

Remnant Life Church
October 6, 2013

Becoming An Eagle Christian

Part II

Isaiah 40:31

- Few animals (land, sea or air) have so indelibly penetrated, not just the culture of the day, but the entire history of culture like the eagle
- The eagle has been used to portray the qualities of strength, integrity, valor, power, nobility, beauty
- Thousands of companies, hundreds of high schools, colleges and universities all use the eagle as a part of their corporate logos and mascots
- How has the eagle forever imprinted itself into our lives?
 - LOGOS
 - American Airlines; American Eagle Commuter; Outfitter; Boston College; Boy Scouts of America; National Security Agency; President of USA; Eagle Radio; United States Postal Service; Philadelphia Eagles
 - See how many eagle you encounter over this next week

1. History of the eagle in culture

a. The Early Church

- i. The tribe of Dan
- ii. Hosea uses the circling eagle as a warning of coming judgment (8:1)
- iii. Aquila – one of the first evangelists mentioned 7 times in the scripture
 1. Aquila is the Latin for eagle

b. Eagle Worship

- i. Egyptians mummified eagles over 5000 years ago
- ii. Summarians believed the eagle brought their babies
- iii. Persians were some of the first to place the eagle on their battle flags
- iv. Native Americans worshipped the “thunderbird” – eagle

c. Greeks

- i. Buried eagle wings in their fields to protect them from lightning strikes
- ii. Earliest Greek coins from 410 BC bore the image of an eagle
- iii. Believed the bird to be nearly immortal when it renewed itself

d. Romans

- i. Charlemagne – emperor and ruler of much of Europe in the first century used an eagle as the symbol of his army
- ii. An eagle was released at the funeral of emperors
- iii. Caesar ruled from a throne in the shape of an eagle

e. Native Americans

- i. The eagle dance has long been a staple of their culture
- ii. The feathers were used to denote rank and honor
- iii. Beaks and talons were boiled and the liquid spread over the body of the warrior before they went into battle to increase their eyesight and other senses

f. Napoleon

- i. His personal flag bore the Black Eagle
- ii. His palace and throne were filled with images of the eagle
- iii. Named his son L'Aiglon – French for “little eagle”

g. Great Britain

- i. Royalty still anointed by oil poured from a flask in the shape of an eagle
- ii. Continually since the 1400's

h. United States

- i. No less than 25 other countries also use the eagle
- ii. June 20, 1782 the Bald Eagle was chosen as the national emblem with the Great Seal of the United States
 - 1. Long life
 - 2. Strength
 - 3. Appearance
 - 4. Thought to be a native only to America
- iii. Six years prior to this in 1776, after the 2nd continental congress met to declare independence, a committee of Franklin, Adams and Jefferson were formed to recommend the look and content of the seal
 - 1. Only the phrase E Pluribus Unum was adopted
 - 2. Franklin was vehemently opposed to the eagle and wanted the turkey
- iv. The eagle was prominent in the Civil War
 - 1. Used by the Union Army
 - 2. “Old Abe” was a mascot taken into battle
 - 3. The confederates tried but failed to capture the bird through the entire war
 - 4. Rode into 17 battles, survived them all, was given an honorable discharge at the wars end
- v. Eagles adorn the postage stamp; coins; currency
- vi. Included in the emblems of the Marines; Army; Air Force as well as the Congressional Medal of Honor
- vii. July 20, 1969 - first sentence spoken from the moon, “Houston, Tranquility Base here, the Eagle has landed.”

i. Eagle-speak

- i. Eagle eye – particularly sharp vision
- ii. Eagle in golf – 2 strokes under par for a hole
- iii. Eagle pilot – an ace or top fighter

2. John's vision in the book of Revelation

- **Rev. 4:7** - *The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.*
 - Many interpretations of this scripture
 - The verse prior states the 4 living creatures with eyes all around
 - Ezekiel 1 and 10
 - Cherubim – the angelic beings in the very presence of God
 - The four faces have been said to represent the 4 companies of Israel when they camped around the tabernacle in the wilderness according to cardinal direction (**Numbers 2**)

- Judah – lion (east)
- Ephraim – ox (west)
- Reuben – man (south)
- Dan – eagle (north)
- A representation of Jesus as seen in the 4 Gospels
 - Matthew – Jesus as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah (**Rev. 5:5**)
 - Mark – the ox; Jesus the humble servant (**Matt.11:29**)
 - Luke – Jesus the perfect man; the second Adam (**I Cor.15:47-49**)
 - John – the eagle; Jesus the man from the sky/heaven (**Matt 26:64**)
- The representation of all of God's creation
 - The lion – greatest of all wild beasts
 - The ox – greatest of all domesticated creatures
 - The eagle – ruler of the birds of the air
 - Many – the highest of God's creation
 - All are under the throne of God and are subject to Him (**Ezek. 1**)

Next Week – The Baby Eagle/Christian