

Armed and Secure

a Biblical Justification of Self-Defense

Psalm 18:32

“It is my God who arms me with strength, and keeps my path secure.”



The sword is an instrument of death, not a spanking paddle. It is a symbol of a defense weapon.

It's not a siege engine, a military tank, a naval destroyer, or an air force gun ship. It's not a war device, or an electric chair, or a guillotine.

As a personal instrument of defense, it is not to be used for exacting murder, vengeance, or threatening injury.

Today, unless you are playing a pirate in a movie, you wouldn't be using a sword, but a gun. Maybe not as swashbuckling, with not much skill involved, but effective.



Psalm 18:34 “He trains my hands for battle; he strengthens my arm to draw a bronze bow.”

All kidding aside, drawing a bronze bow required a huge amount of strength, that’s why we use aluminum and carbon fiber today. David was fighting for his life, and the life of Israel.

Don’t forget that David fought Goliath as a teen with only a sling and a rock. That was some serious self-defense. I’m sure he would rather have had an Uzi.



David finished off Goliath using the giant's own sword. I'm sure it was pretty heavy to lift and swing.

He did so even though the giant was already down for the count. It wasn't vengeance, he just couldn't take the chance that the big guy got up again, then Israel would be lost to the Philistines.

He later wrote:

Psalm 18:32

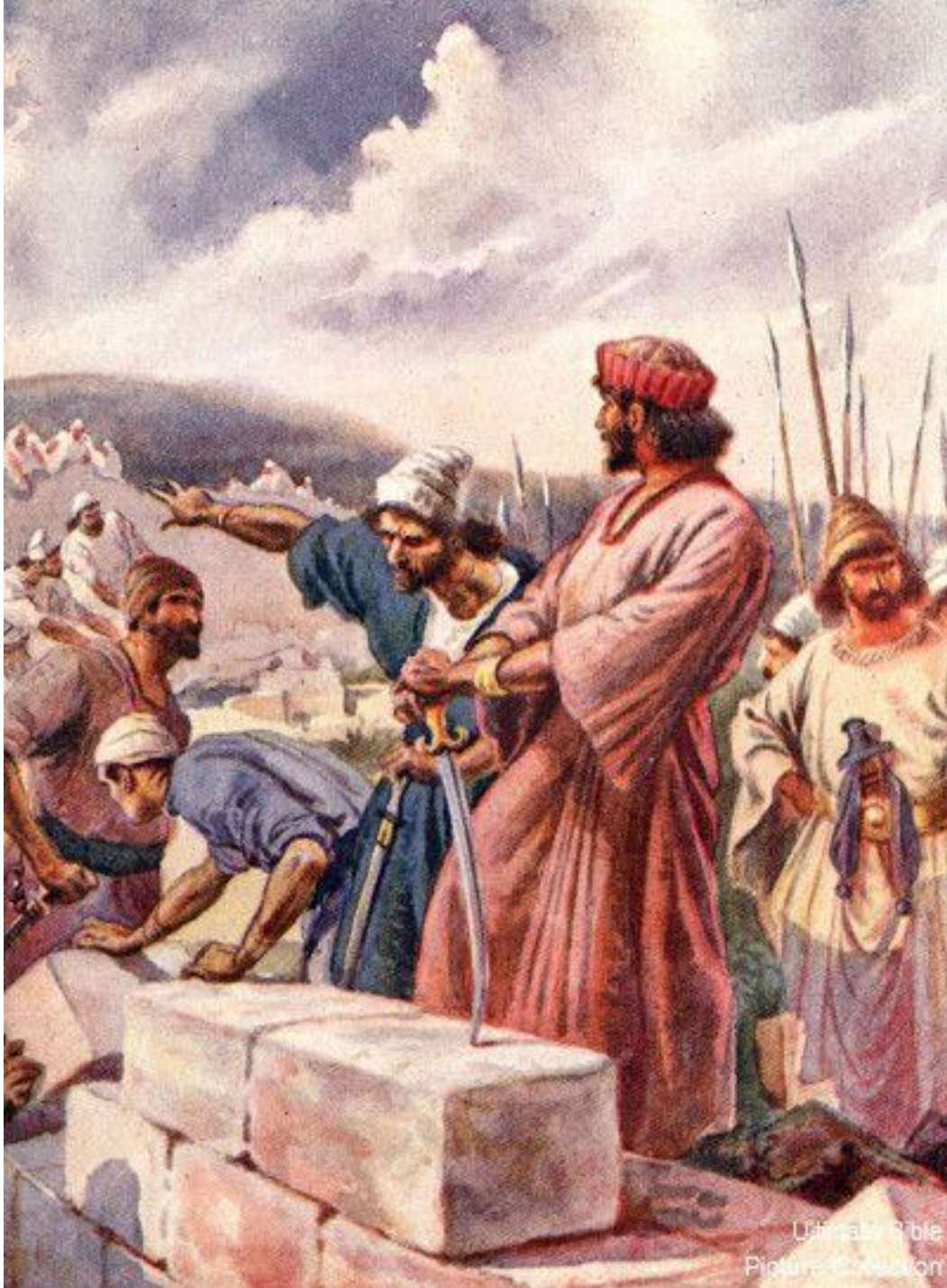
"It is my God who arms me with strength, and keeps my path secure."

According to Dr. Claude Mariottini, Professor of Old Testament, Northern Baptist Seminary, **The Word "Sword" in the Old Testament** (Posted September 22, 2009). The word was used over 400 times in each of the various translations of the Old Testament alone, variance being due to translation of language.

Most commonly the word was in reference to war. But he goes on to say that *“Some versions, like the NIV, translates the Hebrew expression “men who drew the sword” as “swordsmen” while the NJB and the NRSV translate the same Hebrew expression as “men bearing arms.”* Spears, goads, and bows and arrows were deemed impractical for self defense.

There is no doubt that if gunpowder and steel were invented 5000 years ago, the biblical translations would have included cannons and guns. Nonetheless, a good deal of distinction was made between self-defense vs. murder, war of aggression vs. defense, city walls as defense, and armies for war. All wealthy people had guards, not only to protect their wealth, but their safety as well.





Nehemiah 4:16-18: “From that day forward, half of my men were doing the work and half of them were taking up spears, shields, bows, and body armor. Now the officers were behind all the people of Judah who were rebuilding the wall (*around Jerusalem*). Those who were carrying loads did so by keeping one hand on the work and the other on their weapon. The builders to a man had their swords strapped to their sides while they were building.



Jesus is gathered with His apostles, ready to meet His death at the hands of Judas. Even though His death was imminent, He still needed enough defense to make it there and keep His disciples safe.

Luke 22:38-39: “Look, Lord,” they replied, “we have two swords among us.” “That’s enough,” He said. Then, accompanied by the disciples, Jesus left the upstairs room and went as usual to the Mount of Olives.”

At the Mount of Olives, Peter then used his sword to attack the Roman guards, but Jesus made him stop. Aggression was not to be, if God’s will was to go as planned.

In spite of his attack, Peter was not jailed !!!



Saint Paul is always depicted with a sword. Because he was a Roman persecutor in his early days, he was wise to the concepts of self-defense, persecution, and tyranny.

Romans 13: “For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? ... But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.”



(Deuteronomy 22:23-27

“If in the field the man finds the girl who is engaged, and the man forces her and lies with her, then only the man who lies with her shall die. But you shall do nothing to the girl; there is no sin in the girl worthy of death, for just as a man rises against his neighbor and murders him, so is this case. When he found her in the field, the engaged girl cried out, but there was no one to save her”

This passage teaches that if a man rapes a woman, he should pay the death penalty. Note that the Old Testament legal system considers rape on the same level as murder (“only the man who lies with her shall die”).



Be ready to stand and fight, men and women alike. Only sheep and young children are unable to defend themselves.

Proverbs 31:25

“She is clothed in strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.”

1 Timothy 5:8

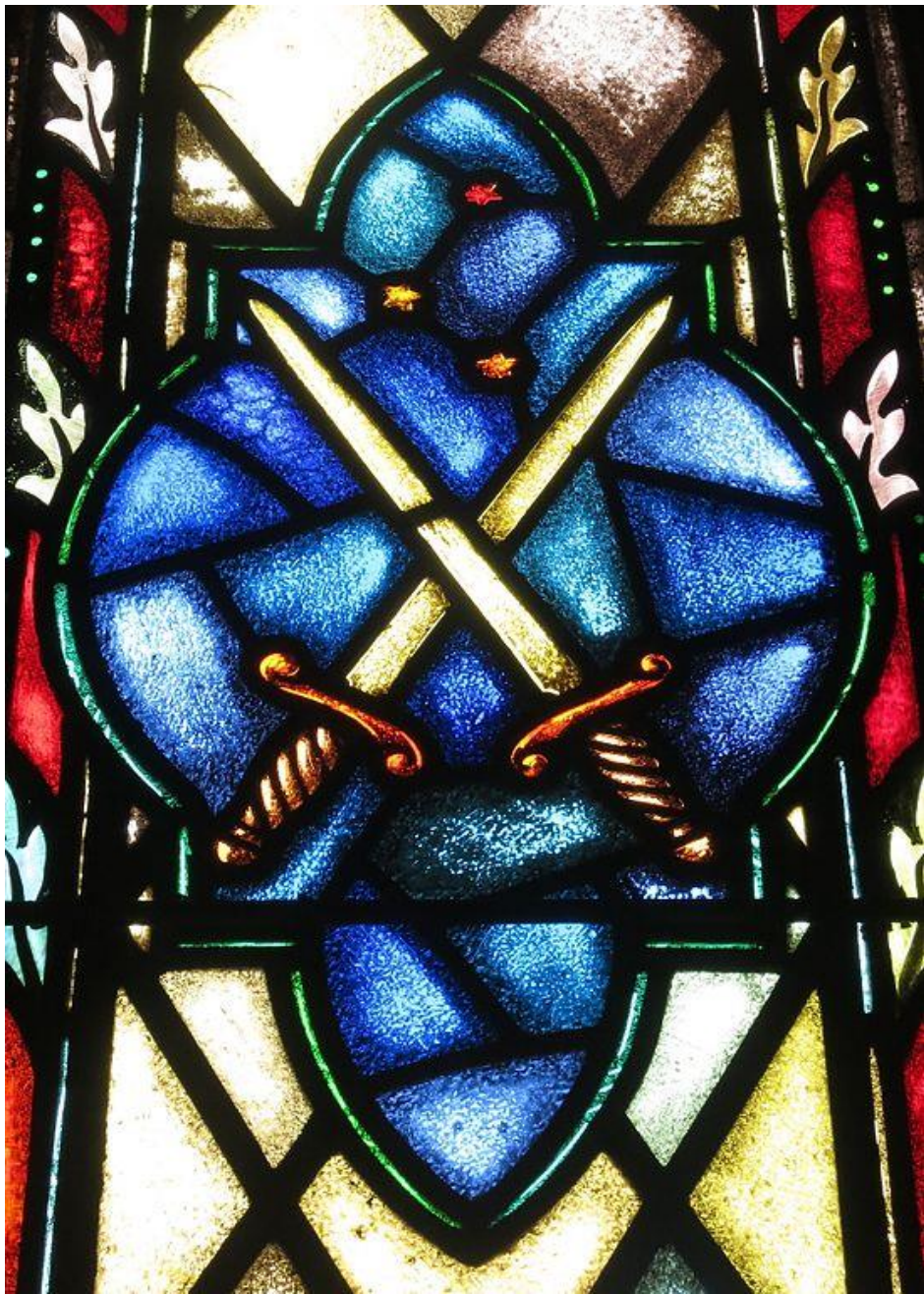
“But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”

Saint Joan wasn't a biblical figure, but historically, she had guts. Many women since have fought battles alongside men in war, especially today in our modern military.

The point here is that women of any age are fully capable of putting up a good fight in defense. With or without armor. I don't recommend taking a sword into a gun battle, though. Home defense is BYOG. (Bring your own gun.)

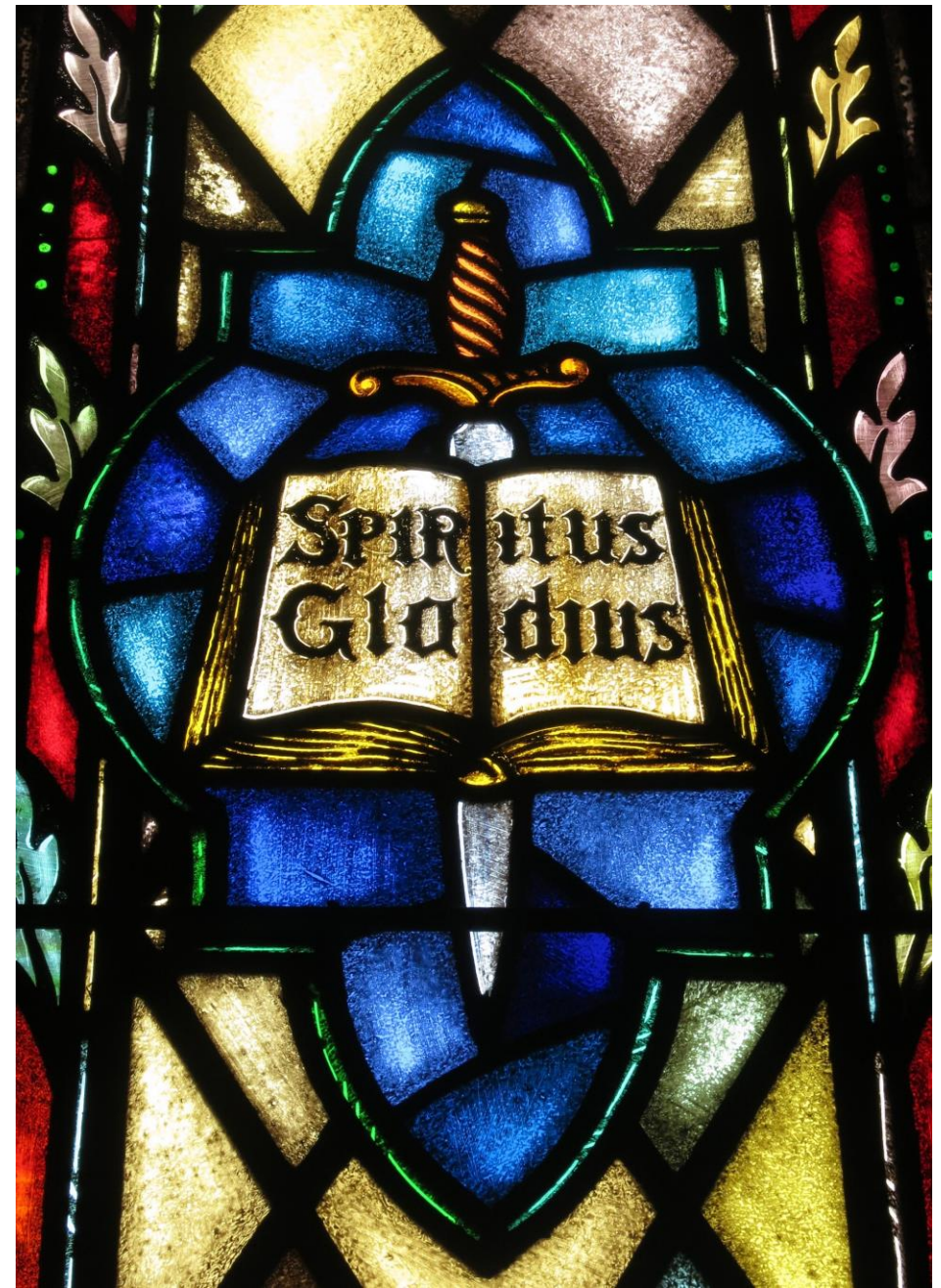
I really love this picture of Ingrid Berman as Joan of Arc. LOL!





The first two leaders of the Christian Church, Saints Peter and Paul, both knew how to swing a sword. [A Gladius is a Roman sword, by the way.]

Jesus said to the apostles, in **Luke 22:36**:
“But now,” he said, “take your money and a traveler’s bag. And if you don’t have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one!”



Joel 3:10

*“Beat your plowshares into swords,
and your pruning hooks into spears;
let the weak say, ‘I am a warrior.’ ”*

The prophet Joel believed in self-defense and had an apocalyptic forecast of Israel, eerily seen in the Holocaust. However, (in the next century) written in Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3, the opposite message is told: “beat your swords into plowshares,” a message of peace, yet to be seen.

However, as Thomas Jefferson later observed, those who beat their guns into plows, plow for those who do not.

Your choice.



Moral of the story:

Be sure you can defend yourself against life's brutal moments.

When seconds matter, the police are minutes or even hours away.

If you don't have a gun, get one. That's why it's called an 'equalizer.'

It's better to be alive and explaining things to the police, than dead and making the Coroner figure it out.

Sympathy is deserved for victims, not criminals.

When guns are made illegal, only criminals will have them.

Your friend, Marc
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