

5-10-20 MOTHER'S DAY — A MOTHER'S LOVE & THE WINGS OF EAGLES

SCRIPTURE TEXT: DEUTERONOMY 32: 10b-11 and PSALM 91:1-6

THE SCRIPTURES ABOUND WITH IMAGERY THAT RELATES GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE & CARE TO THAT OF EAGLES

EAGLES ARE MIGHTY & STRONG; PROTECTIVE AND KEEN

EAGLES PAINSTAKINGLY PREPARE A STRONG & STURDY NEST THAT IS PROTECTED BY THE SHEEREST ROCKS & TREES AT THE HIGHEST HEIGHTS

WITH EXTRAORDINARY VISION EAGLES WATCH OUT OVER THEIR DOMAIN TO PROTECT & PRESERVE

EAGLES CAN SOAR HIGHER AND DIVE FASTER THAN MOST ANY OTHER

THE EAGLE'S FEATHERS ARE DESIGNED INCREDIBLY FOR PROTECTION AND PERFORMANCE – ABLE TO BE ADJUSTED AND ADAPTED AS THE NEED REQUIRES

AND THE WINGS OF EAGLES WRAP AROUND AND PROTECT THEIR YOUNG WHEN THE YOUNG ARE THREATENED AND THEN THE WINGS OF EAGLES LIFT UP THEIR YOUNG TO NEW HEIGHTS IN THE MIDST OF THE STORMS OF LIFE AND IN THE MIDST OF CLEAR SKIES ---

INDEED, THOSE WHOSE HOPE AND TRUST IS IN GOD "WILL SOAR ON EAGLES' WINGS --- THEY WILL RUN AND NOT GROW WEARY AND THEY WILL WALK AND NOT FAINT.

AS AN EAGLE DEPICTS MANY OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTERISTICS OF GOD AND HIS LOVE & CARE FOR HIS CHILDREN --- SO TO AN EAGLE DEPICTS THESE GODLY ASPECTS OF A MOTHER'S UNCONDITIONAL, EXTENDING LOVE FOR HER CHILDREN & FAMILIES --- AND IN THIS, WE ARE DOUBLY BLESSED TO BE CARED FOR BY GOD AND OUR MOTHER'S LOVE.

Deuteronomy 32:10B GOD shielded THEM and cared for THEM; he guarded THEM as the apple of his eye, ¹¹ like an eagle that stirs up its nest and hovers over its young, that spreads its wings to catch them and carries them aloft.

Psalms 91:1-5 -- Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty ² and I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

³ Surely he will save you & protect you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence.

⁴ He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. ⁵ You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day,

⁶ nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday.

ADDITIONAL EAGLE REFERENCES:

Genesis 1:2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and **the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.** (perhaps as an eagle hovers over its nest in preparation for the birth of its young --- so to God hovered over planet earth as He was preparing it for the birth of God's beloved humankind.)

Job 9:26 They skim past like boats of papyrus, **like eagles swooping down on their prey.**

Psalms 36:5-7 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens, your faithfulness to the skies. ⁶ Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep. You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

⁷ How priceless is your unfailing love, O God! **People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.**

Job 39:27-29 Does the eagle soar at your command and build its nest on high? ²⁸ It dwells on a cliff and stays there at night; a rocky crag is its stronghold. ²⁹ From there it looks for food; its eyes detect it from afar.

Exodus 19:14 You yourselves have seen what I did to Egypt, **and how I carried you on eagles' wings and brought you to myself.**

A PARABLE FOR MOTHERS

The young mother set her foot on the path of Life. "Is the way long?" she asked. And her Guide said: "Yes, and the way is hard. And you will be old before you reach the end of it. But the end will be better than the beginning."

But the young mother was happy, and she would not believe that anything could be better than these years. So she played with her children, and gathered flowers for them along the way, and bathed with them in the streams, and the sun shone on them, and life was good, and the young mother cried: "Nothing will ever be lovelier than this."

Then night came, and storm, and the path was dark, and the children shook with fear and cold, and the mother drew them close and covered them with her mantle and the children said: "Oh, Mother, we are not afraid for you are near, and no harm can come." And the mother said: "This is better than the brightest of days, for I have taught my children courage."

And the morning came and there was a hill ahead, and the children climbed and grew weary, and the mother was weary, but at all times she said to the children: "A little patience and we are there." So the children climbed, and when they reached the top, they said: "We could not have done it without you, Mother." And the mother, when she lay down that night, looked up at the stars and said: "This is a better day than the last, for my children have learned fortitude in the face of difficulty. Yesterday, I gave them courage. Today, I have given them strength."

And the next day came strange clouds which darkened the earth - clouds of war and hate and evil, and the children groped and stumbled, and the mother said: "Look up! Lift your eyes to the light." And the children looked and saw above the clouds an Everlasting Glory, and it guided them beyond the darkness. And that night the mother said: "This is the best day of all, for I have shown my children God."

And the days went on, and the months and the years, and the mother grew old, and she was small and bent. But her children were strong and tall and walked with courage. And when the way was hard, they helped their mother; and when the way was rough they lifted her, for she was as light as a feather; and at last they came to a hill, and beyond the hill they could see a shining road and golden gates flung wide. And the mother said: "I have reached the end of my journey. And now I know that the end is better than the beginning, for my children can walk alone, and their children after them."

And the children said: "You will always walk with us, Mother, even when you have gone through the gates."

And they stood and watched her as she went on alone, and the gates closed after her. And they said: "We cannot see her, but she is with us. A mother like ours is more than a memory. She is a living presence."