

BEING SURROUNDED can be a terrifying experience. The children of Israel were led to the Red Sea with the Egyptians pursuing them. They were surrounded by the enemy on one side and by the Sea and other natural barriers on all other sides. They had nowhere to go and they were gripped with fear. Moses spoke to the people, “Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD which He will show to you today...the LORD shall fight for you” (Exodus 14:13-14). They did not realize that all the while they had been surrounded by the protection and loving care of the Almighty.



God surrounds His own: “The angel of the LORD **encampeth round about them** that fear Him and delivereth them” (Psalm 34:7). As we fear Him, we need not fear anything else. God totally surrounds the trusting soul, providing protection on every side. Nothing can reach the believer unless it is permitted by our all-wise and loving Heavenly Father. “As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so **the LORD is round about His people** from henceforth even forever” (Psalm 125:2). The trusting believer is totally surrounded by victorious melodies: “Thou art my hiding place; Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; **Thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance**” (Psalm 32:7). It is our joy to be hiding in Him, protected by Him and surrounded by songs of praise for the ways God rescues us! The believing heart is totally surrounded by the mercy and faithful love of our God: “Many sorrows shall be to the wicked: but he that trusteth in the LORD, **mercy shall compass him about.**”

Our only response is to burst forth in praise: “Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, ye righteous: and shout for joy, all ye that are upright in heart” (Psalm 32:11).

~*George Zeller*: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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