



THE PRAYER THAT EMBRACES THE WORLD

PROTECTION

July 10, 2022

Ephesians 6:10–18 (ESV)

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having fastened on the belt

of truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and, as shoes for your feet, having put on the readiness given by the gospel of peace. ¹⁶ In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one; ¹⁷ and take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, ¹⁸ 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.

Introduction

“When Jesus gave his disciples this prayer, he was giving them part of his own breath, his own life, his own prayer. The prayer is actually a distillation of his own sense of vocation, his own understanding of his Father’s purposes.” —Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

“against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

“Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am being tempted by God,’ for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.”

James 1:13–14

1. Temptation

a. General “Testing”

“In the world you will have tribulation [general].” John 16:33b

“My brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of any kind, consider it nothing but joy, because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance; and let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking in nothing.” James 1:2–4

“No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13

b. “Testing” at the Fulfillment of Time

“For at that time there will be great suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be.” Matthew 24:21

“The NT tells us that this age will be characterized by wars and rumors of wars [...] but does not find it incongruous to urge us to pray for those in authority so ‘that we may live peaceful and quiet lives’ (1 Tim 2:2). While Jesus told his disciples to rejoice when persecuted (Mt 5:10–12) he nevertheless exhorted them to flee from it (10:23) and even to pray that their flight should not be too severe (24:20).”
—Carson, *Matthew*

“O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you ‘Violence’ and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous – therefore judgement comes forth perverted.” Habakkuk 1:2–4

“The OT is quite comfortable with the idea that God puts his people to the test [...] and more generally with the idea that in an important sense we receive from the hand of God what we experience.”
—Nolland, *Matthew*

“First, it means ‘let us escape the great tribulation, the great testing, that is coming on all the world.’ Finally, it means ‘do not let us be led into temptation that we will be unable to bear’ (compare 1 Corinthians 10:12–13). Finally, it means ‘Enable us to pass safely through the testing of our faith.’”
—Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*

2. Evil

Divine Protection Step 1: Salvation

“And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.” Colossians 2:13–15

Divine Protection Step 2: Protection

Ephesians 6:10–18 The Armour of God

“Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.” 1 Peter 5:8

“To pray ‘deliver us from evil’, or ‘from the evil one’, is to inhale the victory of the cross, and thereby to hold the line for another moment, another hour, another day, against the forces of destruction within ourselves and the world.” —Wright, *The Lord and His Prayer*