

Isaiah 59:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

Analysis

God arms Himself as a warrior: 'For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.' Paul applies this armor to believers in Ephesians 6:14-17, but here God wears it. Righteousness protects, salvation guards, vengeance and zeal motivate action.

Historical Context

The divine warrior tradition appears throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 15, Judges 5, Habakkuk 3). God fights for His people when they cannot fight for themselves.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does God wearing this armor differ from believers wearing it (Ephesians 6)?

2. What does divine 'zeal' look like in action?

Interlinear Text

וְלָבַשׁ	צִדְקָה	כְּשָׂרָה	וְכִי וְבֵעַ	יְשׁוּעָה	
For he put on	righteousness	as a breastplate	and an helmet	of salvation	
H3847	H6666	H8302	H3553	H3444	
בְּרֹאשׁוֹ	וְלָבַשׁ	בְּגָדֵי	נִקְמָה	תְּלַבֵּשׁ	וַיַּעַט
upon his head	For he put on	the garments	of vengeance	for clothing	and was clad
H7218	H3847	H899	H5359	H8516	H5844
קִנְיָהּ	כְּמָעַל				
as a cloke	with zeal				
H4598	H7068				

Additional Cross-References

Ephesians 6:17 (Salvation): And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

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

1 Thessalonians 5:8 (Salvation): But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Isaiah 11:5 (Righteousness): And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Hebrews 10:30 (Parallel theme): For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

Isaiah 51:9 (Parallel theme): Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

John 2:17 (Parallel theme): And his disciples remembered that it was written, The zeal of thine house hath eaten me up.

Revelation 19:11 (Righteousness): And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

Isaiah 9:7 (Righteousness): Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Job 29:14 (Righteousness): I put on righteousness, and it clothed me: my judgment was as a robe and a diadem.

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