

# Wings

*“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”  
Isaiah 40:31*



May 18, 2014

## The Evil Day

When life is good, it's easy to lull ourselves into complacency. But a day is coming when we will be struck, suddenly and violently, with Satan's arrows. Will we be ready for it?

*“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” (Eph. 6:13).*

*“Woe to you who put far off the day of doom, who cause the seat of violence to come near” (Amos 6:3).*



Paul's poetic description of the armor of God in Ephesians 6 may get the militaristic juices flowing, but for most of us it's a rather quaint metaphor that is difficult to relate to. After all, how many of us really have to “fight” for anything in our lives?

The armor that Paul describes is not flashy military regalia donned for show. Paul identifies its purpose as enabling us “to withstand *in the evil day*.” This echoes his earlier admonition to use our time wisely because “*the days are evil*” (5:16). What is this evil day (or days) for which we must prepare? And how will the armor of God help us deal with it?

We find a clue in the Bible stories of people who encountered their own evil days. Job, for example, got blind-sided by his evil day when Satan tore all his

possessions, his children, and even his health away from him. He was left with nothing but three friends who accused him of doing something to bring it on himself. Peter met his evil day when, faced with the threat of being outed as a disciple of Jesus, he denied that he even knew Him. When he heard the crowing of the cock he went out and wept bitterly, knowing that, despite all his prior boasting, he had failed the test.

In these and other stories we see people whose lives were fairly secure and stable—until something catastrophic slammed into them. When put to the test, their faith had to stand firm using whatever mental equipment was available. Some, like Job, weathered the storm and came out stronger. Others, like Peter, crumpled like tin foil.

Each of us will have our own evil days in our lives, terrible trials that will shake our belief system to its foundation. Yours may be different from mine, but for each of us, it will be very real and very hard. When that day comes, it will be too late to scramble and prepare. We will have to deal with it using whatever

spiritual armor we have on hand. If our defenses are weak, Satan's arrows will take a fearful toll. Indeed, our faith may not survive the onslaught.

Unfortunately, many people treat the evil day as did Amos' countrymen: They put the day of doom “far off”; they assume it will never happen to them, that the life of ease they enjoy will last forever. Their casual attitude toward life will leave them morally and spiritually unprepared for the storms that are coming. Only too late will they realize their folly; they will be swept away by the calamity that befalls them.

The truth, righteousness, faith, and other spiritual armament that Paul urges upon us are not Sunday School platitudes designed to make us feel better about ourselves. They are the leather and steel that can save us from a looming and certain threat. But they can serve that purpose only if we have trained ourselves to use them effectively. That's why, while times are good, we must “take up the whole armor of God” and prepare ourselves for the evil day to come. We dare not dismiss it.

— David King