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Wings
and their various
Symbolisms

(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.

Wings and their Various Symbolism.

Topics.

- Wings and nations, and wings used negativity and what they symbolise
- Overview of wings and their symbolism, and eagles' wings.
- The LORD and wings, and wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat
- The LORD rode on a Cherub and on the wings of the wind
- Wings and four living creatures, and chariots and wings.
- Wings like the noise of many chariots, and the wind and wings.
- Wings, animals and birds, and wings that bring healing.

WINGS AND NATIONS

Babylon: Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon is pictured as a great eagle with great wings.

Egypt: Pharaoh of Egypt is pictured as a great eagle with great wings.

Greece: is pictured as a great leopard with four wings.

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Assyria: wings signify Assyria's armies being carried over the land, especially the land of Israel.

Moab: the words, "the LORD spreads His wings against Moab," signify God's judgment on Moab.

- **Jeremiah 48:9:** Give wings to Moab, for she would fly away; her cities shall become a desolation, with no inhabitant in them.
- **Jeremiah 48:40:** For thus says the LORD: "Behold, one shall fly swiftly like an eagle and spread his wings against Moab;

WINGS USED NEGATIVELY AND WHAT THEY SYMBOLISE

When wings are used negatively, they are symbols of something that:

- Takes wealth and riches away.
- Carries sin and wickedness.
- Carries armies.
- Puffs a person up in pride and vanity.
- Binds people or nations in their sin and wickedness.
- Brings God's judgment on an individual or nation.

Wings provide shelter, protect the young, and carry birds in flight, and therefore depending on the context can symbolise:

- Deliverance from trouble
- A place of refuge, protection, safety, security, and shelter.
- Joy, healing, help, strength, energy, and
- The vehicle that brings people, or a nation to God Himself.
- Whatever or whoever is used to bring about the purposes, judgments and will of God.
- Freedom and speed of travel, especially the swiftness of armies on the march.
- Something being spread to all parts of the world
- Any vehicle that carries weapons of war to a battle.
- Something that takes wealth and riches away; carries wickedness; puffs a person up in pride; binds people or nations in their sin; and carries secrets to others.
- Shields carried by warriors of a massive army. This is because from heavens view seeing thousands of soldiers wearing armour, marching in unison, and carrying shields that reflected in the sun like gleaming metal can in a vision appear as wings carrying the army to its destination (Ezekiel 1:24) (Ezekiel 27:10-11).
- When applied to a nation or individual wings can signify whatever is used to achieve a nation or person's goal.

NOTE: it is the context of the verse that determines what meaning the word wings carries.

Wings and armies: wings are often used to signify chariots and horses that carry an army and its warriors into battle. By extension they can also embrace modern day weapons of war, such as fighter planes, tanks and warships etc.

Whirring wings: refers to a great, fierce, terrifying, and cruel armies.

Spreading wings: in the context of battle refer, to a nation or their armies surrounding and trapping their enemy.

Wings stretched out straight, one toward another: signify kings, their nations and their massive armies marching with one accord with their weapons stretched out ready for battle, and all having the same hatred and desire to destroy their enemy (specially to destroy Israel).

When they stood still, they let down their wings: may mean when they stopped marching, they let down their shields and swords (weapons of war) meaning there would be a moment or time of peace.

Two wings covering its body: may mean they had two weapons protecting them (i.e., their shields and their swords etc.).

Its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land: signifies massive armies spread out over the land.

- **Isaiah 8:8:** and it will sweep on into Judah, it will overflow and pass on, reaching even to the neck, and its outspread wings will fill the breadth of your land, O Immanuel.”
- **The sound of their wings like the sound of the Almighty and many waters:** refers to armies of thousands that in a vision are seen marching in with the bright reflection of the sun's rays shining on the gleaming metal of their armour, swords, shields and chariots, which gives the appearance of having wings, and the noise of such a massive army marching with their chariots, armour, and weapons of war is going to make a very loud noise (i.e., the sound of many waters).

EAGLES WINGS AND THEIR VARIOUS SYMBOLISMS

Eagle wings catching their young.

- **Deuteronomy 32:11:** Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions,

Here eagle wings signify shelter and protection.

Wings like eagles.

- **Isaiah 40:31:** 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.

Here wings signify re-stored energy and strength.

A great eagle with great wings.

- **Ezekiel 17:3:** say, Thus says the Lord GOD: A great eagle with great wings and long pinions, rich in plumage of many colors, came to Lebanon and took the top of the cedar.
- **Ezekiel 17:12:** “Say now to the rebellious house, Do you not know what these things mean? Tell them, behold, the king of Babylon came to Jerusalem, and took her king and her princes and brought them to him to Babylon.

This eagle signifies Pharaoh king of Egypt, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and by extension can signify any other great ruler or king.

A great eagle with great wings.

- **Ezekiel 17:7:** Pharaoh with his mighty army and great company will not help him in war, when mounds are cast up and siege walls built to cut off many lives.

Pharaoh and Egypt are pictured as another great eagle with great wings.

A lion with eagles' wings:

- **Daniel 7:4:** The first was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

A lion with eagles' wings signifies Babylon's great dominion, but can refer to any other great king or ruler.

Fly swiftly like and eagle.

- **Jeremiah 49:22:** Behold, one shall mount up and fly swiftly like an eagle and spread his wings against Bozrah, and the heart of the warriors of Edom shall be in that day like the heart of a woman in her birth pains.”

Fly swiftly like and eagle signifies a powerful nation and their armies swiftly spreading out over the land and conquering their enemies.

On eagles' wings.

- **Exodus 19:4:** ‘You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself.

On eagles’ wings signifies the LORD bringing His people out of slavery and bondage and to Himself.

Eagles’ wings plucked off.

- **Daniel 7:4:** The first (beast being Babylon) was like a lion and had eagles' wings. Then as I (Daniel) looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted-up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it.

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Nebuchadnezzar at the peak of his self-deifying pride, was humbled and took on some beast like form and character. He was later converted from this beast like form to man’s form and true position towards God; symbolized by eagle wings being plucked off. The eagles’ wings being plucked off, signify the great royal power of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, being brought low, while the expression, “made to stand on two feet like a man,” signifies, it being restored to him.

Eagle wings flying toward heaven.

- **Proverbs 23:4-5:** Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. ⁵ When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

Eagle wings flying toward heaven signifies wealth and riches, quickly fading away.

THE LORD AND WINGS

Under the LORD’S wings: the following verses show, that the expression, ‘under the LORD’S wings,’ signifies a place of refuge shelter, protection until troubled times pass.

- **Ruth 2:12:** The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”

- **Psalm 17:8:** Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings,
- **Psalm 36:7:** How precious is your steadfast love, O God! The children of mankind take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
- **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.
- **Psalm 61:4:** Let me dwell in your tent forever! Let me take refuge under the shelter of your wings! *Selah*
- **Psalm 91:4:** He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

In the shadow of the LORD'S wings: signifies being in the LORD'S favour, help and joy.

- **Psalm 63:7:** for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

The LORD rides on the wings of the wind: when the LORD is pictured riding on a chariot, the chariot is pictured as being powered by the wind. In this context, the chariot signifies God'S awesome might in battle, especially when defending His people Israel, while the wind signifies His Presence being everywhere.

- **Psalm 104:3:** He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind;

OVERVIEW: when wings are linked with God, they are a symbol of:

- Refuge covering, shelter protection faithfulness, healing, help and joy.
- Re-stored energy, strength and deliverance from trouble and bondage.
- The vehicle that brings people or a nation to God Himself, and that carries a person or nation away from trouble to a place of protection and safety.

WINGS ABOVE, OVERSHADOWING THE MERCY SEAT

- **Exodus 25:20:** The cherubim shall spread out their wings above, overshadowing the mercy seat with their wings, their faces one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubim be.

Wings above, overshadowing the Mercy Seat signify the enormous value God places upon His Holiness.

THE LORD RODE ON A CHERUB AND ON THE WINGS OF THE WIND

- **2 Samuel 22:7-14:** "In my (David) distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears. ⁸ "Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations of the heavens trembled and quaked, because he was angry. ⁹ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. ¹⁰ He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. ¹¹ He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind. ¹² He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water. ¹³ Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth. ¹⁴ The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice.

Here David's use of the words, "the LORD rode on a cherub and flew on the wings of the wind," signify the LORD defending David and pouring out his wrath upon David's the enemies.

- He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind. (Psalm 18:10).

This is also a Psalm of David; he is addressing the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies and from the hand of Saul.

WINGS AND FOUR LIVING CREATURES

- **Revelation 4:6-8:** and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

1. First living creature like a lion: signifies king of wild animals.
2. Second living creature like an ox: signifies king of work animals.
3. Third living creature with the face of a man: signifies king of humanity.
4. Fourth living creature like an eagle: signifies king of birds.

Collectively, the symbolism is of all creation praising God.

WINGS AND CHARIOTS

- **Psalm 104:3:** He lays the beams of his chambers on the waters; he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind.

This whole Psalm is focused upon the majesty of God, and His life giving and creative power, and His control over the entire universe, and all creation, which means the words, "he makes the clouds his chariot; he rides on the wings of the wind," signify God's power, and control over the universe and the earth and its climate.

WINGS LIKE THE NOISE OF MANY CHARIOTS

- **Revelation 9:9:** they had breastplates like breastplates of iron, and the noise of their wings was like the noise of many chariots with horses rushing into battle.

Wings that sound like many chariots, signify a great army marching into battle.

WINGS AND WIND

A wind has wrapped Israel in its wings: signifies they are bound in their iniquities and sin. (Hosea 4:19).

- **Hosea 4:19:** A wind has wrapped them in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

The wind was in the wings of two women: signifies wickedness being spread across the land.

- **Zechariah 5:9:** Then I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, two women coming forward! The wind was in their wings. They had wings like the wings of a stork, and they lifted up the basket between earth and heaven.

He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind: these words in the following verses signify God going forth defending David and his armies, and pouring out his wrath on his enemies.

- **2 Samuel 22:10-15:** He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. ¹¹ He rode on a cherub and flew; he was seen on the wings of the wind. ¹² He made darkness around him his canopy, thick clouds, a gathering of water. ¹³ Out of the brightness before him coals of fire flamed forth. ¹⁴ The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered his voice. ¹⁵ And he sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning, and routed them (David's enemies).

He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind: these words in the following verses, signify, the LORD going forth to deliver David from the hand of Saul and from all his enemies.

- **Psalms 18:7-10:** Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry. ⁸ Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. ⁹ He bowed the heavens and came down; thick darkness was under his feet. ¹⁰ He rode on a cherub and flew; he came swiftly on the wings of the wind.

WINGS, ANIMALS AND BIRDS

A lion with wings of an eagle: signifies Babylon.

A leopard, with wings: signifies the great dominion of Greece, but can refer to any other great king or ruler.

- **Daniel 7:6:** After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.

An ostrich wings: that wave proudly, signifying pride. (Job 39:13).

- **Job 39:13:** The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are they the pinions and plumage of love?

A dove with wings: signifies something that could take us away from enemies, pressure, and trouble.

- **Psalms 55:6:** I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;

As a hen gathers her brood under her wings: signifying shelter and protection.

- **Matthew 23:37:** O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!

A wind has wrapped Israel in its wings: signify they are bound in their iniquities and sin.

- **Hosea 4:19:** A wind has wrapped them in its wings, and they shall be ashamed because of their sacrifices.

Sacrifices torn open by their wings: refers to birds that were sacrificed and torn open by their wings.

- **Leviticus 1:17:** He shall tear it open by its wings, but shall not sever it completely. And the priest shall burn it on the altar, on the wood that is on the fire. It is a burnt offering, a food offering with a pleasing aroma to the LORD.

That which has wings will tell the matter: in this context wings signify those that gossip and spread rumors.

- **Ecclesiastes 10:20:** Even in your thoughts, do not curse the king, nor in your bedroom curse the rich, for a bird of the air will carry your voice, or that which has wings will tell the matter.

Each of the following four creatures are pictured with wings:

1. **Lion** --- The king of wild animals.
2. **Ox** ----- The king of work animals.
3. **Man** --- The king of humanity.
4. **Eagle** - The king of birds.

WINGS THAT BRING HEALING

The Sun of righteousness shall arise with healing in his wings: is a picture of Christ going forth with healing. The healing in focus here includes both physical healing and healing from sin and death.

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- **Malachi 4:2:** But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; And ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

WINGS OF THE MORNING

If I take the wings of the morning: in the context of the chapter signify God's presence being everywhere, and that no matter where David went God would be with him.

- **Psalm 139:7-10:** Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.

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.
