

We are at War Part 4
Ephesians 6:16-17
Sunday a.m. 7/30/2017

- ✚ A spitting cobra, being prepared for a dish in a restaurant in southern China, bit and killed a chef **20 minutes** after its head had been chopped off, according to a report in **China Daily**.
- ✚ Sean Bush, snake expert at the **Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University**, told NBC News. "It's a last-ditch effort to survive, so it's very common. They get real snappy in the throes of death."
- ✚ The longest Bush has heard of a decapitated snake biting someone was a rattlesnake after **90 minutes**
- ✚ "It's important to inform the public that even a decapitated snake can kill you," Bush said.

✪ **We treat Satan like a dead snake when we believe he does not exist or was only a Bible story**

✪ **Satan's head was cut off at Calvary, but he is still dangerous**

➤ **Now, the last three pieces of our armor**

■ **The Shield of Faith (Ephesians 6:16)**

- ✓ The shield Paul was familiar with was made of two layers of wood, covered with canvas, a leather covering on the outside and was 4' x 2'
- ✓ It was soaked with water before the battle to extinguish the fiery arrows
- ✓ The fiery darts were launched in great number at beginning of an attack

✪ **The idea was not only to injure the enemy, but to shoot a massive number of darts at him from all sides to confuse and panic the enemy**

- ❖ Satan shoots His fiery darts at us for the same reason, to **intimidate**
- ❖ We must take the shield of faith against the fiery darts of Satan

- **The fiery darts of Satan**

Lehman Strauss says these “satanic, fiery darts are pride, envy, jealousy, covetousness, worry, unbelief, impurity, and many others.”

Kent Hughes says “the most lethal arrows come from within our own camp. They head toward our hearts; the arrows of rejection, criticism and hypocrisy.”

David in **Psalm 64**, “the wicked sharpen their tongues like swords and aim bitter words like arrows

- **The shield of faith from God**

Proverbs 30:5 (NKJV)

Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

✚ Paul tells us to take up the shield of faith

“God is our shield, but only as we take hold of Him in faith does He become our protection against the fiery darts of the enemy.”

“Faith here is confidence, complete reliance in the Person, purposes, and power of God. Implicit trust in Him alone can quench the enemy’s darts.”

Wayne Barber

“Faith and obedience cannot be separated. What I believe I obey. I show you what I believe by how I live, not by what I say. The act of obedience becomes like a shield and wards off the fiery darts of the enemy.”

- **The victory won**

✚ All the darts can be quenched, stopped, blocked

1 John 5:4 “And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.”

- **The battle lost**

1 Timothy 1:18-20

■ The Helmet of Salvation (Ephesians 6:17a)

❖ The word for take is different than “taking the shield of faith”

take – *dechomai*; to accept deliberately and receive readily.

“The previous items were laid out for the soldier to pick up. The helmet and sword would be **handed him** by an attendant or by his armor bearer.”

✚ The idea is to receive, accept into one's hands,

⊗ **This is a great picture of salvation; God offers us salvation and we accept it**

• The helmet of protection

❖ The helmet was made of leather or metal

❖ It protected the head from severe injury

✚ Our mind needs to be protected from the attacks of Satan concerning our salvation

⊗ **“Satan seeks to destroy a believer’s assurance of salvation with his weapons of doubt and discouragement. Security is a fact; assurance is a feeling that comes to the obedient Christian.”**

John MacArthur

“The Roman soldier had to defend himself against a broadsword. Satan’s broadsword has two sides to it: discouragement and doubt. Satan wants to belt you in the head with discouragement and doubt.”

• The helmet of confidence

❖ A football player has greater confidence because of his helmet

❖ The believer needs confidence and assurance in his salvation

1 Thessalonians 5:8-11

✚ Hope of knowing we are saved (**justification** - past tense salvation)

✚ Hope of being saved daily (**sanctification** - present tense salvation)

✚ Hope of and future salvation (**glorification** - future tense salvation)

■ The Sword of the Spirit (Ephesians 6:17b)

- ✚ American forces bombed Iwo Jima for 70 days (began Dec. 8, 1944)
 - ✚ B-29 Super fortress and B-24 Liberator's of the US 7th Air dropped 5,800 tons of bombs in 2,700 sorties.
 - ✚ U.S. naval ships bombarded Iwo Jima for three days prior to Marine troops landing on this pivotal island
 - ✚ Twenty-one thousand Japanese soldiers were burrowed in the volcanic rock of Iwo Jima, anxiously awaiting the American Marines
 - ✚ The defenders were not on this island. They were in it.
 - ✚ Iwo Jima was a brutal hand-to-hand battle
- ❖ The large sword, the spatha, is what gladiators used
 - ❖ The Greek term translated sword (machaira) refers to the Roman gladius, a short sword about 2 ft long and 2 inches wide
 - ❖ **It was used for close, precise, hand-to-hand combat.**
 - ❖ Paul uses the word **rhema** to describe the Word of God
 - ✚ It is not general knowledge of Scripture, but specific
 - ✚ It is the knowledge of specific truth for specific attacks by Satan
 - ❖ Jesus used specific scripture when tempted by Satan (**Matthew 4**)
 - ❖ **How much more do we need to use the Sword if Jesus used it**

Close

Dr. Adrian Rogers

- ✚ "We should not fight against each other, but with each other in the spiritual war. Many believers come to church and sit, soak and sour and they never enter the battle. They have gone **AWOL.**"
- ✚ "Don't be neutral in the war. Jesus said that if you are not for me, then you are against me."