

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

(Jerry Fite)

Many species of birds migrate yearly over the land of Israel. It is estimated that over 500 million birds fill the autumn and spring skies of Israel. The eagle, primarily the spotted eagle, is one variety that migrates from Russia and eastern Europe to Africa. Israel has served as a safe, resting spot for the eagle for many years. Seeing the eagle perch on high and majestically soar upward upon the thermals of the morning sun, the Old Testament people of God could relate to the spiritual truths identified in the ways of an eagle.

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 their 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. Therefore, I can overcome my feeling of weariness and 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 submit to His command, “*Weary not thyself to be rich*” (Proverbs 23:4).

God uses the eagle to teach against self-aggrandizement, instructing us to we wait on God to exalt us. Invincible Edom, who dwelt in the clefts of the rock like an eagle, could relate to God's warning: “*...though thou shouldst make thy nest as high as an eagle, I will bring thee down from hence, saith Jehovah*” (Jeremiah 49:16). Ezekiel spoke a parable of an eagle taking twigs from the 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).

The fluttering, strong, swift flying eagle is not a new discovery, but do we know God's teachings relating to the eagle's characteristics? May we not forget the divine truths of the illustrative eagle!