SLANDEROUS ALLEGATIONS.

\*IF THE BELIEVER PERCEIVES THESE LIES TO BE TRUE, AND BITES THE BAIT, THEN THE PROCESS OF DECEPTION WILL BE FULLY IMPLEMENTED IN HIS/HER LIFE.

### WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?

2COR. 10:4-5 'FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS.'  
'CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, & BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST.'

PAUL SAYS WE HAVE EFFECTIVE WEAPONS TO PULL DOWN STRONGHOLDS.

'STRONGHOLD'= *O-CHU-RO-MA*  
OLDEST WORD IN THE N.T. TO DESCRIBE 'A FORTRESS' OR 'PRISON'.

'THE PULLING DOWN OF FORTRESSES.' OR 'THE PULLING DOWN OF PRISONS.'

1. STRONGHOLDS- A FORTRESS, FORTIFIED PLACE, A CITADEL, A FORT, CASTLE.  
EXCEPTIONALLY THICK, HIGH, IMPREGNABLE WALLS TO KEEP OUTSIDERS FROM BREAKING IN.  
'TO KEEP INTRUDERS OUTSIDE.'
2. PRISONS- A PRISON SERVES JUST THE OPPOSITE OF A FORTRESS.  
A PRISON KEEPS INSIDERS FROM GETTING OUT.  
PLACES OF DETENTION, HOLDING TANKS, DUNGEONS & JAILS  
WITH BARS OF STEEL KEEPING PRISONERS IN CAPTIVITY.

STRONGHOLDS ARE BOTH THESE WORDS:

1. WHEN SOMEONE HAS A 'STRONGHOLD' IN THEIR LIFE, MENTALLY & EMOTIONALLY, PHYSICALLY, THEY HAVE WALLS AROUND THEM SO THICK, THAT OTHERS WHO COULD HELP THEM, CANNOT SEEM TO BREAK THROUGH THAT BARRIER TO GET TO THEM.

THOSE INVISIBLE WALLS KEEP OUTSIDERS FROM GETTING IN!!!

ROOTED IN THE MIND TO KEEP PEOPLE FROM GETTING TOO CLOSE TO THEM, THIS IS THE DEVIL'S TRICK TO KEEP PEOPLE ISOLATED & REMOVED FROM THOSE BRINGING HELP/FREEDOM TO LIVES & MINDS.

STRONGHOLDS DO NOT SUDDENLY 'POP UP' OVER NIGHT.  
THE HOLY SPIRIT HAS TRIED TO WARN A PERSON, BUT THEY HAVE NOT LISTENED TO HIM.

TOUGH BUT TRUE:

*BECAUSE YOU ALLOWED THESE LIES IN THE MIND TO GO UNRESISTED & BECAUSE YOU PERMITTED WRONG THINKING & WRONG BELIEVING TO GO UNCHALLENGED, STEP BY STEP, DAY BY DAY, HOUR BY HOUR, THE DEVIL BEGAN TO USE THOSE LIES, INSINUATIONS, AND UNREALISTIC FEARS TO BUILD THICK, IMPREGNABLE WALLS AROUND YOUR LIFE. FINALLY, YOU WERE SIEGED AND TAKEN CAPTIVE MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY BY THE LYING ALLEGATIONS OF THE DEVIL.*

NOW, **YOU** MUST COMMAND THE DEVIL'S CLAIM UPON YOUR MIND AND EMOTIONS TO LEAVE.

1. YOU HAVE TO BEGIN BY UP-ROOTING THE 'STRONGHOLDS IN YOUR LIFE' BY RECOGNIZING YOUR RESPONSIBILITY IN THE MATTER.

YOU PERMITTED YOUR MIND & EMOTIONS TO GET INTO THIS MESS!  
NOW, **YOU** MUST REPENT, FOR ALLOWING YOURSELF TO BELIEVE THE LIES, AND GETTING INTO THIS MESS.

UNTIL A PERSON REPENTS, NOTHING ELSE WILL OCCUR. THERE WILL BE NO FREEDOM, RELEASE, DELIVERANCE.

ONCE YOU HAVE DONE THIS, THE POWER OF GOD WILL COOPERATE WITH YOU AS YOU SEEK TO RENEW YOUR MIND DAILY WITH THE WORD OF GOD & BEGAN RIGHT THINKING & BELIEVING.

- THOSE SAME WALLS THAT KEEP OTHER PEOPLE FROM GETTING IN, ALSO KEEP YOU FROM BREAKING OUT & BECOMING ALL THAT GOD MEANT FOR YOU TO BE.

## TWO KINDS OF STRONGHOLDS

### 1. RATIONAL-

‘CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS...’ = ‘IMAGINATIONS’ = LOGISMOS  
‘WHERE WE GET ‘LOGICAL THINKING.’’

EVEN A GOOD SOUND MIND MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE  
SANCTIFYING WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

THE LOGICAL MIND OF MAN WILL WORK AGAINST THE SPIRITUAL  
LIFE OF GOD IN US.

THE UNSUBMITTED LOGICAL MIND WILL TRY TO TALK YOU OUT OF  
OBEYING GOD. IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM LOGICAL TO DO THAT.

PEOPLE WHO ARE THINKERS, ANALYZERS, USUALLY ARE PRONE TO  
RATIONAL STRONHOLDS. THEY ALLOW THEIR MINDS TO DOMINATE  
& CONTROL ONE’S OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

### 2. IRRATIONAL-

THESE STRONGHOLDS DEAL WITH FEARS, WORRIES, DREADS THAT  
ARE UNREALISTIC.

‘FEAR OF PREMATURE DEATH, FEAR OF DISEASE, FEAR OF REJECTION,  
FINANCIAL COLLAPSE, ECT.

THEY COME & MANY TIMES PASS WITHOUT FULFILLMENT. AND  
LATER SEEM RIDICULOUS TO EVEN THOSE WHO HAD SUCH FEARS.

IF SUCH HARASSING THOUGHTS PERSIST IN YOUR MIND & INSIST ON  
CONTROLLING YOU MENTALLY & EMOTIONALLY,  
YOU MUST USE & OBEY THE WORD OF GOD TO DEAL WITH THEM  
STRAIGHTFORWARDLY.

2COR. 10:5- ‘CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH  
THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, &  
BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF  
CHRIST.’

NOT ONE THING IS SAID ABOUT THE DEVIL IN THIS VERSE- WE, YOU,  
ME, ARE TO TAKE CAPTIVE OUR, MY, YOUR THOUGHTS, OR OUR, MY,  
YOUR THOUGHTS WILL TAKE US CAPTIVE.

'BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY'- A BRUTAL WORD MEANING 'TO TAKE ONE CAPTIVE WITH A SPEAR POINTED INTO HIS BACK.'

- OUR THOUGHTS ARE NOT GOING TO BE TAKEN CAPTIVE EASILY.
- WE MUST DECIDE TO TAKE THEM CAPTIVE.
- WE MUST BE BRUTAL WITH OURSELVES, & FORCIBLY SEIZE CONTROL OF OUR MINDS.

IF OUR MINDS & EMOTIONS TRY TO GET AWAY FROM US, THEN WE MUST GRAB HOLD OF THEM AND FORCE THEM INTO SUBJECTION.

MATT. 5:29-30 RADICAL MEASURES AGAINST SIN IN OUR LIVES.  
PLUCK OUT OUR EYES, OR CUT OFF OUR RIGHT ARM IF THEY CAUSE US TO SIN.

'EVERY THOUGHT'- 'THOUGHTS' ARE THE MIND GAMES SATAN WANTS US TO PLAY WITH US.

PAUL TELLS US THESE 'MIND GAMES' MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST-

'OBEDIENCE'= THE PICTURE OF 'FORCING SOMEONE INTO A SUBORDINATE POSITION, AND THEN MAKING THEM LISTEN.'

**RATHER THAN LISTEN AND FALL PREY TO THE MIND GAMES, PAUL IS SAYING WE MUST LAY HOLD OF OUR MINDS AND TELL THEM TO SUBMIT & LISTEN TO WHAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS TO SAY.**

WHEN WE CHOOSE TO DO THIS, THIS IS THE VERY MOMENT THAT THE RENEWING OF OUR MINDS BEGINS TO WORK WONDERS IN OUR LIVES & BRINGS FREEDOM TO LIVE FOR THE KINGDOM SUCCESSFULLY.

**REAL MENTAL RENOVATION BEGINS WHEN YOU PUT ON THE HELMET OF SALVATION – THE WORD OF GOD AND PROTECT YOUR MIND FROM THE ENEMY.**