

# On Eagles Wings: 1

## Rise Up on the Wings of Deliverance

### Exodus 19.4

The eagle is known for its:

- swiftness of flight – Deuteronomy 28.49
- strength – Isaiah 40.31
- ability to mount up high – Isaiah 40.31; Proverbs 23.5
- nesting in the high rocks – Job 39.27-28; Jeremiah 49.16
- power of vision – Job 39.29
- great wing span – Ezekiel 17.3
- peculiarity of flight – Proverbs 30.19

The eagle sheds its feathers at the beginning of spring and grows fresh plumage - taking on the appearance of youth. (Psalm 103.5; Isaiah 40.31)

The eagle is used symbolically in the Scriptures to denote:

- God's judgement – Isaiah 46.11; Ezekiel 39.4; Jeremiah 48.40; Deuteronomy 28.49
- God's care over His people – Revelation 12.14; Job 39.29-30

***“You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.”*** Exodus 19.4

Here God speaking with Moses likens His bringing the Israelites out of Egypt as being born on eagles wings.

To bear is to lift up, raise or carry

With strong and large wings the eagle bears its young and carries them to a place of safety and refuge.

God delivered His children from bondage:

- He bore them on His wings and brought them to Himself
- He brought them into His care and protection, a place of refuge and safety.

Just like the eagle soars up high and makes its nest in the rocks, so God delivered His people and brought them to His holy mountain.

Matthew Henry writes: *“God not only came upon the wing for their deliverance... but He hastened them out, as it were, upon the wing. He did it also with great ease, with the strength as well as with the swiftness of an eagle”*

David could testify:

*“many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all”* (Psalm 34.19).

He had known first hand how when he was in trouble, the Lord came and lifted him on the wings of deliverance out of the affliction; he says again *“in the time of trouble.. He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock”* (Psalm 27.5)

When we're in need of deliverance God comes like the eagle and raises us up and sets us high on the rock.

***“As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings, So the LORD alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him. He made him ride in the heights of the earth, ...”***

Deuteronomy 32.11-13

The eagle is caring and merciful to her young, it is said that she does not go into the nest suddenly but rather first makes a noise, and disturbs them with her wings, by brushing them against a tree or its branches. In this way she stirs up the nest in order to take them higher.

*“Like an eagle teaching its young to fly, catching them safely on its spreading wings, the LORD kept Israel from falling”* (TEV, vs11)

When she teaches the young to fly, she carries them on her wings and then lets them go; but she is there to swoop underneath and catch them again on her wings, lest they fall.

This is the essence of what Jesus taught us to pray for in the Model Prayer:

*“and do not lead us temptation, but deliver us from the evil one”* (Luke 11.4)

It is not that God will lead us to be tempted or into temptation because the Scripture says that He does not tempt anyone (James 1.13)

Rather when we are tempted, like the eagle He will come swiftly to bear us up on the wings of deliverance and carry us to safety, so that we do not fall into sin. This is His means of escape (1 Corinthians 10.13)