

# Glad Tidings

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

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## The Wings Of Eagles

(Jerry Fite)

**B**efore there were helicopters, there were the wings of eagles. Before the fluttering horizontal blades of the helicopter lifted into the sky there were the fluttering wings of mother eagles encouraging the young to lift up and fly from their nests. Modern Life flight helicopters have lifted many from difficult and painful circumstances to safety, but so have eagles' wings, figuratively speaking.

Jehovah, the Lord, reminded His people in the days of Moses that they had seen what He did unto the Egyptians and that He “*bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto Himself*” (Exodus 19:4). The drowning of the Egyptian army was a final blow to over four hundred years of captivity and cruel treatment. God did not fill the hearts of the fearful with courage to fight hand and hand with the enemy, but told His people to stand still and quiet their fears as they see the salvation of Jehovah.

This escape out of trouble is graphically expressed in songful praise by Moses: “*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).

God's “eagles' wings” not only lifted up a people from trouble, but transported them to a special relationship with Him. “Let my people go...” (Exodus 4:23), identified Israel as belonging already to God when in captivity. But being brought to God ushered by means of the Law of Moses was the beginning of a unique relationship. The Law was only given to Israel and sanctified them from all others. Similarly, God's people today are not merely lifted up from the bondage of sin, but enter a unique relationship with God through Christ. God not only saves us as a victorious general, but “*transports*” us to “*the kingdom of the Son of His love*” (Colossians 1:13).

Have you ever felt the power of the fluttery wings of a duck flying low past your head? The experience is memorable for it is like a 50-60 mile and hour wind suddenly passing by your ears. What thrusts of power are contained in the fluttering wings of the golden eagle propelling it 200 miles per hour! God exhorts us young and old to “renew” our spiritual “strength.” Becoming strong in the Lord is like “*mounting up with wings as eagles.*” We are equipped to “*run, and not be weary*” and walk, and not faint” (Isaiah 40:31).

Soaring high on eagles' wings is exalting, hiding under God's protective wings is comforting. David implores God to “*Keep me as the apple of the eye; hide me under the shadow of thy wings*” (Psalm 17:8). The pupil in the eye is indispensable in seeing, and when employed, characterizes tender watchfulness. Under the shadow of a mother bird's wings, young offspring sense protective comfort.

Jesus looked over the sinful and unbelieving city of Jerusalem with sorrow declaring, “*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, that killeth the prophets, and stoneth them that are sent to her! How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not*” (Matthew 23:37). Jesus' earnest desire to save souls from the death of sin, is conveyed in a determined hen frantically gathering her scattered chicks under her protective wings in the presence of danger. The danger of sin and its consequence of eternal death should be alarming to us as perceived danger is to the caring and protective hen. Jesus offers rest to the weary and heavy-laden soul burdened by sin. He implores, “*...Come unto me and I will give you rest.*” Will you gather under His healing wings (cf. Malachi 4:2)?