

Bless the name of the Lord and our Savior Jesus Christ! Let's study God's Word together.

After Jacob left Laban, the Bible tells us that as he journeyed, he encountered the army of God's angels.

In **Genesis 32:1-2** it says:

"Jacob also went on his way, and the angels of God met him. When Jacob saw them, he said, 'This is God's camp!' So he named that place Mahanaim."

The word *Mahanaim* means "Two Camps." Jacob named the place this because he realized he was not alone; he saw two camps—his own family and servants, and the heavenly army of God's angels protecting him.

This teaches us God's providence and protection over His people. Even when we face daunting challenges, God's presence surrounds us with spiritual protection

(Psalm 34:7: “The angel of the Lord en camps around those who fear him, and he delivers them.”).

Jacob had been fearful of meeting his brother Esau, who once threatened to kill him (Genesis 27). His fear was very real, but upon recognizing God’s protection—this “*Mahanaim*”—he gained new courage to face his fears (Genesis 32:11).

Jacob’s story echoes the spiritual reality that God sends His angels to protect His people. The New Testament also affirms this:

“Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” (Hebrews 1:14).

A similar event happened with the prophet Elisha. When Aramean soldiers surrounded him and his servant, Elisha prayed for God to open his servant’s eyes, so he could see the spiritual army of angels protecting them:

2 Kings 6:15-17

“The servant of the man of God got up and went outside early the next morning. Suddenly the city was surrounded by an army with horses and chariots. ‘Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?’ the servant asked. ‘Don’t be afraid,’ the prophet answered, ‘Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.’ And Elisha prayed, ‘Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.’ Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.”

This reminds us of God’s sovereign power and the reality of spiritual warfare. While the enemy’s forces may appear overwhelming, God’s protection far exceeds any threat.

Ephesians 6:1

“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”.

Today, God's army still surrounds His people—those who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Though we may not see these spiritual realities with physical eyes, we can trust God's promises that He is always with us

(Isaiah 41:10: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.").

Jacob's fear of Esau was overcome by his faith in God's protection. This encouraged him to reconcile with his brother, transforming a dangerous enemy into a beloved relative (Genesis 33). Similarly, the spiritual protection around Elisha meant the enemy's threats were never repeated.

If you have accepted Christ, be encouraged to move forward without fear. Remember that God's army is greater than any enemy you face. Stand firm in faith, knowing you are not alone.

May the Lord bless you and strengthen your faith.

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