

# GOSPEL AUTHORITY IN THE ANCIENT GATES

*“A Vision for Life and Family - the City of God”*

(Nehemiah 3; Ephesians 6:10-20)

## ❖ **The Horse Gate - It is About Spiritual Warfare** (Nehemiah 3:28)

*“Above the Horse Gate the priests repaired, each one opposite his own house.”*

*“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> 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 firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, <sup>15</sup> and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; <sup>17</sup> and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, <sup>18</sup> praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, <sup>19</sup> and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”* (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Paul used the word ...

- Wrestle
  - Rules of Engagement

- Rule #1: If the enemy is in range, so are you.
- Rule #2: Don't look conspicuous, it only draws fire.
- Rule #3: Try to look unimportant, the enemy may be low on ammo.
- Rule #4: Teamwork is essential, it gives enemy someone else to shoot at.
- Rule #5: Don't draw fire it only irritates the people around you.
- Rule #6: The only thing more accurate than enemy fire is friendly fire.
- Rule #7: Anything you do can get you shot – including doing nothing.
- Rule #8: A Purple Heart just proves that you were smart enough to think of a plan, dumb enough to try it, and lucky enough to survive.
- Rule #9: Five second fuses only last three seconds.
- Rule #10: It is inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.

▶ The Armor of God

- The Belt of Truth

The word 'aletheia' simply means - the content of that which is true.

The word 'aletheia' also refers to - the attitude of truthfulness.

- Truth is IMPERATIVE
- Truth is IMMUTABLE

- The Breastplate of Righteousness

- *"Guard your heart more than anything else, because the source of your life flows from it." (Psalms 4:23)*

- Not Self Righteousness

*"And may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith." (Philippians 3:9)*

- But Imparted Righteousness

*"Be holy in all you do, be holy as I am holy." (1 Peter 1)*

Where there is the lack of practicing righteousness:

- We are Robbed of Our Joy.
  - We are Rendered Impotent and Fruitless in Our God-given Ministry.
  - We are Robbed of Our Heavenly Reward.
  - Our Witness and Influence are Lost.
- The Shoes of Peace

It is about ...

- Standing in Peace

God gives His amazing peace:

- ✓ A peace that passes all understanding.
- ✓ A peace that knows that forgiveness and forgetfulness go hand-in-hand.
- ✓ A peace that knows that God can take bad and make it good.
- ✓ A peace that understands that there is nothing too big or too bad for God.

- Sharing Peace

What four things do we learn from these two verses:

1. From the cradle to the grave, life is war.
2. The war we are in is not a war with flesh and blood but with supernatural evil powers.

Consider Ephesians 2:1-2:

*"And you he made alive when you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience."*

3. There is danger of falling in this battle.

4. God has made provision for us so that we can stand and not fall. And that provision is **armor**.