

# "God Made Them All"



## The Eagle

*"Let the waters bring forth warms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the firmament of the heavens." Genesis 1:20*

Birds are very important to nature. We don't stop to realize their importance or the variety that was created. Bird watchers see their beauty and listen to their songs. Gardeners watch as they help in pollination and disperse seeds. They are scavengers that will feed on a dead carcass, and the list goes on. To some people if they see a certain bird they think it gives them good luck.

Birds bring color, patterns, and songs to our landscape. They can also be vultures and destroy. God created so many and many are mentioned in the Bible and they often had specific tasks.

Science tells us God created 18,000 species of birds. Some new ones are found every once in a while. There are approximately 300 verses in the Bible that mention birds! Let's explore the eagle.

We will begin with a very majestic bird in my mind, the eagle. In Exodus 19:4 we read *"You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."* God was talking with the Israelites who had fled from Egypt and were now camping in the Desert of Sinai. God reminded them that he had carried them on eagle wings, figuratively and he expected them to follow his will. He promised them they would be a *"treasured possession."* Moses went back and told the people what God had said and they promised they would do everything that God commanded. Of course, they were just like us and did not do what they had promised!

Isaiah tried to tell the people in captivity that their God would protect them. *"He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. 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."* Isaiah 40:29-31



## "On Eagles Wings"

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord  
Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My Refuge  
My Rock in Whom I trust."*

*You need not fear the terror of the night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day  
Under his wings your refuge  
His faithfulness your shield*

*For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone*

### Refrain

*And He will raise you up on eagle's wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His Hand*

"On Eagles Wings" by Michael Joncas talks about the promises of God and his caring for each individual. The promise is ours just as it was to the Israelites. I don't think the protection of the eagle as God protects us can be expressed more beautifully than in the words of this song which has become so popular for so many occasions.

In Psalm 91:4 David talks about the protection of the eagle. "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart."

In Revelation a woman is given the wings of an eagle, and Daniel sees a creature with eagles wings in his dream.

In another passage Ezekiel sees a vision in a dream with eagles. Birds are amazing creatures. They are beautiful in flight and in behavior. Some accomplish incredible flights across thousands of miles. Some adapt to their environments in intriguing ways.

There is a beautiful portion of Scripture about an eagle found in Deuteronomy 32:10-12 Moses likens God to an eagle in his final words to the Israelites.

***“In a desert land he found him, in a barren and howling waste. He shielded him and cared for him: He guarded him as the apple of his eye, like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spread its wings to catch them and carried them aloft.”***  
***Deuteronomy 32:10***



A close reading of this portion tells us that God is not only powerful and protective, but gentle and kind. He stirs up our nest and softens it. He hovers over us and spreads His wings to protect us.

A study of the eagle tells us much about caring for our young. Baby eagles are helpless when they are hatched as we are when we are born. Studies show that the female is with the eaglets approximately ninety per cent of the time. The male is present about 50 per cent of the time. They only seem to leave the nest to gather food for the eaglets.

The feature that seems to be mentioned in the Scripture most though is the spreading of wings for carrying and protection which eagles do and God gives us that protection all the time.

Before we settle down to think that God just created one eagle we need to realize that just as we are different, there are different eagles. We have heard of the Bald Eagle. There is also the Golden eagle, white-tailed eagle, Steller's sea eagle, Haast's eagle, and the Crowned eagle, just to name some of the variants. Each has distinct characteristics just as we do.



Each of us is an individual with our own problems. There are times when we feel we are knocked down and need help. Times of trouble we need someone to talk with, someone who cares. That is the time when we need to pray. It doesn't have to be fancy, just a talk with God. And we have the promise that He will raise us up on eagle's wings and hold us in the palm of His hand.

Prayer: Lord, we know You are always with us and You always will protect us, but sometimes we feel we have to do it on our own. Help us to realize that just as You care for the birds of the air, You care for us, and like the eagle You are there to support us and carry us. Thank you. Amen

1. Can we ever be the eagle for someone else?
2. Have you ever felt the support of God when you were in a difficult situation or needed someone to talk with?
3. How does God spread his wings over us, and carry us on His wings?
4. Can we as the song says affirm—"My refuge, My rock in whom I trust"?
5. Just as there are many different varieties of eagles, we are all different, but we can all have the same love and support from God. How can we feel it in our everyday lives?

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**Be like the Eagle, Be Unique,  
When a Storm comes, soar  
above the clouds , Have long  
distance vision, Face the  
challenge and be fearless.**

**God is with you.**

***"Be innocent like a dove, strong like an ostrich, fierce like a hawk, wise like an owl, and swift like an eagle."***

**-Matshona Dhliwayo.**

