

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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LIKE AN EAGLE

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Recently, a National Geographic special highlighted the ways of the eagle. It was interesting to learn that many eagles from Russia and eastern Europe migrate into warmer Israel. Seeing them in great numbers perch high on resting places and majestically soar upward upon the thermals of the morning sun reminded me that inspired writers in the Bible related spiritual truths through the known ways of the eagle in Israel.

God's strength and care for His people is conveyed by the stirring ways of the eagle. *“As an eagle that stirreth up her nest, that fluttereth over her young, He spread abroad his wings, he took them, He bare them on his pinions” (Deuteronomy 32:11).* The Israelite of thousands of years ago could relate to the fluttering noise of an eagle over her nest and her large wing span as we can in watching the eagle of our day. God combines His care for his people, as an eagle cares for her young, with His power to deliver them. Moses earlier reminded the Israelites, *“Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagle's wings, and*

brought you unto myself” (Exodus 19:4).

The strength conveyed in eagles spreading their vast wingspan is a picture of hope for those who trust in God when weary and struggling in one's faith. *“...but they that wait for Jehovah shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; they shall walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).* It seems that the soaring eagle never tires. With this in mind, I can overcome my feeling of weariness and the giving-up-despair, knowing that in God's time I will be soaring with the strength of an eagle. Yes, I can wait on Jehovah. I will not give up.

The ways of the eagle provide excellent illustrations of the realities of life. The next time you see the rapid plunging of an eagle upon her prey, think about how fast your days are fleeing before you. Job did. *“Now my days are swifter than a post (runner). They flee away, they see no good. They are passed away as the swift ships; as the eagle swoopeth on the prey” (Job 9:25-26).* And, what about those riches that lie ahead of

you with such promise? *“Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings, like an eagle that flieth toward heaven.” (Proverbs 23:5).* God wants us to look at the eagle flying off into the heights of heaven away from our reach to help us to submit to His commands, *“Weary not thyself to be rich” (Proverbs 23:4).*

God uses the eagle to help us learn the lesson to not exalt ourselves, but wait on God to exalt us. Edom who dwelt in the clefts of the rock as an eagle could relate to God's warning: *“...though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from hence, saith Jehovah” (Jeremiah 49:16).* Ezekiel spoke a parable of an eagle taking twigs from to top of the cedar and placing it in fertile soil God drives home the lesson: *“...I Jehovah, have brought down the high tree, have exalted the low tree, have dried up the green tree and have made the dry tree flourish...” (Ezekiel 17:24).* May we not forget the divine truths of the illustrative eagle.