

# Christ Reformation Church

Tillamook, Oregon

*You Must be Born Again!*

**Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?”**

**(John 11:25-26)**

[www.sermonaudio.com/crc](http://www.sermonaudio.com/crc)

[www.unholycharade.com](http://www.unholycharade.com) (blog)

[www.lightfordarktimes.com](http://www.lightfordarktimes.com) (blog)

Christ Reformation Church – YouTube Channel (Light for Dark Times)

## *The Angel of the Lord Encamps Around His People*

*July 6, 2025*

**Sermon Text:** Psalm 34

**Scripture Reading:** 2 Kings 6:1-23

Last Lord’s Day you will recall, we looked at this 121<sup>st</sup> Psalm which contains wonderful promises from the Lord to His people:

**A Song of Ascents.** I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven

and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, he who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore. (Psalms 121:1-8)

This morning we are going to consider this same theme of the Lord’s special protection and care for His people as found in this 34<sup>th</sup>

Psalm which we have already read in its entirety. We will focus our attention upon a few of the certain and sure promises here. Let's begin with a general introduction as given by our faithful friend of old, Matthew Henry [Bible Commentary]:

man. And it had the effect he desired; by this stratagem he escaped the hand that otherwise would have handled him roughly.

The historic background of the Psalm, as Matthew Henry said, is this:

The title of this psalm tells us both who penned it and upon what occasion it was penned. David, being forced to flee from his country, which was made too hot for him by the rage of Saul, sought shelter as near it as he could, in the land of the Philistines. There it was soon discovered who he was, and he was brought before the king, who, in the narrative, is called *Achish* (his proper name), here *Abimelech* (his title); and lest he should be treated as a spy, or one that came thither upon design, he feigned himself to be a madman (such there have been in every age, that even by idiots men might be taught to give God thanks for the use of their reason), that Achish might dismiss him as a contemptible man, rather than take cognizance of him as a dangerous

1 Samuel 21:10-15 And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. (11) And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?" (12) And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. (13) So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. (14) Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? (15) Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a

madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

David wrote this Psalm, in other words, in a time of intense enemy attacks to kill him, when death seemed almost certain. But the Lord delivered him out of it all:

Psalms 34:4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

Psalms 34:6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

Out of these troubles and trials, David learned this:

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

It is for us just as it was for Elisha:

2 Kings 6:15-17 When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall

we do?" (16) He said, "Do not be afraid, **for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.**" (17) Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and **behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

And this is what we have right here in this 7th verse:

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

We must not rush past this amazing promise. It is the Lord's truth, He cannot lie, the promise is sure and certain. *The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.* David elaborates upon it further. Hear him again:

Psalms 34:15-18 The eyes of the LORD are toward the righteous and his ears toward their cry. (16) The face of the LORD is

against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth. (17) When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears and delivers them out of all their troubles. (18) The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

Let's break this 7<sup>th</sup> verse down and really hear the Lord speaking to us in it:

Psalms 34:7 The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them.

### **The Angel of the Lord**

The subject of the Angel of the Lord in the Old Testament is a very comforting one. Who is this Angel? He delivered Daniel:

Daniel 6:19-22 Then, at break of day, the king arose and went in haste to the den of lions. (20) As he came near to the den where Daniel was, he cried out in a tone of anguish. The king declared to Daniel, "O Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom

you serve continually, been able to deliver you from the lions?" (21) Then Daniel said to the king, "O king, live forever! (22) My God sent his angel and shut the lions' mouths, and they have not harmed me, because I was found blameless before him; and also before you, O king, I have done no harm."

We know that angels are commissioned by the Lord to minister to and protect His people, as He did in Daniel's case. We have this same promise elsewhere:

Psalms 91:4-11 He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler. (5) You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, (6) nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. (7) A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. (8) You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked. (9) Because you

have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge— (10) no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. (11) For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

But here in Psalm 34, this angelic protection is said to come from *the angel of the Lord*. There are at least 57 references to the angel of the Lord in the Old Testament. Here are just a few:

Genesis 22:11 But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”

Numbers 22:23-24 And the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the road, with a drawn sword in his hand. And the donkey turned aside out of the road and went into the field. And Balaam struck the donkey, to turn her into the road. (24) Then the angel of the LORD stood in a narrow path between the vineyards, with a wall on either side.

Judges 6:11-12 Now the angel of the LORD came and sat under the terebinth at Ophrah, which belonged to Joash the Abiezrite, while his son Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. (12) And the angel of the LORD appeared to him and said to him, “The LORD is with you, O mighty man of valor.”

It is commonly concluded that the Angel of the Lord is the pre-incarnate Son of God. [See endnote below from the International Standard Bible Encyclopedia].

*The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Think carefully on this. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself encamps around those who fear Him and delivers them.*

Isaiah 54:17 no weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD and their vindication from me, declares the LORD.”

## He Encamps Around Us

Listen to Spurgeon here:

“The covenant angel, the Lord Jesus, at the head of all the bands of heaven, surrounds with his army the dwellings of the saints. Like hosts entrenched so are the ministering spirits encamped around the Lord’s chosen, to serve and help, to defend and console them. *Encamps around* – On every side the watch is kept by warriors of sleepless eyes and the Captain of the host is one whose prowess no one can resist.” [Treasury of David]

## And Delivers Us

Spurgeon once more:

“We little know how many providential deliverances we owe to those unseen hands which are charged to bear us up lest we dash our foot against a stone”. [Treasury of David]

Psalms 34:19-22 Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all. (20) He keeps all his bones; not one of them is broken. (21) Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned. (22) The LORD redeems the life of his servants; none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

As long as we are in this evil world, the Christian is in enemy territory. And therefore *many are the afflictions of the righteous*. Christ’s protection does not mean we will not have these afflictions – in many ways they increase for all who follow Christ. We must not be surprised. MANY are these troubles for God’s people. BUT:

*“the Lord delivers him out of them all.”*

Psalms 23:1-6 **A Psalm of David.** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. (2) He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. (3) He



restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. (4) **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.** (5) You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. (6) Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Over and over again God's Word gives us these sure and certain promises. Even when our time to die and depart this world, the Commander of the angels sends His mighty ones to escort us safely home:

Luke 16:22 The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried,

### **The Plight of the Wicked**

While the presence of the Angel of the Lord and his innumerable hosts around His own brings great comfort, it should terrify the wicked. Because Christ also has some promises for all who oppose Him:

Psalms 34:16 The face of the LORD is against those who do evil, to cut off the memory of them from the earth.

Psalms 34:21 Affliction will slay the wicked, and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

### **Do You See Them?**

Recall once more that account of Elisha and his servant:

(17) Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and **behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.**

Perhaps David had this very event in his mind when he wrote "*The*

*angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, and delivers them.”?*

It is impossible for us to “see” this vast army around us – we walk by faith, not by sight. Nevertheless, we can see them by faith, through the Lord opening the eyes of faith, enabling us to see that which is unseen. The eyes of faith only come to those who have been born again by faith alone through Christ alone. It is by this faith that we believe God’s Word and see the truth of His promises.

The encampment of the Lord’s army is *around* those who fear Him. The soldiers of this army are keeping watch in every direction. They watch before us when we go out, and they watch behind us when we come in. No enemy attack will ever surprise them.

You might recall the secret meetings of the wicked angels as they planned their assault upon Mansoul. But the Lord saw it all and when the attack came it did not surprise Him and His armies.

How many secret meetings have been held, unseen to us, by evil men who would destroy Christ’s church and stop the proclamation of His Word? No doubt far more than we would comprehend. How many diabolic conversations? How many wicked conspiracies formed? All unseen to us – and yet the Lord has delivered us out of them all.

How many Satanic devices were formed against you to prevent you from coming to faith in Christ and being saved? How many terrible missiles were launched? How many lies? And yet the Lord delivered you, Christian, out of them all. His armies surrounded you as an ultimate patriot missile system that never fails.

Let’s conclude by returning to that 91st Psalm which so powerfully speaks these same promises to us who are in Christ, and then a final warning:

Psalms 91:1-16 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty. (2) I will say to the
--



LORD, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.” (3) For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence. (4) He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

(5) You will not fear the terror of the night, nor the arrow that flies by day, (6) nor the pestilence that stalks in darkness, nor the destruction that wastes at noonday. (7) A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. (8) You will only look with your eyes and see the recompense of the wicked.

(9) Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge— (10) no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent. (11) For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. (12) On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.

(13) You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. (14) “Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. (15) When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. (16) With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

### **A Final Warning**

These great promises are for the righteous, for those who are in Christ, those who are born again. And for them only.

Lest anyone who is still dead in sins, cut off from the Lord, dupe themselves into thinking that these promises are for them – let us be very clear. They are not. For the man or woman or young person who rejects Christ – there is that terrible and deadly army surrounding you that is determined to take you to hell. And without

Christ, you have no Champion, no army of angels surrounding you to save you. Do not be deceived.

So many people who are still dead in their sins and under the Lord's condemnation, will hear promises like these in the Psalms, and apply them universally. "Oh, how comforting, the Lord delivers us out of all our troubles. He encamps around us. He hears my cry." No.

These promises apply only to the righteous, to Christ's real people. Without the Lord as your Savior, you are a tiny little being surrounded by terrible and mighty armies of the devil with no one to deliver you. Flee to Christ now, and ask Him for His saving mercy.

1 God is our fortress and our rock,  
our mighty help in danger;  
he shields us from the battle's shock  
and thwarts the devil's anger;  
for still the prince of night  
prolongs evil's fight;  
he uses all skill  
to work his wicked will;  
no earthly force is like him.

2 Our hope is fixed on Christ alone,  
the Man of God's own choosing;  
without him nothing can be won  
and fighting must be losing;  
so let the powers accursed  
come try do their worst;  
Christ Jesus shall ride  
to battle at our side,  
and he shall have the victory.  
[Martin Luther]

.....

### **Note on the Angel of the Lord**

[From International Standard Bible Encyclopedia]

Exo 23:20 God promises to send an angel before His people to lead them to the promised land; they are commanded to obey him and not to provoke him "for he will not pardon your transgression: for my name is in him." Thus the angel can forgive sin, which only God can do, because God's name, i.e. His character and thus His authority, are in the angel.

Further, in the passage Ex 32:34 through 33:17 Moses intercedes for the people after their first breach of the covenant; God responds by promising, "Behold mine angel shall go before thee"; and immediately after God says, "I will not go up in the midst of thee." In answer to further pleading, God says, "My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest." Here a clear distinction is made between an ordinary angel, and the angel who carries with him God's presence.

The conclusion may be summed up in the words of Davidson in his *Old Testament Theology*: "In particular providences one may trace the presence of Yahweh in influence and operation; in ordinary angelic appearances one may discover Yahweh present on some side of His being, in some attribute of His character; in the angel of the Lord He is fully present as the covenant God of His people, to redeem them."

The question still remains, Who is theophanic angel? To this many answers have been given, of which

the following may be mentioned: (1) This angel is simply an angel with a special commission; (2) He may be a momentary descent of God into visibility; (3) He may be the Logos, a kind of temporary preincarnation of the second person of the Trinity. Each has its difficulties, but the last is certainly the most tempting to the mind.

Yet it must be remembered that at best these are only conjectures that touch on a great mystery. It is certain that from the beginning God used angels in human form, with human voices, in order to communicate with man; and the appearances of the angel of the Lord, with his special redemptive relation to God's people, show the working of that Divine mode of self-revelation which culminated in the coming of the Saviour, and are thus a fore-shadowing of, and a preparation for, the full revelation of God in Jesus Christ. Further than this, it is not safe to go.