

## Surrounded By Victory

*Psa 34:7 The Angel of the Lord encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them.*

This verse has puzzled me in the past. This verse seems like an impossibility. How can the angel [singular] of the Lord encamp around all those who fear the Lord? How could one angel be in more than one place at a time? This difficulty is at once resolved when we see who the Angel of the Lord is. The Angel of the Lord is not really an angel at all. The word for angel both in Hebrew and Greek means “*messenger*”. When we see the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament it refers to “*The Messenger of the Lord*”. This Angel of the Lord is none other than Jesus Christ pre-incarnate. We see this Angel in the burning bush.

The Angel of the Lord appeared to Moses in the burning bush. He told Moses that he was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. [Ex. 3] The Angel of the Lord appeared to Hagar [Gen. 16:7-13]. He appeared to Abraham [Gen. 22:11-14] He appeared to Gideon [Judges 6] and He appeared to Sampson's parents [Judges 13] In each of these cases He is called “Lord” or divine attributes are mentioned concerning Him.

When we see that the Angel of the Lord is Christ, then we can understand Psalm. 34:7. The Lord is omnipresent because He is God. In the Old Testament God was surrounding Israel on all sides. He camped around them. The word “camped” means a military camp to protect and defend. God was a complete defense to Israel all about them. No one could attack them from any angle without coming in contact with the Angel of the Lord- God Himself! A man named Balaam was hired to curse Israel. He traveled to three different mountains to curse Israel from three different directions and angles but He found God protecting them in each place. God's Spirit would come upon Him in each place and He could only speak and prophesy blessings. Israel was blessed greatly by the all encompassing Lord protecting them. He was outside of their homes and dwellings protecting them. The Angel of the Lord protected them and delivered them from their enemies in all directions. No doubt that this was an awesome thing, but in the New Testament we have a far greater reality of Psalms 34:7 than what the nation of Israel enjoyed. The Lord is no longer surrounding His people on the outside, but we believers in the New

Testament have been placed **IN** the Lord through the miracle of the new birth and the new covenant! Now the Lord surrounds us because we are **in Him!** He surrounds us on all sides- front, back, up, down, right, left! We are surrounded by the all encompassing Christ! There is another big difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament. In the Old Testament the Lord fought for Israel each time they needed it. In the New Testament, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has once and forever defeated our enemies at the resurrection. He has forever won our forgiveness, healing, deliverance, prosperity, and freedom. We are now in Christ who is the Victor of all! Now, this does not mean that from time to time we are not attacked by Satan and demons. Even after World War II was declared to be over there were still skirmishes by some that wanted to resist the outcome of the war. Satan does not like to admit defeat, but if we stand in Christ and the victory He won for us then we will be protected and see victory in our lives. Satan will try to come to us in different directions trying to bring us into bondage and convince us of defeat. If he is not successful at one direction he will come at us from another. We need to know that we are in the Lord and He camps all around us in every direction to insure our victory! Satan will often try to come up behind us. He tries to bring up our past and our sins we did some time back. He tries to hold us in bondage to our past. He brings up past memories and past hurts so that we will not move forward. **But the Lord camps behind us.** He obtained victory from our past by bearing our sins and shame at the cross and giving us complete forgiveness for what we have done. The Lord camps at our back. Claim this victory by faith and the Lord will keep the enemy off your back. If this does not work then Satan will attack you from the front. He will start shooting darts of worry about your future at you. He whispers bad things that await in front of you- sickness, loss of your job, poverty, and failure. **But the Lord camps in front of you.** He created time and sees your future. God has promised you that He knows the plans He has for you and they are good plans that will give you hope and a good future. [Jer. 29:11] God camps in front of you! The Lord already has won the victory for your future. Stand in that victory and speak to the enemy that your future is a good one! If that attack does not work then He will attack at your right or left hand. **You must know that the Lord camps to your right and left.** [Ps.

**91:7]** states that if 1000 should fall at your left side and 10,000 fall at your right side, it will not come near you! Satan wants you to look at circumstances to the right and left of you. He wants you to look at people at the right and left of you. Do not do this. Look straight before you. The Lord camps at both your sides so that what is bringing others down will not bring you down. **The Lord camps below you** to keep your feet from falling. His victory at the cross and resurrection has delivered you from hell beneath. **The Lord camps over you head**. His victory at the cross and resurrection will safely bring you to heaven above when you die. You are in the Lord. Satan lurks around you from every direction to curse you, but He cannot because in each direction He meets the Lord and is reminded of His defeat. The only weapon Satan and demons have is lies. If we believe their lies then we will be held in bondage. The truth sets you free and the truth is that you have been set free in Jesus Christ! [**John 8:36**] Do not allow yourself to be entangled again in a yoke of bondage. [**Gal. 5:1**] Stand today in the armor of God and stand upon the victory ground won for you by the Lord Jesus Christ. [**Eph. 6:10-17**] You are surrounded by victory!