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There was a time when my life-perspective was that as long as I placed my life in the center of God's hand, nothing could touch or even reach me unless allowed and authorized by Him. While not a "soap-box" issue for me, this was a genuinely held belief I often voiced to the Lord in my pursuit of Him. In prayer one day, two striking things occurred to me. Admittedly, I was a bit presumptuous as to how close to the "center of His hand" my Christian walk had placed me. I also realized that from my strongly held perspective, there was actually no need or place for armor, resistance, authority, a shield or a sword. The immediate question that rose in my heart, "why then was I given them?"

I vividly recall listening, eyes filling with tears, to the news 24 years ago that the powerful ministry and life of Christian recording artist and writer, Keith Green, had tragically ended in a fiery East Texas plane crash. The questions abounded throughout the Body of Christ: why? How could such an effective ministry be snuffed out in its prime? The general consensus was that God must have had an unseen reason for calling Keith home in this way.

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This **never** sat well with me. I could never see how God's highest purpose for Keith Green could be served by sacrificing the other lives which included several children also on the plane. As details emerged, I came to believe firmly that this was not simply the arbitrary will of a sovereign God. Our adversary, who "walks about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour," had taken full advantage of a deadly opportunity and stolen from us several precious gifts. Officials later determined the small 6 seat plane was carrying 12 passengers, including the children. The craft was determined to have been 500 lbs. over its weight limit at takeoff.'

Be vigilant. Be watchful and aware, 1Peter is admonishing. We indeed have an adversary but thank God we are completely armed and equipped for anything the enemy tries, **if we put that armor on**. I am not suggesting a simplistic answer to a complex problem but I do believe there is a need to broaden the discussion—there is more to the question than we may have seen... The purpose of this series of three Selahgram's (<http://www.worshippers.net/selahgrams.html>) is not to exhaustively answer every question but to expand the discussion and hopefully cause you to *pause, ponder and pursue!*

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Jim

worshippers.net

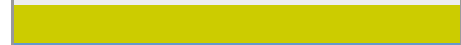


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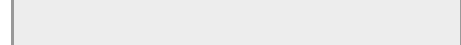
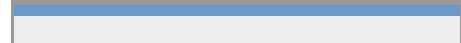
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