

02.14.2010 (Sun)

Heaven by Renewed Strength (Isa 40:28-31)

During the first weekend of February, there was a tremendous snow storm in the Washington D.C. area in which the entire area was buried in over 40 inches (102 cm) of snow. The aftermath of such a storm left everyone no choice but to suffer the consequences that the heavy winter storm had brought.

The word "*storm*" comes from a German word, *sturm*, meaning *to disturb*. Moreover, it can mean to create trouble or disorder, to disquiet or agitate, or to create anxiety or worry. Who waits for a frightening and horrific storm? An eagle does.

An eagle does not avoid a storm. When a storm approaches, most birds will avoid it or run away. An eagle, on the other hand, will actually wait for the storm. This is because an eagle uses the winds of a storm to fly higher into the sky.

So by no means would an eagle avoid a storm. They are not afraid of the storm. It is because they know the secret of going *above* the storm. We too can face the storms in our lives and overcome them by relying on our God who are above the storm (Rom 8:39).

An eagle is a symbol of moving forward. There are over 7,000 feathers on the wings of an eagle. All of these feathers together allow the eagle's wings not to break in winds and instead helps them to use the strong winds to soar higher.

A faith that soars the way an eagle soars with his wings is a faith that is moving a forward; it is a faith that does not regress. As the Scriptures said in 1 Ki 19:18, "Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel - all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and all whose mouths have not kissed him," 7,000 stands for moving forward.

The eagle is the image of he who seeks things from above. Eagles soar high above the skies (Ob 1:4). Their wings that spread from 8 to 10 feet allow them to fly as high as 10,000 feet in the air. They also build their nests on high places like cliffs (Job 39:28).

Col 3:1-2 declares this: "*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.*" We must seek first God's kingdom and his righteousness.

The eyes of an eagle are sharp. Even as they soar that high in the air, they can spot a prey that is within 3 miles. Moreover, they are able to target their prey and dive at speeds of 200 mph (322 km/h) to catch prey like rabbits and foxes.

Sharp eyes means spiritual discernment. Take a look at Lk 11:34-35: "*Your eye us the lamp of your body. When your eyes are good, you whole body also is full of light. But*

*when they are bad, your body also is full of darkness. See to it, then, that the light within you is not darkness."*

The wings of an eagle stand for hands of strength and ability. When we ask the question, how can wing stand for hands, the Bible cannot go unobserved. It tells us in Ex 19:4 that when God had led Israel out of slavery in Egypt, that He had carried them on eagles' wings.

*"You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself."* Today, those eagles' wings are with children of God's word. Even the woman clothed with the sun had been given two wings of a great eagle.

In Rev 12, a woman clothed with the sun was being threatened by an enormous red dragon. God had given her two wings of a great eagle so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times, and half a time, out of the serpent's reach (Rev 12:14). In this way, the wings of the eagle signify the guidance and protection of God's word.

Dearest friends, what is the secret of soaring high toward the heaven from the unpeaceful earthly things? Zec 4:6 tells us, that it is *"not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit."*

The strength that comes from the word is always renewing. *Sincerely* and *earnestly* have faith in His Word. By relying only on His Word, a path is made for us. There will surely be a solution. Joyfulness and thankfulness will arise.

The Word is *knowledge*, and knowledge is the *hand of God*. How did God create the heavens and the earth? Heb 11:3 tells us that all things were formed at *God's command* (His words), Pr 3:19 tells us that by *wisdom* the Lord laid the earth's foundations.

And Ps 102:25 tells us that the heavens are the *work of His hands*. And so, the Word is knowledge, and knowledge is the hand of God. Put your faith in the notion that at this very moment, God's hand is upon our hearts!

Beloved friends, we are given the wings of eagles. It is the wings of the Word and the strength of the Holy Spirit. Only with the renewed strength can you get to heaven. God surely gives a new strength to those who seek Him and Him only, and to those who rely only on the Word.

As Ps 143:6 tells us, *"I spread out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land,"* we too should open up our hands, and receive His word with a more sincere loving spirit.

Just as it says in Lam 3:40, *"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven,"* as well as the way

King Solomon had stood before the altar of the Lord and spread out his hands towards heaven (2 Ch 6:12-13), let us also live and pray by faith! Pledge your allegiance to live by the will of God. Have faith that our prize in heaven is awaiting us!