

# Rebuilding *for* God's People

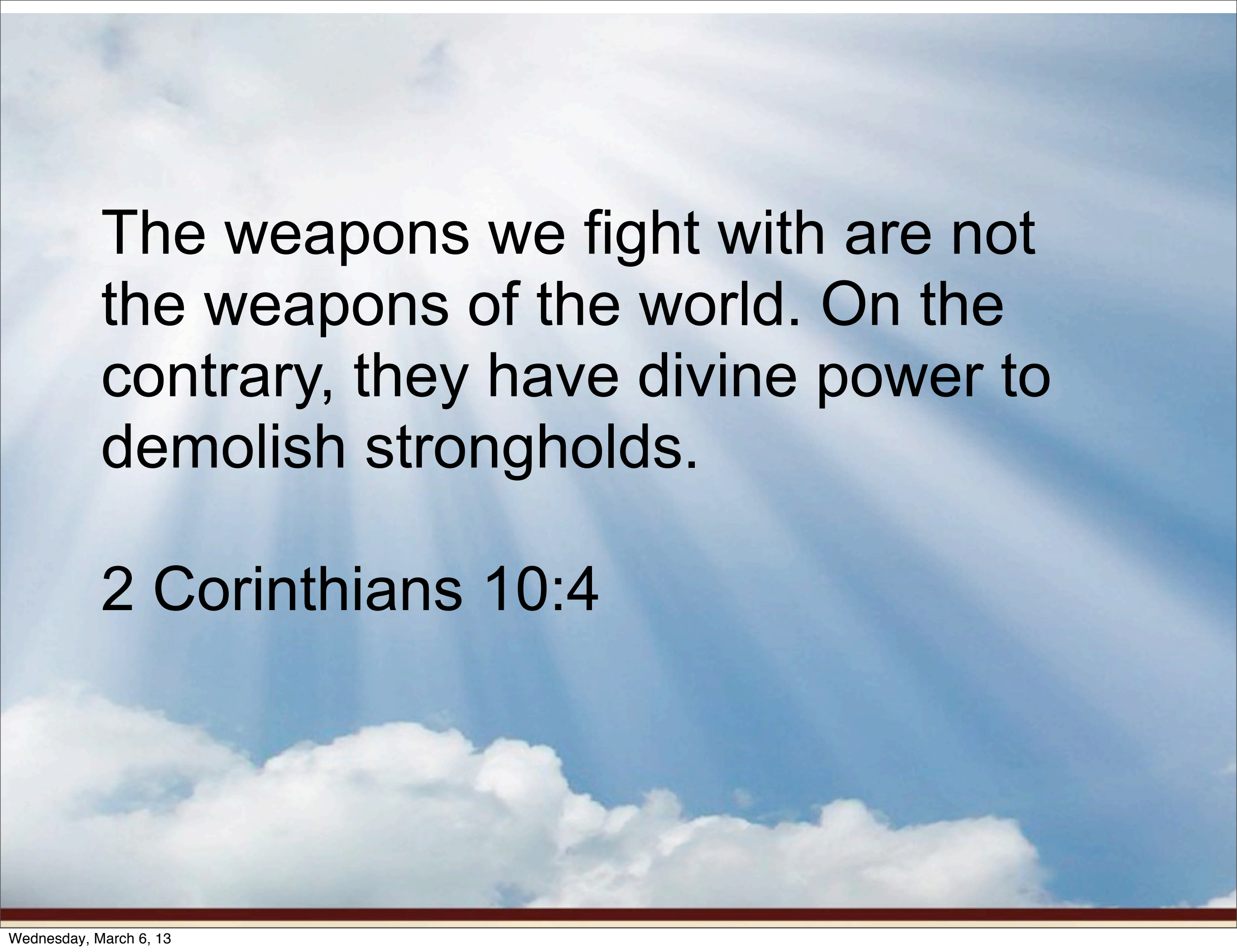
*A Study of Nehemiah  
and 2 Corinthians*



## Lesson 21: Demolishing Strongholds







The weapons we fight with are not  
the weapons of the world. On the  
contrary, they have divine power to  
demolish strongholds.

2 Corinthians 10:4

# Let's Review....

Chapter 10 begins the portion of 2 Corinthians that some scholars believe is the “severe letter.” Chapters 10–13

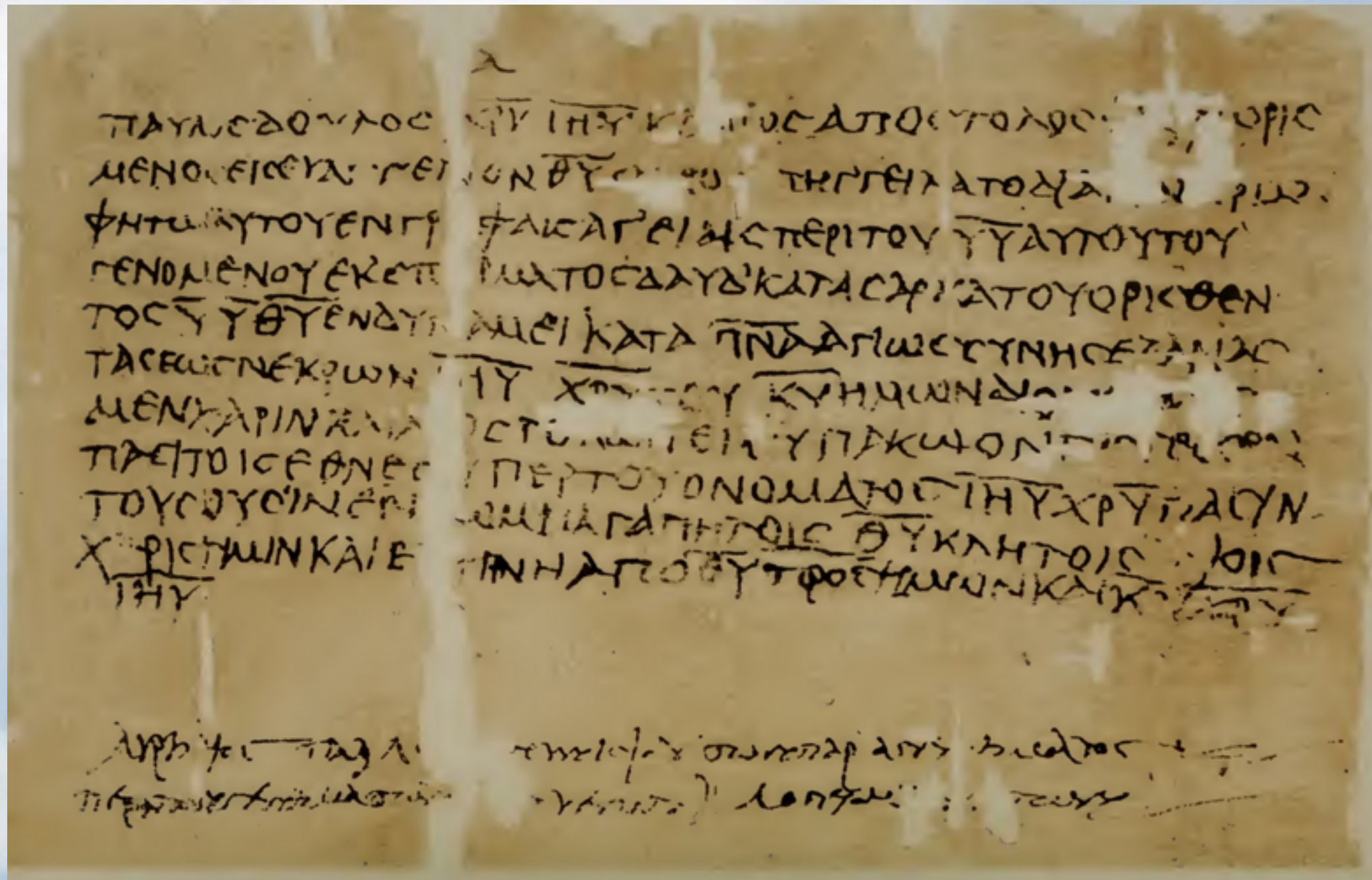
It is an Apologetic Letter. That is, one that brings charges against the opposite arguments with proof. (Paul Barnett, NIV Commentary on 2 Corinthians)

Paul is refuting the criticisms others have brought against him.





# An Imaginary Letter to Paul



# The Meaning of BOASTING

In Greek, Kauchema, “that of which one glories or can glory”

Kauchema used 21 times in this letter and most frequently in chapters 10–13

Paul’s meaning is more like “confidence” or “justifiable pride” than some kind of self-glorification (Paul Barnett)



# Spiritual Weapons

A recurrent theme of Paul:

- 1 Thessalonians 5:8 (52 AD)
- 2 Corinthians 10: 3–4 (55 AD)
- Romans 12:13 (57 AD)
- Ephesians 16:10–20 (60 to 63 AD)

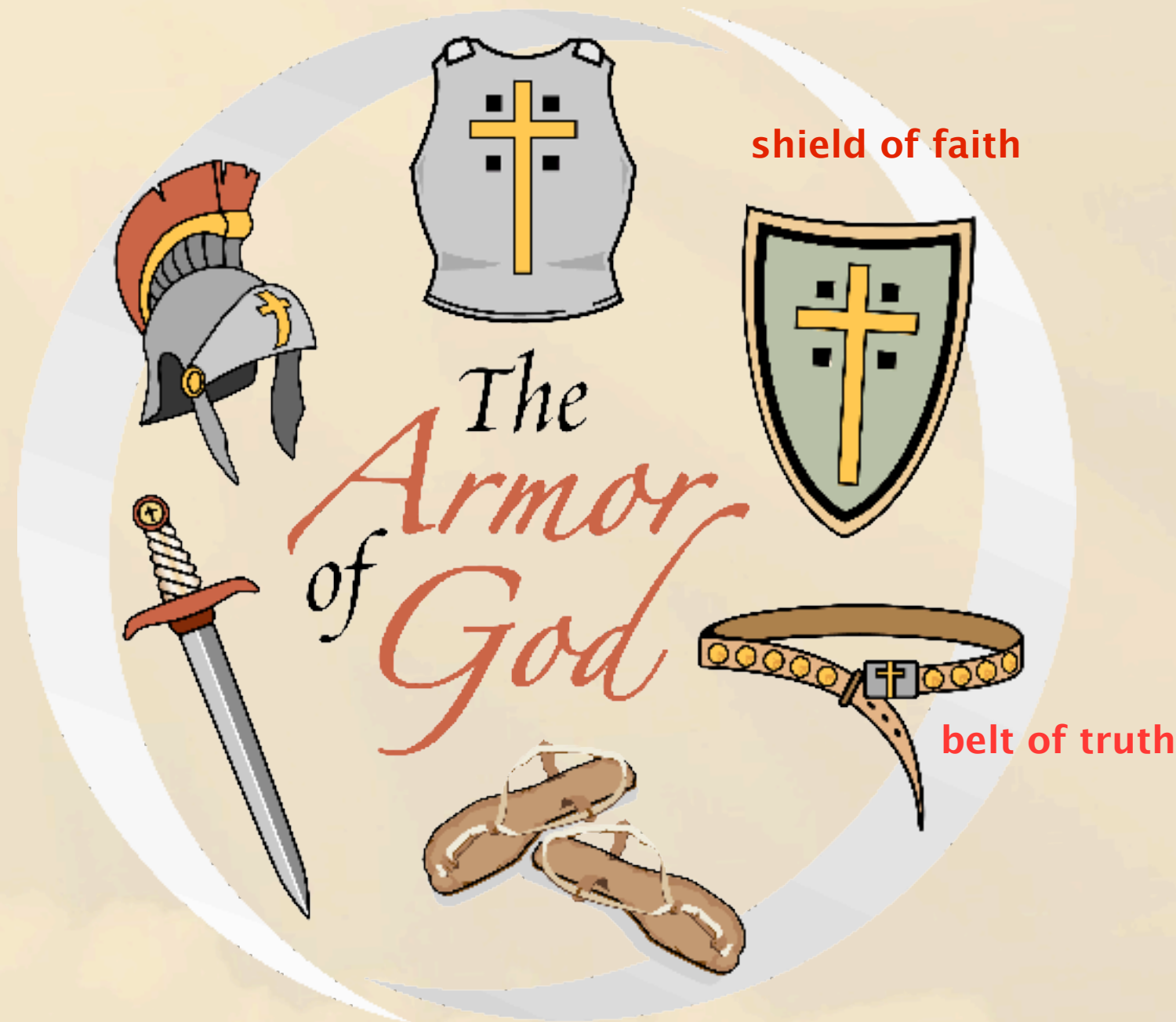


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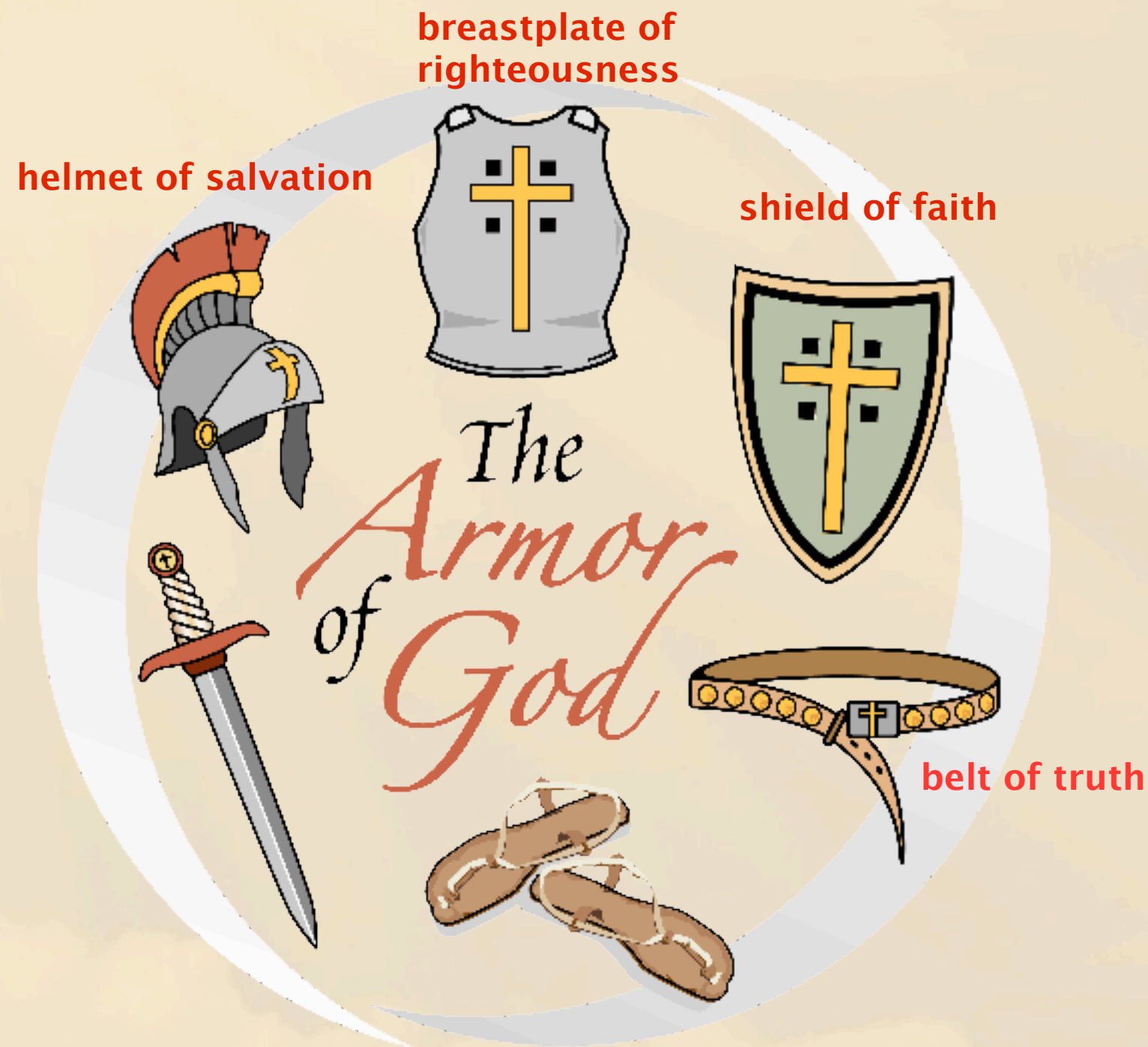


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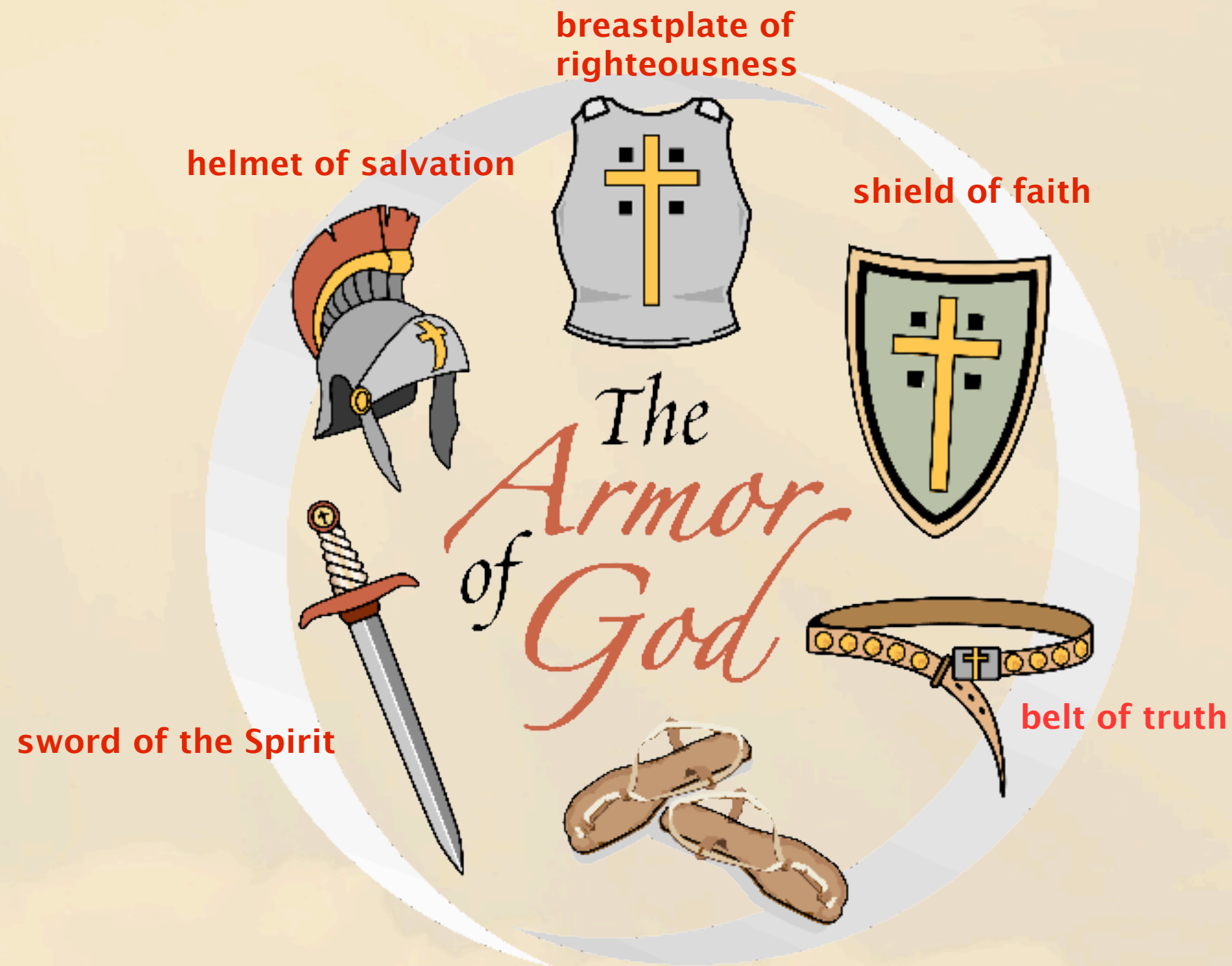


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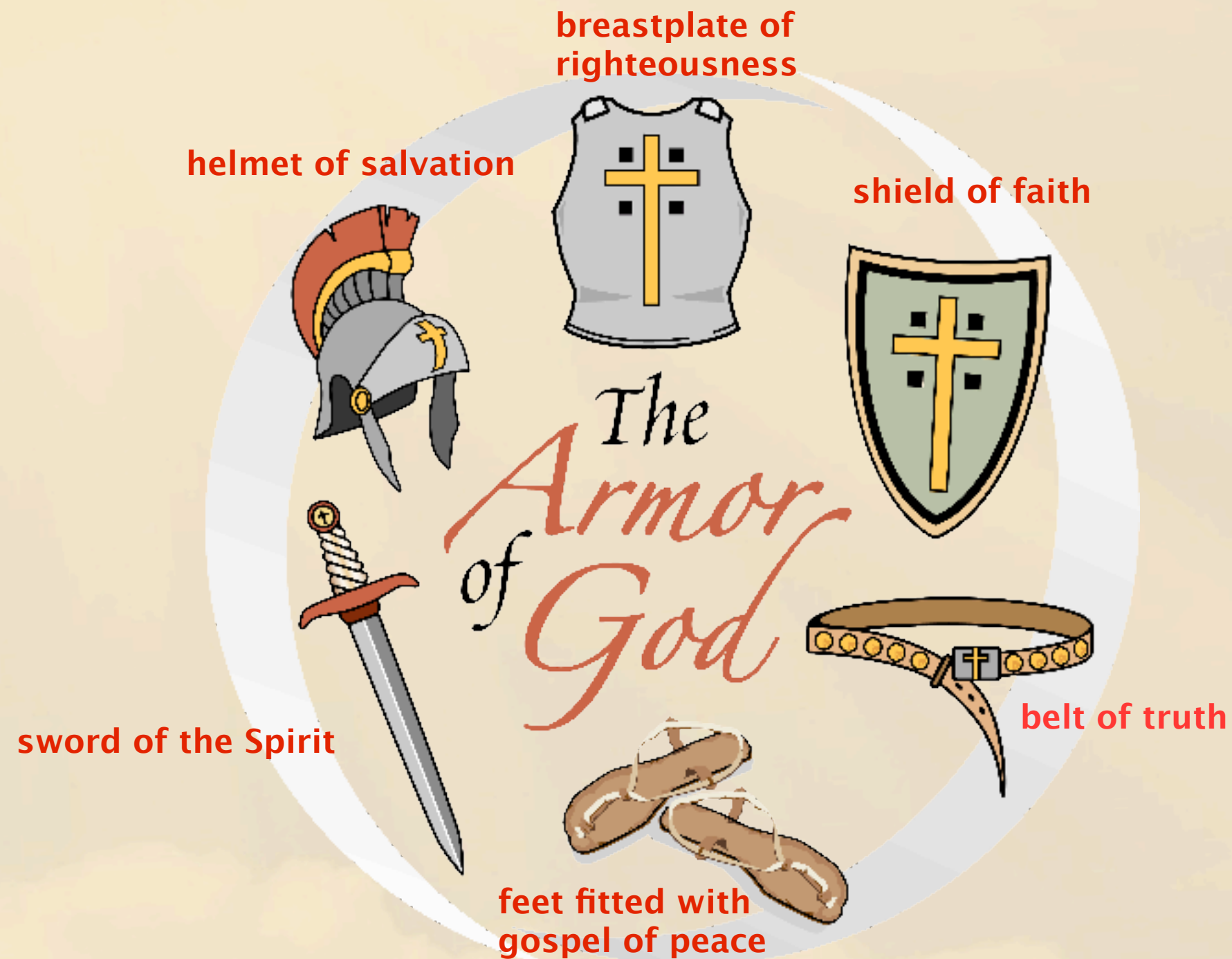


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# First known description of the appearance of the Apostle Paul



He was a man of middling size, and his hair was scanty, and his legs were a little crooked, and his knees were projecting, and he had large eyes and his eyebrows met, and his nose was somewhat long, and he was full of grace and mercy; at one time he seemed like a man, and at another time he seemed like an angel.

Acts of Paul and Thecla, second century AD



# Meaning of Stronghold

In the original Greek stronghold is the word “ochuroma”: meaning a fortress, strong defense, stronghold

In 2 Corinthians 10:4, ochuroma is used figuratively and means a false argument in which a person seeks “shelter” (a safe place or stronghold) to escape reality.

Strong's Greek Concordance

# SPIRITUAL WEAPONS AND THE BATTLE FOR THE MIND

Spiritual weapons are what you need for the battle against all ideas, arguments, philosophies and world views that set themselves up against the knowledge of the true God.

N.T.Wright, Paul for Everyone (2 Corinthians)





# Corinth: A City Full of Gods



Aphrodíte



ISIS



Poseídon



Asklepíos



# Paul's Challenge in Corinth



“For indeed Jews ask for signs  
and Greeks  
search for wisdom;  
but we preach Christ crucified...”  
1 Corinthians 1:22-23





# The Battle for the Mind

The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God, it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God.

Romans 8:6–8



# The Stronghold of the Mind

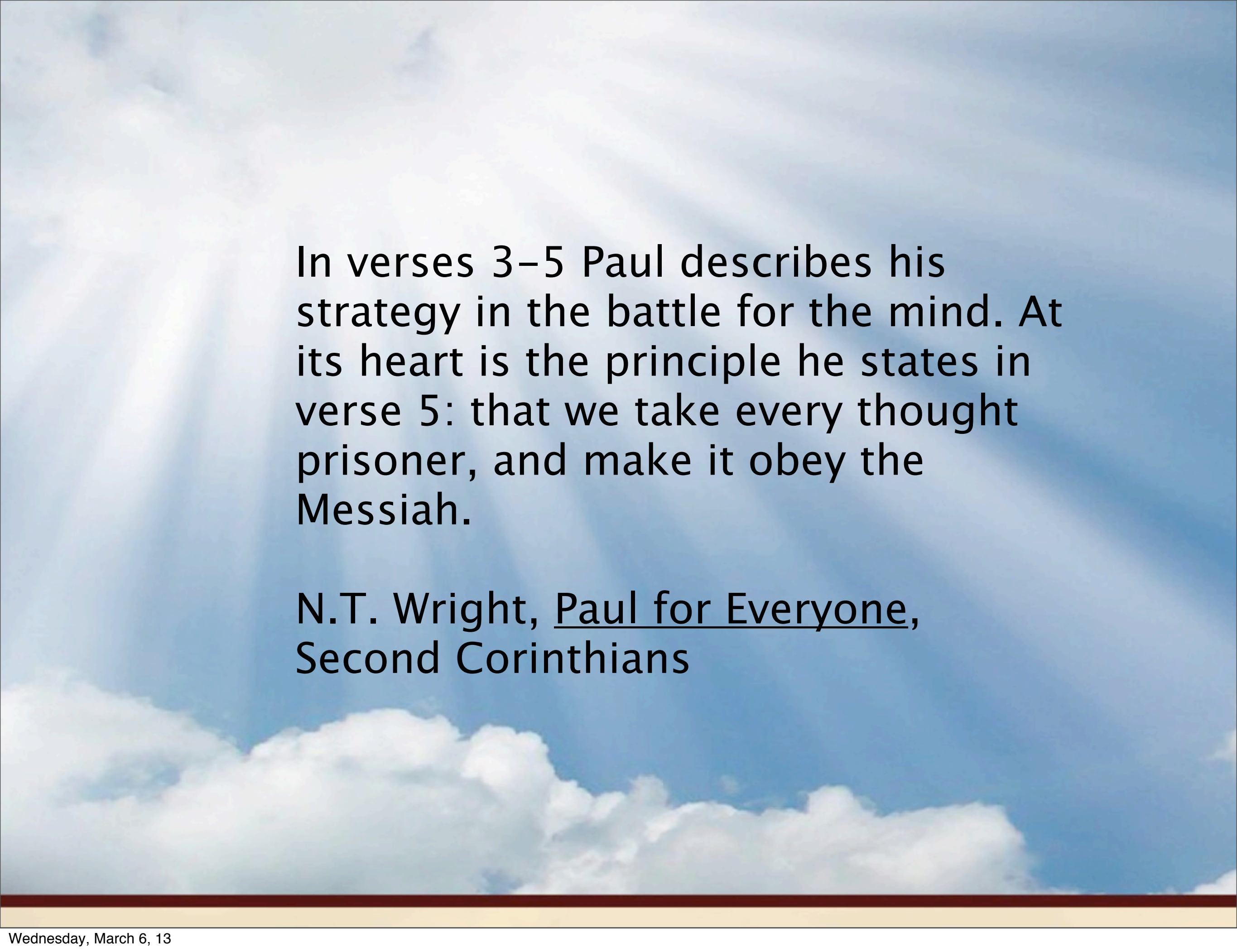




# The Stronghold of the Mind







In verses 3–5 Paul describes his strategy in the battle for the mind. At its heart is the principle he states in verse 5: that we take every thought prisoner, and make it obey the Messiah.

N.T. Wright, Paul for Everyone,  
Second Corinthians





# Spiritual Weapons In Practice

## Philippians 4:8

Finally, brothers,

whatever is

whatever is

whatever is

whatever is

**True,**

**Noble,**

**Right,**

**Pure,**

whatever is

whatever is

if anything is

or

**Lovely,**

**Admirable**

**Excellent**

**Praiseworthy**

think about such things.

# Applying the Lesson in Your Life

This week choose one recurring thought pattern that needs to be made captive for Christ.

Whenever that comes to your mind practice capturing that thought using Philippians 4:8 as your guide.

TRUE  
NOBLE  
RIGHT  
PURE  
LOVELY  
ADMIRABLE  
EXCELLENT  
PRAISEWORTHY

PHILIPPIANS 4:8