

Remnant Life Church
January 19, 2020

ON EAGLES WINGS

Part 1

Introduction

Isaiah 40:31

- There are few of God's creations that inspire such awe and wonder as when we see an eagle in flight
 - It does not actually even need to be flying – it looks just as majestic when perched high in a tree or outcropping of rock
 - The mere presence of this great bird is enough to stop a person in their tracks
- But when it flies, it is truly magnificent
 - Its has a huge wingspan (average between 6 and 7 ½ feet from tip to tip; up to well over 8 feet have been recorded)
 - The laser-like eyes that take in every movement even from 1000s of feet above the ground
 - The eagle's eye allows it to see a stationary object (like a rabbit) at a distance of up to a mile and a half
 - By comparison the human eye at its maximum is about a quarter of a mile
 - Its apparent command of the thermal currents during flight
 - Its boldness, nobility, and invincibility in the sky
- There are 60 species of eagles broken down into 4 groupings of which only two, the bald and golden eagles can be found in North America
- Only one other beast compares – the lion
- These two are what God uses most often in the Bible to describe a Christian and the life we can live in Him
- What manner of bird is it that God Himself would have it stand before His throne?
 - *(Rev 4:2, 6-7) - At once, I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. Also, in front of the throne, there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and, in back. The first living creature was like a lion, and the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.*
 - This verse describes the four created realms or areas of the earth
 - The lion – the king of the wild beasts
 - The ox/cow – the lord of the domestic animals
 - Man – dominion over the earth (as assigned by God in [Gen 1:26](#))
 - The eagle – is the king of the sky
 - Because of this designation, the eagle has held, since the earliest recorded days, a place of unique distinction

- The Early Church
 - *Ex 19:4 - You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.*
 - The Bible references eagles some 30 times in the NIV
 - In most instances, the eagle is used to illustrate the Word of God
 - In others, it is shown as the potential a Christian has when living in Christ
 - The apostle John was known as the “Winged Warrior”
 - In the 12 tribes of Israel, the tribe of Dan flew the flag of a golden eagle against a blue sky background
 - The early church of the NT was very aware of the significance of the eagle from their knowledge of the OT
 - The lectern from which the Word of God was preached was a piece of wood carved into the shape of an eagle with its wings spread
 - The early evangelist Aquila, who traveled and preached with Paul, was named for the eagle (Aquila is the Latin word for eagle)
 - They did this because of the OT prophets writings
 - The prophet Hosea pointed to a soaring eagle as a sign of impending disaster on the people for disobeying God and His laws (*Hos 8:1*)
 - Job wrote of this powerful bird because of what God enabled it to do from the sky (*Job 39:27-30*)
 - Moses writes a warning from God that a people will swoop down on the nation of Israel like an eagle swooping in to take its prey if they continued to disobey God's law (*Deut 28:49*)
 - Jeremiah looks to the eagle 4 times to describe the majesty of God
 - Isaiah writes perhaps the most beautiful words when comparing the eagle to the power of God
 - *Isa 40:30-31 - Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*
- The Greeks
 - In their mythology, they believed that Zeus took the form of an eagle and held lightning bolts in his talons
 - It is why they buried eagle feathers in their fields and around their homes believing it would protect them from lightning strikes
 - Believed it was the only creature able to stare, unflinchingly directly into the sun since it was filled with sunlight
 - They credited the eagle with the ability to renew its youth giving it a form of immortality
 - Close to the words of *Isaiah 40*
- The Romans
 - Charlemagne – the first king of what would become the Holy Roman Empire in the late 700 to early 800's chose the golden eagle as his symbol of power
 - Eagles would be released at the funeral of an Emperor believing the birds would carry the soul of the leader into the heavens

- Roman soldiers believed in the power of the eagle to protect them choosing to camp under their nests during electrical storms
- In 80 BC (the Republic of Rome) every Roman Legion of soldiers fought under the banner of an eagle with lightning bolts clutched in its talons
- Roman generals on their way to battle believed that to sight an eagle assured them of victory
- Every Ceasar ruled from a throne that was shaped like a giant golden eagle

- Napoleon
 - The symbol of a ferocious black bird attacking that adorned the flag of Napoleon was the image of a Black Eagle
 - He made the eagle his primary symbol of representation on his imperial banner, his throne, and throughout his palace
 - He even named his son “L’aiglon” which means “baby eagle”

- The United States
 - In 1782 Benjamin Franklin vehemently argued against the eagle as the national symbol of the new nation
 - Felt the eagle was too aggressive
 - Believed the turkey was more stable and reliable as well as a source of bounty and sustenance
 - Fortunately, he was overruled
 - Eagles were actually used in battle during the Civil War
 - First carried into battle as a mascot of the Eight or Eagle regimen of the Wisconsin volunteers
 - Named “Old Abe” after the president
 - So famous that General Ulysses Grant went to pay his respects in person
 - Survived through the entire war in spite of being taken into 19 battles – escaped several attempts at capture by the south
 - The eagle adorns virtually every important great emblem for our country
 - The central figure on the great seal of the United States
 - The symbol of the US Marines
 - On stamps and the dollar bill
 - On the flag of the US Coast Guard
 - It is on the Congressional Medal of Honor – the nations highest honor given
 - When the president addresses the nation, it is most often from a lectern with the image of a bald eagle on it
 - His plane is called “Eagle One” when he is not on board
 - And the very first words spoken from the surface of the moon in July 1969 were, “Houston, Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed!”
 - We even use the word eagle throughout our language to mean something of achievement or highest standard
 - Eagle-eye – means someone with great vision
 - Eagle pilot – is the designation of a top pilot in a group

- Even sports – golfers know that an Eagle is two strokes under par on a hole – a great achievement
- The eagle, for its size, is one of the most powerful and feared birds (if not all animals) alive
 - A 5-pound eagle can and will attack and kill a 30-pound deer
 - The Australian eagle will knock full-grown kangaroos from cliff tops
 - There have even been reports of an eagle attacking a bear
 - The most powerful of all eagles, the Harpy, is enormous at over 3 feet tall, weighing more than 20 pounds, and with a wingspan possible of well over 8 feet
- It is little wonder that these birds are called the kings of the air, adopted as the very symbol of a conqueror
- Well the Bible says that we are more than conquerors ([Rom 8:37](#))
 - God has chosen the eagle to not only represent but inspire us Christians to who and what we are in Christ
 - The eagle, more than any other bird, portrays the power, the beauty, the majesty, the fearlessness, the strength, and the sheer grandeur of God.
 - That is who you are when you are in Christ with Him at the center of your life

This is why week after week I encourage you to stand strong and firm even through the difficult and challenging times

- You have been given a power and authority as a child of God to be an overcomer
- Not in pride or believing the strength is yours
- Paul writes, *I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me* ([Phil 4:13](#))

The Eagle is a symbol of strength, beauty, and power

- It is God's power that sustains us
- It is His beauty in us that should be seen everyday
- It is His strength that allows us to overcome the difficult times