

Ephesians 6:16-17

6:16 – In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one;

1722 [e]	3956 [e]	353 [e]	3588 [e]	2375 [e]	3588 [e]	4102 [e]	1722 [e]	3739 [e]			
en	pasin	analabontes	ton	thyreon	tēs	pisteōs	en	hō			
16	ἐν	πάσιν	,	ἀναλαβόντες	τὸν	θυρεὸν	τῆς	πίστεως	,	ἐν	ᾧ
	besides	all		having taken up	the	shield	-	of faith		with	which
	Prep	Adj-DNP		V-APA-NMP	Art-AMS	N-AMS	Art-GFS	N-GFS		Prep	RelPro-DMS

1410 [e]	3956 [e]	3588 [e]	956 [e]	3588 [e]	4190 [e]	3588 [e]	4448 [e]	4570 [e]
dynēsesthe	panta	ta	belē	tou	ponērou	ta	pepyrōmena	sbesai
δυνήσεσθε	πάντα	τὰ	βέλη	τοῦ	πονηροῦ	τὰ	πεπυρωμένα	σβέσαι .
you will be able	all	the	arrows	of the	evil one	-	flaming	to quench
V-FIM-2P	Adj-ANP	Art-ANP	N-ANP	Art-GMS	Adj-GMS	Art-ANP	V-RPM/P-ANP	V-ANA

1. “shield of faith – “*thyreon tes pisteos*” –
 - a. “shield” – *thyreon* – comes from the Greek word *thyra* which means “a door”
 - b. It was a large oblong or oval made of two layers of wood glued together covered with linen and hide and held together with iron.
 - c. Soldiers fighting side by side would form a wall of shields called a *testudo*.
2. “Flaming Arrows”
 - a. Common and efficient weapon used in the ancient world by many armies.
 - b. Israel refer them being used by God in Psalm 7:13 – “If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow; he has prepared for him his deadly weapons, making his arrows fiery shafts.
 - c. A “flaming arrow” would have a piece of fiber that had been dipped in pitch (tar) near the point that was set on fire before being shot.
 - i. Herodotus tells of darts made of cane tipped with flammable material
 - ii. Octavian used them against Marc Antony’s fleet at Actium
 - d. Greek historian Thucydides says wooden shields would be covered in leather and dipped in water so the shields would not ignite in fire, but instead control the burn of the flaming arrow.
 - e. One battle account from the siege of Dyrachium in 48 BC during Rome’s civil war states that one shield had 220 darts sticking into a shield.
3. “of faith”
 - a. This refer to either:
 - i. Faith in objective doctrine and truth
 - ii. Faith in action that is actively acting on the Truth
 - iii. Both, believing objective Truth and acting on Truth
4. Paul tells us “faith” is a spiritual shield that extinguishes the “flaming arrows” shot by our spiritual enemies – the rulers and authorities, etc. in the heavenly realm

6:17 – and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God,

2532 [e]	3588 [e]	4030 [e]	3588 [e]	4992 [e]	1209 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]
kai	tēn	perikephalaian	tou	sōtēriou	dexasthe	kai	tēn
17 καὶ	τὴν	περικεφαλαίαν	τοῦ	σωτηρίου	δέξασθε	, καὶ	τὴν
And	the	helmet	-	of salvation	take	and	the
Conj	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Art-GNS	Adj-GNS	V-AMM-2P	Conj	Art-AFS

3162 [e]	3588 [e]	4151 [e]	3739 [e]	1510 [e]	4487 [e]	2316 [e]
machairan	tou	Pneumatou	ho	estin	rhēma	Theou
μάχαιραν	τοῦ	Πνεύματος	, ὅ	ἐστιν	ῥῆμα	Θεοῦ
sword	of the	Spirit	which	is	[the] word	of God
N-AFS	Art-GNS	N-GNS	RelPro-NNS	V-PIA-3S	N-NNS	N-GMS

- “helmet” – *perikephalania* – made of bronze with leather attachments
 - Yahweh wears “the helmet of salvation” in Isaiah 59:17 and the breastplate of righteousness – “He put on righteousness as a breastplate, and a helmet of salvation on his head; he put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and wrapped himself in zeal as a cloak.”
 - We are sharing in Yahweh’s armor
- “take” – *dexasthe* – (Aorist Imperative Middle, 2nd person plural) – It is a command that has taken place in the time past. This word *dechomai* means “to receive” and it is used to say “take, receive, accept, welcome.” This exact form occurs 4x in the NT:
 - 2 Corinthians 11:16 – “I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, **accept** me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little.”
 - Colossians 4:10 – “Aristarchus my fellow prisoner greets you, and Mark the cousin of Barnabas (concerning whom you have received instructions—if he comes to you, **welcome** him)”
 - James 1:21 – “Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and **receive** with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- The reason “take” used, which also means “accept”, “welcome”, “receive”, is the soldier would “put on” the previous items themselves since they would have been laid out in front of them. But, once the shield is strapped on the “helmet” and the “sword” would need to be handed to the soldier by an attendant or by his armor bearer.
 - The helmet of salvation is handed to us. The full salvation is manifested now and in its final state in eternity
 - 1 Thess 5:8 the “helmet of salvation” is identified clearly as “the helmet of our hope of salvation” (ESV) or “the hope of salvation as a helmet” (NIV). – “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:8
- “sword” – *machaira* – a short two-edged cut-and-thrust sword used by heavily armed legionary.
 - This sword is not the *rhomphaia* or the large Thracian broadsword.
 - Only offensive weapon is the “word of the Spirit”
 - It is either:

- i. Supplied by the Spirit for the believer as the other equipment
 - ii. Used by the Spirit in the life of the believer
- 5. “Word of God” is not *logos*, but instead *rhema* which speaks of divine utterance or speech such as “the words that come from God.”
 - a. Isaiah 11:4 the Messiah strikes with the rod, or scepter of his mouth
 - b. Speech is often compared to a sword in scripture
 - i. Proverbs 12:18 – “The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.”
 - ii. Psalm 64:3 – “They sharpen their tongues like swords and aim cruel words like deadly arrows.”
 - iii. Matthew 10:34 – “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.”
 - iv. Revelation 2:12 – “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword says this”
 - v. Revelation 1:16 – “In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.”
- 6. The best explanation is the Words of God recorded in Scripture as is seen in Matthew 4:4 where Jesus spoke to Satan using recorded words of God: “But he answered, “It is written, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.”



Iron machaira sword of the Greeks



Roman machaira sword

- 7. Paul does not mention the “spear” – *pilium* – which would have been regular offensive armament, but not worn by the soldiers guarding Paul at the time of his writing this.

6:18 – praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,

6:19 – and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel,

6:20 – for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.