

ARMOR OF GOD

1/30/10

From page 103 of the *Holman Bible Dictionary* under the section "Arms and Armor": "Defense against all these arms consisted of the shield which was carried or armor which as worn. Shields were made of wicker, or of leather stretched over wooden frames with handles on the inside. These were much more maneuverable than heavier metal, but obviously less protective. A cross between metal and leather was achieved by attaching metal disks or plates to the leather over a portion of the surface. Two different sizes are referred to in the Bible and in many ancient illustrations (2 Chron. 23:9).

2 Chron. 23:9 spears -- bucklers -- shields

From page 214 of the *Holman Bible Dictionary* under the section "Buckler": "A small rounded shield which was carried in the hand or worn on the arm. Larger shields were also used which covered the entire body."

Back to page 103 of the *Holman Bible Dictionary*: "One was a round shield used with lighter weapons and covered half the body at most. The tribe of Benjamin preferred these along with the bow and arrow (2 Chron. 14:8). So did Nehemiah when he equipped his men for protection while rebuilding the city walls of Jerusalem (Neh. 4:16). The gold and brass shields made by Solomon and Rehoboam respectively were ceremonial and decorative in function (1 Kings 14:25-28) and were of this size. A larger shield was more rectangular and covered nearly, if not all, the body and was so large at times that a special shieldbearer was employed to carry it in front of the weapon bearer. Both Goliath and one of these assistants faced David (1 Sam. 17:41). The tribes of Judah (2 Chron. 14:8), Gad (1 Chron. 12:8), and Naphtali (1 Chron. 12:34) used this type of shield with the long thrusting spear or lance as the offensive weapon in the other hand. Bowman also stood behind standing shields while they flung their arrows.

"Armor is essentially a shield that is worn directly on the body. Since the body is most fatally vulnerable in the head and chest regions, it was especially there where armor was clad. Saul and Goliath wore helmets (1 Sam. 17:5,38), as did the entire army of Judah, at least in the time of Uzziah (2 Chron. 26:14). . . .

"With the rise in popularity of the arrow and with its speed of flight and imperceptible approach to its victim, the mail came to be more and more necessary to cover the torso. Fishscale-like construction of small metal plates sewn to cloth or leather was the breastplate for the ancient soldier. These scales could number as high as 700-1000 per 'coat.' Each coat obviously could be quite heavy and expensive to produce in volume."

