

AS AN EAGLE

DEUTERONOMY 32:11-12

Text: Deut. 32:11

(Deu 32:11) "As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings:"

Introduction:

Motherhood has always been sacred in American society. It has been a symbol of all that is good and right in our culture. When I was growing up, you could joke with your friends about many things. But 'mother' was off limits. Women's liberation and the Equal Rights Amendment have dulled the luster of motherhood for many modern day women, but motherhood remains the chief blessing that God grants to women.

In our present passage we find a strange occurrence. God compares Himself to a mother eagle. Our God is an incomparable God. It is difficult for man to understand His greatness and His wonder. God declares Himself in scripture by comparing His previously unknown attributes with other attributes that are known to mankind. He uses many pictures and types in scripture to help us understand His personage.

This verse is found in a passage known as the Song of Moses. In this song, Moses recaps for the children of Israel their short history and magnifies God's perfection's and holiness. An outline of the passage might be:

1. God's Promise To His People v. 7-9
2. God's Perfecting of His People v. 10-12
3. God's Provisions For His People v. 13-14

In these verses we also see how

- God sought them (v. 7-8)
- He saved them (v. 9)
- He schooled them (v. 10 ...he instructed him...)
- He shielded them (v. 10 ...he kept him as the apple of his eye...)
- He established them (v. 11)
- He separated them (v. 12)

Let us narrow our focus to verse 11. In this great song of Moses, why does God compares Himself to a mother eagle? I believe that we can learn some great truths by

studying this comparison: truths about God and His people, and truths about mothers.

1. THE EAGLE SPEAKS OF THE NATURE OF OUR GOD

Moses compares the work of his God in removing Israel from Egypt to the mother eagle's stirring over its young. How is the nature of God like that of the mother eagle?

A. The Eagle's Sight (God's Omniscience)

It is said that eagles have such extraordinary sight that they can see an object as small as a rabbit from hundreds of feet in the air! In its sight, the eagle typifies God's omniscience. He sees and knows all.

Isaiah 40:28 says "...there is no searching of God's understanding..."

B. The Eagle's Swiftness (God's Omnipresence)

The eagle can fly at speeds over 100 miles per hour, and can reach 180 MPH in an extended dive. God does not need to travel at high speeds because he is everywhere present. Never in the Hebrews' wandering in the desert did they escape God's watchful eye. Jonah the prophet tried to escape Him, but ended up at the bottom of the sea, still in view of his God!

C. The Eagle's Strength (God's Omnipotence)

The adult eagle weighs around 25 pounds but can pick up and carry animals that weigh between 50-75 pounds. Eagle handlers must wear protective gear to keep the birds from crushing their arms. The eagle's strength reminds us of God's omnipotence. Job said, "I know that thou canst doest anything."

Psalm 139:8 "If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there."

D. The Eagle's Soaring (God's Holiness)

Eagles can fly higher than any other birds. They have been accidentally hit by jets in flight. This shows us God's holiness, which is far above all. No one can approach God's holiness.

Psalm 30:4 "Sing unto the LORD, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness."

E. The Eagle's Sons (God's Children)

Mother eagles are very protective and supportive of their young. Many animals ignore their young and some even devour them. But eagles train and teach the little eaglets. Likewise, God does not leave His children to themselves. Think of the children of Israel in the

wilderness. God fed them, gave them water, kept them warm at night and shaded in the day.

2. THE MOTHER EAGLE SPEAKS OF THE NURTURING OF OUR GOD

God is perfect in His attributes. That is why scripture uses the mother eagle as an illustration of God's greatness.

A. God Has a Concern for Our Welfare.

We see throughout scripture how God deals in special ways with His children. It is hard for us to understand that a holy and righteous God loves us, desires fellowship with us, and is grieved when we break fellowship with Him. Like both the human mother and the mother eagle, God has a motherly concern for his children.

Is. 40:11 He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Heb 13:5 ...be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

He wants to meet our spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Think of how He met the needs of Israel in the

wilderness wandering. He does not change and is no respecter of persons; He will meet our needs as well.

B. God Has a Call for Our Lives.

The baby eaglets in the nest do not know it yet, but they are eagles! They are different! Eagles have different kinds of lives than other birds, there's no other birds like them. Likewise, we are God's kings and priests on this earth. We may not know it when we get saved, but we are different!

2 Tim. 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began.

1 Cor. 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

We have a call from God to worship, witness, work and withstand.

C. God Has Convictions for Our Acceptance.

The mother eagle has a job before her. It is her duty to teach her eaglets to fly. Unlike some other birds, eaglets don't just jump from the nest and begin flying. The mother bears them up on her wings, takes them

high into the air, and drops them, swooping underneath them to save them from crashing to the ground. She does this again and again, until the young eagles learn to fly. It is unacceptable for the young eagles to never learn to fly. Likewise, God has convictions for His people, and He will not stop until His children have learned those lessons.

God takes us on a path of progressive sanctification as he smoothes the rough edges in our lives. There is no reason for us to fight against Him, we must submit to His leadership.

3. THE MOTHER EAGLE SPEAKS OF THE NECESSITY OF GOD'S DEALINGS

Sometimes it is hard for us as God's children to learn. We seek our own interests and will over God's. Likewise, in the mother eagle's world, she sometimes must deal harshly with her young. The eagle's nest is huge, sometimes weighing as much as 1000 lb.. The nest is comfortable for the young eagles, filled with leaves and soft animal fur. As the young eagles grow, they spend more and more time away from the nest. To make sure the nest becomes less comfortable, the mother eagle takes away some of the soft coverings to the interior. Whereas once the nest was comfortable, it becomes painful to stay there. Sticks and briars are exposed to the young eagles.

God does not save us to put us in a vacuum and store us until we get to heaven. Our lives are learning experiences and sometimes we find ourselves in difficult circumstances. It may look to the world that our God has forsaken us or left us to our own devices. But He is merely stirring up the nest, training us and preparing us to be more like Him.

A. A Stirring Pressure

The word in our text is "stirreth."

It means "to rouse, to incite or awaken." God stirs His people in many ways. Sometimes we are called on to endure sickness or suffering, other times we must wade through difficult storms in our lives.

B. A Strengthening Presence

Another word in our text worth examining is "fluttereth."

It means "to hover over, to brood as a hen broods over it's eggs."

The mother eagle is always near the young eagles in their training period.

It may seem to them that she has abandoned them, but she is always watchful.

Likewise, God is our Protector, our Comforter, our Companion, our Guide. He is our strengthening Presence.

Psalm 71:20-21 Thou, which hast shewed me great and sore troubles, shalt quicken me again, and shalt bring me up again from the depths of the earth. Thou shalt increase my greatness, and comfort me on every side.

Psalm 138:3 In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.

C. A Sustaining Power

The Christian must not live merely within his own means. God bears him up on His wings, sustaining us and enabling us. We are nothing without Him! The eagles have no natural enemies. but the young eagles are vulnerable in many ways. Predators that would never be able to harm the adult eagle, could prey on the young ones. But the mother eagle protects her young from those potential predators.

God has no enemies that can stand against Him, but His children are vulnerable to the world, the flesh, and the Devil. But we do not stand alone against them! God, our Mother Eagle stands ready to protect us from the predators that would destroy our testimony.

I'm glad I don't have to depend on my own efforts and my own skill to keep me on the right path. He sustains me! If I one day walk away from God and His people, it will not be because He did not help and sustain me. It will be because of my own sinful heart. No Christian has ever lacked the protection of God! No Christian can say, "God forsook me. He left me in my hour of need."

Ps 55:22 Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.

Psalm 121

1 I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help.

2 My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

3 He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

4 Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep.

5 The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

6 The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

8 The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

Conclusion:

God reveals Himself throughout His Word. Sometimes He shows Himself powerful and mighty. Other times He is a still small voice. But one of the most beautiful and revealing pictures of our Lord is that of the Mother Eagle. If we could only live moment by moment in the assurance that God is our Protector and Sustainer, our Power and Strength. Like the mother eagle, God teaches us of His ways. Like the mother eagle, God protects us from all enemies. Like the mother eagle, God nurtures and loves us.

May we be always mindful of that love and nurturing.