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GRACE**

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**Eagles
and their
Symbolism**

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Eagles and their Symbolism.

Topics.

- The symbolism of the eagle.
- Eagle and the book of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- Eagles in Scripture.
- I bore you on eagles' wings.
- The LORD spread out his wings over Israel.
- In the shadow of your wings, I will take refuge.
- Under the LORD'S wings you shall find refuge.
- They shall mount up with wings like eagles.
- Where the eagles are gathered.
- Facts concerning the eagle.
- The eagle the king of birds.

THE SYMBOLISM OF THE EAGLE

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Depending on the context Eagles signify:

- Freedom peace, courage, and determination.
- God's Spirit, grace, strength, and loving-kindness delivering His people from bondage and hardships, and carrying His people to Himself.
- God caring, nurturing, comforting, and watching over new born converts.
- God sheltering and protecting His people from harm, and when they do fall catching them and lifting them up to be with Him and his family.
- God's Spirit, love, mercy, grace, and the Gospel lifting a sinner up and carrying them to Himself and salvation.
- God eyes circling over His people to comfort and care for them as the apple of His eye, and as His treasured possession.
- God carrying those in Christ high above all difficulties, to obtain the prize of their high calling in Christ Jesus.

EAGLE AND THE BOOK OF MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE, AND JOHN

The books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

1. **Matthew:** is represented by the Man
2. **Mark:** by the Lion

3. **Luke:** by the Calf
4. **John:** by the Eagle.

John's Gospel, is the one most focused upon the divinity of Jesus' signified by the eagle.

EAGLES IN SCRIPTURE

I BORE YOU ON EAGLES WINGS

EXODUS 19:3-4

- **Exodus 19: 3-4:** while Moses went up to God. The LORD called to him out of the mountain, saying, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob, and tell the people of Israel: ⁴ ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

Here eagle wings signify two things:

1. The strength and loving-kindness of the LORD in delivering His people from bondage and hardships.
2. Bringing His people to Himself, in this light the wings of the LORD signify the Gospel, for it is the Gospel that brings sinners to God.

THE LORD SPREAD OUT HIS WINGS OVER ISRAEL

DEUTERONOMY 32:9-12

- **Deuteronomy 32:9-12:** But the LORD’s portion is his people, Jacob his allotted heritage. ¹⁰ “He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. ¹¹ Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, ¹² the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.

Here wings signify the following three things:

1. God nurturing and comforting new born converts.
2. God watch over His people, and protecting and caring for them.
3. God’s Spirit, His word and His love and grace carrying His people to Himself.

IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS, I WILL TAKE REFUGE

PSALM 57:1

King David wrote:

- **Psalm 57:1:** Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings, I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by (Ps. 57:1).

While in the midst of hardships, troubles and sorrows David takes refuge in the shadow of God’s wings. The picture here is of a baby eagle gathering under the wings of the king of birds and of the parent eagle protecting the helpless little chick from every type of predator that seeks to devour it. The

Scriptures picture the LORD as an eagle caring for his young and building nests of warmth and spreading out his wings over them to shelter and protect them from harm and when they do fall catching them and lifting them up to be with him and his family.

In the book of Deuteronomy, it is written:

- The LORD found him (Israel) in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; he encircled him, he cared for him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. ¹¹Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions (Deut. 32:11).

The nest being built can be seen to symbolise God's love, grace and mercy, His wings can be seen as His Spirit and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and He lifts us up by His forgiveness. Notice God encircled His people and cared for them as the apple of His eye, meaning His greatest love. The faithful who belong to His global family will make up His treasured possession in the Lord's Kingdom.

The prophet Isaiah wrote:

- They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isa. 40:31).

This can be applied to a particular trial, sorrow, or grief that we are patiently praying will pass, but its ultimate fulfilment will be when the Lord Jesus Christ returns in glory to gather those who are his to himself. Those who endure to this glorious day will be raised to immortality and eternal life where happiness is everlasting and suffering, sorrow and grief is swallowed up in joy and laughter and weariness, and strife is replaced with endless vitality and peace. If we go forth in our own strength, we shall faint, and utterly fall; but having our hearts and our hopes in heaven, we shall be carried above all difficulties, and be enabled to lay hold of the prize of our high calling in Christ Jesus.

UNDER THE LORD'S WINGS YOU SHALL FIND REFUGE

PSALM 91

- **Psalm 91: 4:** He (the Almighty) will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Here we see that wings signify, protection, shelter, comfort, and the faithfulness of God.

THEY SHALL MOUNT UP WITH WINGS LIKE EAGLES

ISAIAH 40:29-31

- **Isaiah 40:29-31:** He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength. ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; ³¹ but they who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.

The path of the righteous requires strong faith and patience while waiting for the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ. In the same way that the eagle finds strength to rise above the storm, the LORD gives strength to all (i.e., young, and old) who remain faithful in times of tiredness, trials, and

temptations. To soar like an eagle carries the idea of increasing in vitality, strength, energy, and by extension increasing in the knowledge of the LORDS word and in faith.

WHERE THE EAGLES ARE GATHERED

MATTHEW 24:28

- **Matthew 24:28:** Jesus said regarding the time of His return, 'For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles (vultures in KJV) will be gathered together'.

The correct bird would be vultures, because it is vultures that gather to dead bodies.

In the natural world wherever a dead body is vultures gather to it for food. In this chapter Jesus is constantly warnings against false prophets and false teachers, which means, the symbolism of the vultures and the dead bodies refers to false teachers and their followers, (i.e., wherever false teachers are there will be spiritually dead followers who gather to them for food), because they are only being fed spiritually dead teaching.

FACTS CONCERNING THE EAGLE

- In the same way that a lion is considered the king of beasts, the eagle is regarded as the king of birds and considered the king of the skies and messenger of the highest gods.
- In mythology the eagle is connected by the Greeks to the god of Zeus, by the Romans to the god of Jupiter by the Germanic tribes to the god of Odin and by Judeo-Christian Scriptures to those who hope in God. (Isa. 40:31).
- Their eyes are extremely powerful, having up to eight times stronger vision than humans, this enables them to spot potential prey from a very long distance. Their eyesight is so amazing when it is flying at an altitude of around a thousand feet it can easily spot possible prey over an area of around three-square miles.
- Their wings are built for soaring and gliding on updrafts of warm air (thermals), their long feathers are slotted and can separate to allow air to flow smoothly and prevent the eagles from stalling when flying at slower speeds. Their wings are broad which enable them to fly at great speeds when in flight. The length of a full-grown eagle wing is around 1.06m (3ft 6in) and its wingspan is about is around 2.27m (7ft 5in).
- Their grip is up to ten times stronger than humans, they can focus and lock in on their prey from miles away, and do not eat dead things, but live off live prey,
- They do not build their nests in the plains, but on top of high trees and inaccessible high cliffs, often shielded from the weather by some jutting crag that hangs over it.
- Most eagles fly up high because it allows them to spot prey on the ground or in the water below without being detected. They have always been celebrated for the height to which they are able to soar directly upward until they are out of sight, which no other bird can do. It is for this reason, the ancients gave the Eagle the name, "the bird of heaven."

- Eagles love storms, because they allow them to fly into high spaces that they cannot normally reach in good weather. They can sense when a storm is approaching long before it hits and being aware, flies to some high spot and waits for the winds to come, then when the storm hits, it spreads its wings so that the wind will pick it up and lift it high above the storm. When a storm is full of rain, most birds seek for shelter, in contrast to this, the eagle flies above the clouds to avoid the rain, once it is above the rain, the storm, and rough winds, its flight requires less effort and becomes smoother, and it has a broader view of its surroundings.
- They fly alone with their own kind at high altitudes, and soar higher above the clouds than any other bird, and train their young to do the same.

THE EAGLE THE KING OF BIRDS

The eagle is considered king of birds for the following three reasons:

1. Its eyesight is superior to all other birds.
2. It soars higher than any other bird.
3. Its beak is stronger, sharper, and far more powerful than all birds.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.