

Roman Armor and Weapons

Explanation

The common Roman soldier was well equipped with armor of leather manufacture, edged or tipped with iron. His primary defensive weapon was a large rectangular shield, called a *scutum*, which protected much of his body. Major offensive weapons were the *pilum*, a short javelin hurled at the enemy from approximately twenty paces and the much feared *gladius*, a short sword designed for stabbing, used at close range with deadly effect. Compare Ephesians 6:13–17.

Reference

William J. Hamblin, “The Roman Army in the First Century,” *MWNT*, 337–49.

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