

September 20

Isaiah 52:12 (NASB) But you will not go out in a hurry, Nor will you go as fugitives; For the Lord will go before you, And the God of Israel *will be* your rear guard.

A commercial for the NFL I watched recently began with a group of young football players huddled on the field. Following a tough practice, the team captain reminds them they are a team. Then he asks, “Who has my back?” An NFL Hall of Famer walks up and says, “I do!” That ignites the team as they all begin to yell, “Who has my back?” All cry, “I do!” This moves to the cheerleaders. Then they march down the street with the people crying out, “I do!” Toward the end, the NFL player asked again, “Who has my back?” This time I answered, “God has my back!”

As that answer came to my mind, the Holy Spirit reminded me of the Israelites leaving Egypt. Pharaoh began pursuing them. Stopped by the Red Sea in front and the Egyptians behind them, they turned on Moses, asking, “Who has our back?” The great I AM answered, “I AM your rear guard.” God, Who goes before us, parted the Red Sea. God, Who is our rear guard, became a pillar of fire to stop the Egyptians. What an amazing picture of our all-powerful Father Who watches over us. We are tasked with putting on the full armor of God as we enter the world, but armor leaves the back exposed. Therefore, God becomes our rear guard. Remember, as we go into the world this morning, that the God of all Creation, the Lord Almighty, is our rear guard. That truth should humble us, fill us with awe and love, and give us confidence that we can handle whatever may happen. We might be surprised by what happens, but He is not.