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The Helmet of Salvation
6: 17a

The helmet of salvation DIG: How is salvation like a helmet? What are the two edges of Satan's double-edged sword? What is God's unbroken and unbreakable chain?

REFLECT: What does it mean for you to stand firm in this spiritual battle that you are in? Are you sure of your security in Messiah? If not, why not? If so, who can you tell?

The helmet of salvation is the great hope of glorification that gives us confidence
that our present struggle with Satan will not last forever,
and we will be victorious in the end.

The next piece of **God's armor** is represented by the Roman soldier's **helmet**, without which he would never enter battle. Some of **the helmets** were made of thick leather covered with metal plates, others were heavy molded or beaten metal. They usually had cheek pieces to protect the face. The purpose of **the helmet**, of course, was to protect the head from injury, particularly from the dangerous broadsword commonly used in the warfare of that day. It was not the much smaller sword mentioned next (**to see link click Ch – The Sword of the Spirit**), but was a large two-handled, double-edged sword (*rhomphaia*) that measured three to four feet in length. It was often carried by cavalrymen, who would swing at the heads of the enemy soldiers to split their skulls or decapitate them.

The fact that **the helmet** is related to **salvation** indicates that Satan's blows are directed at the believer's security and assurance in **Messiah**. Two dangerous edges of Satan's spiritual broadsword are discouragement and doubt. To discourage us, he points to our failures, our sins, our unresolved problems, our poor health, or to whatever else seems negative in our lives in order to make us lose confidence in the love and care of our heavenly **Father**. Because the Adversary will never lay down his sword against us as long as we are on the earth, **God's** armor is a

constant necessity until we leave this earth forever. Discouragement in praying for an unsaved husband who continues to reject the Gospel, or a child who refuses to follow the ways of **the Lord** he has been taught is all too common. The other, closely related, edge of Satan's two-edged sword is the doubt that often brings discouragement. Doubts about the truths of **ADONAI**, including doubt about one's **salvation,** are the worst discouragements for a believer. If a believer has doubts about **God's** goodness or promises, he has no reason to hope in the future and therefore no protection against discouragement.

*Dear Heavenly **Father**, Praise **You** that all **Your** promises are totally trustworthy! I have no doubts for I can **trust Your** offer of salvation with complete confidence.* ***And the testimony is this – that God gave us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. The one who has the Son has life; the one who does not have Ben-Elohim does not have life (First John 5:11-12). You** have promised salvation to all who go beyond hearing **You,** to **trusting** in **You**. **Amen, amen I tell you, whoever hears My word and trusts the One who sent Me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed over from death into life (John 5:24).** I don't need to worry if I am good enough to be saved. I am not good enough but my **faith** and **trust** is secure in your gift of **redemption/salvation** to all **believe in You (Ephesians 1:12-13).** No matter what life throws at me, it is a comfort to know that my **salvation** is secure in your work of sacrificing **Messiah Yeshua** as **the Lamb of God (John 1:29, Second Corinthians 5:21).***

*Thank **You** that your power to take those who love You to heaven, is absolutely secure. No army is greater than you **(Revelation 19). You** have covered every detail for my salvation of when **Messiah** died and rose in victory (**First Corinthians 15:3-6).** I so thank and worship **You** for living within those who love **You**. **Yeshua answered and said to him: If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our dwelling with him (John 14:23**). In **Messiah Yeshua's** holy name and power of **His** resurrection. Amen*

Since **Sha'ul** is addressing believers, putting on **the helmet of salvation** cannot refer to receiving **Messiah** as **Savior**. The only ones who can take up any part of **God's armor**, and the only ones who are involved in this supernatural struggle against the Devil and his demonic forces, are those who are already saved. We were justified at the moment of **salvation** (see the commentary on **The Life of Christ Bw – What God Does for Us at the Moment of Faith**), we are sanctified in this life as we are **conformed into the image of Messiah**, and one day we will

be **glorified** when we leave our decaying bodies and live forever in **God's** presence. **And these whom He predestined, He also called; and these whom He called, He also justified; and these whom He justified, He also glorified (Romans 8:29-30).**



This final act of **salvation, glorification**, is the real strength of the believer's **helmet**. If we lose hope in the future promise of **salvation**, there can be no security in the present. This, no doubt, is why **Paul** calls this same piece of **armor . . . the helmet,** which is **the hope of salvation (First Thessalonians 5:8).** Thus, **the helmet of salvation** is that great **hope** of final salvation that gives us confidence and assurance that our present struggle with the Enemy will not last forever and we will be victorious in the end. We know the battle is only for this life, and even a long earthly life is no more than a split second compared to eternity with our **Lord** in heaven. We are in a race we cannot lose. We have no purgatory to face, and no uncertainty about our future (see **The Life of Christ Ms – The Eternal Security of the Believer**). No one is ever lost from predestination to justification to sanctification to glorification. That is **God's** unbroken and unbreakable chain of **salvation**.

We have a certain **hope**, **a living hope**, as **Peter** calls it. **Praised be God, Father of our Lord Yeshua the Messiah, who, in keeping with his great mercy, has caused us, through the resurrection of Yeshua the Messiah from the dead, to be born again to a living hope, to an inheritance that cannot decay, spoil or fade, kept safe for you in heaven. Meanwhile, through trusting, you are being protected by God's power for a deliverance ready to be revealed at the Last Time (First Peter 1:3-5).** When **the helmet** of that **hope** is in place, we can **greatly rejoice in this, even though for a little while you may have to experience grief in various trials. Even gold is tested for genuineness by fire. The purpose of these trials is so that your trust's genuineness, which is far more valuable than perishable gold, will be judged worthy of praise, glory and honor at the revealing of Yeshua Messiah. Without having seen Him, you love Him. Without seeing Him now, but trusting in Him, you continue to be full of joy that is glorious beyond words. And you are receiving what your trust is aiming at, namely, your salvation (First Peter 1:6-9).** Our **helmet** is the guarantee of heaven, our ultimate **salvation**, which **we have as the anchor of** our **soul (Hebrews 6:19).**[264]



A first-century soldier would have a **helmet** as part of his arsenal. It was essential for protection of the head, the command center of the entire body. On the spiritual front, **God's** children need to protect their minds. In fact, **Second Corinthians 10:5** tells us to **take every thought captive to make it obedient of Messiah. The High Priest** was instructed to have a special head-covering that would symbolize **his** submission to **God** and the sanctification of **his** mind. The word for **his** head-covering (see the commentary on **Exodus Gc – Make an Engraved Plate: Holy to the LORD**) means *a protection around the head,* which was

probably like a turban. Most branches of modern Judaism (including Messianic Judaism) encourage men and boys to wear yarmulkes or kippahs at religious services as a reminder of their priestly calling. In the spiritual battle, this head-covering reminds us to stay submitted to **the Father** and to let **Messiah renew our minds (Romans 1:2).** Again, the Rabbi references the prophet **Isaiah** who specifically calls the head-covering **the helmet of salvation (Isaiah 59:17)**. The promise of **ADONAI** is complete victory for the one who has his or her mind set on **Yeshua**.[265]