

# Mounting Up With Eagles Wings - Part 1

by Leonard Ravenhill

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*Waiting on the Lord is the key to renewing one's strength and experiencing the majesty and power of God.*

**Duration:** 44:20

**Scripture:** Exodus 19:4, Deuteronomy 32:11-12, Job 39:27-30, Psalm 37:7, Psalm 103:5, Isaiah 40:13-14, Isaiah 40:22, Isaiah 40:29-31, Matthew 11:28, John 6:53

**Topics:** "Overcoming", "Waiting On God", "Strength in God"

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## Description

Leonard Ravenhill emphasizes the power and majesty of God as depicted in Isaiah 40, particularly focusing on the promise that those who wait upon the Lord will renew their strength and soar like eagles. He contrasts the fleeting strength of youth with the enduring power of God, urging believers to embrace patience and trust in God's timing. Ravenhill illustrates how God, like an eagle, provides security and comfort to His people, encouraging them to rise above the challenges of a restless and impatient world. He calls for a deeper understanding of God's majesty and the importance of waiting on Him to experience true renewal and strength.

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## Transcript

Isaiah chapter 40, reading from verse 29, He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength. Even the youth shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

They shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary. And they shall walk and not faint. When God wanted to remind Israel of His power, He said in the 19th chapter of Exodus there, in verse 4, You've seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bear you on eagles' wings.

But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings as eagles, they shall run and not be weary. And they shall walk and not faint.

When God wanted to remind Israel of His power, He said in the 19th chapter of Exodus there, in verse 4, You've seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bear you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. So there God likens Himself to an eagle. When He wanted to pay tribute to the skill and the ability of King Saul and his son Jonathan, He says in the second book of Samuel, chapter 1 and verse 23, Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided.

They were swifter than eagles, and they were stronger than lions. A wonderful compliment. And God says of us, His people, that they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

Now you remember in history we've been taught that there was the Ice Age and the Stone Age, and then there's this ridiculous age in which we live. And, you know, today men, whether they're scientists or cynics, they're trying to write a kind of epitaph for this age in which we live. Cynics are doing it, scientists are doing it, scholars are doing it.

One person has said we live in the most cruel age that man has ever known. With increasing wisdom there comes increasing devilry, because not until this age was it possible for men to invent something that can burn a whole city up in a matter of 60 seconds. But we can do that in the day in which we live, that's called progress.

But if I were to put a tab on the age in which we live, I would say it's an impatient age. Everything now has to be instant. You know, instant coffee, instant tea.

You serve coffee, instant tea. You send an order in to Sears and say, could you have had it delivered an hour ago? And we want everything doing yesterday. It's a mark of the age in which we live, it is a restless age.

And yet God says here that they that wait upon the Lord, well, that's almost a lost art. I almost said a lost science, it's almost a lost art in the day in which we live. Because, again, we're impatient.

The psalmist says, I think, in the 37th Psalm, I waited patiently for the Lord. We have an idea that God's on call, immediately like that, we can rush about and then say, Lord, you just intervene right now and get this thing done and let me get on my way, because I'm in a desperate hurry. Not only does the prophet here say, they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength.

Not only does the psalmist say, I waited patiently for the Lord, but also he says that they that, the patient people that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. Now, I think this is a stupendous thing that God says here. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings as eagles.

Well, bless you, most of us live like sparrows. The eagle lives in heavenly places. The eagle is the king of the sky.

The ox is the king of the domestic animals. The lion is the king of wild animals. The eagle has more peculiarities and unusual features about it than any other bird at all.

And God says of us that this is what we're designed to do. We're not made to live on this dirty old mud ball. Would suit none of us if he said, they that wait upon the Lord shall live like owls.

Most of you folks stay up half the night. Anyhow, it would suit you okay. Owls live in rotten old trees and they're quite happy to live there.

Sparrows flutter about, there are millions of them. Dirty, messy little things they are. And now the starlings have come back.

I wish they'd go somewhere else. Starlings are not my darlings, anyhow. But they come round our house in flocks.

A man said to me the other day, there's a million starlings in your yard. He was an evangelist, exaggerated as usual, but there it was. We had flocks and flocks of starlings.

And immediately I thought that God hasn't called me a starling. We're not roosters in a farmyard. We're not birds that scratch on the ground and dig up for worms and all the junk.

But even before we get to the text, in studying this I remember the fact that a few years ago I watched an artist doing a picture. And every day that picture grew and I opened my mouth and I saw the beauty in the skill and I saw what the artist was trying to get to. And then on the final day a frame, a gold frame was put round that beautiful, beautiful piece of art.

And suddenly the picture took life. It seemed as though there was as much almost in that artistic gold frame as there was in the picture. The one complemented the other.

Now let's look at the framework here for a minute or two here in this 40th chapter of Isaiah. Isaiah is the one who exalts God. He shows us his majesty.

At least 21 times, 17 times in the first half of the book. No, 12 times in the first half of the book, chapters 1 to 39. He speaks of the holiness of God.

And then in chapters 39 to the end of the book, he speaks again over and over and over about 17 times about the holiness of God. I say very often to people now, let me ask you this morning here, did you really come here to meet God this morning or to hear a sermon about him? Did you expect to leave this audience kind of drunk with the concept of the majesty of God in a world of turmoil, a world of restlessness, where there seems to be no security, there's nothing you can forecast about tomorrow? The world's on the edge, we're told, of an explosion. We feel as though we're balancing on the edge of a razor.

And if ever there was a day when we need to lift up our eyes to the hills, when we need to see the majesty of God, the one who created the heaven and the earth, that God is my God. He's not merely the God of Elijah, he's not merely the God of the Old Testament prophets, he's not merely the God, the father of the Lord Jesus, he's my God, he's my father. And as a father pities his children, so the Lord pities them that fear him.

Now this fortieth chapter begins, Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people saith your God. This is just the property of God's people. The rest of the world's made up of sparrows and unclean birds, but we're to mount up with wings as eagles.

And if there's any comfort needed and any comfort given, it is given through God. It is given through the Word of God. In the fourteenth of John, twenty-six, verse twenty-six, Jesus says, the Comforter, who is the Holy Ghost, will come.

Well again, he's not a nursing mother for spiritually sick children, but indeed he is a Comforter. He talks in the Old Testament, in Isaiah again, about a man doing something, and he comforted it with nails. Well, nails aren't too comfortable.

No, the word actually means he made it secure, and there's comfort in security. And there is no bird more secure than the eagle. He puts his nest there in an inaccessible place, and almost inevitably in the cleft of a rock.

That cannot be swayed, it cannot be moved. But again, the comfort here is to God's people. This is the framework, I say.

Well, what kind of a God is he? Did you this morning, with all your compassion, have you given a passing thought that there are millions of people groveling in the dust this morning, and they take broken hearts to God who have no hearts? That they're crying, and their voices can't be heard by their gods? Millions of them. And those who don't have gods of wood and stone have got gods of materialism. A lady called me yesterday from Houston.

She's one of the great characters in America today. She's been living in a hellhole there. She's a very distinguished, gifted, young Jewish lady who was converted, and used to run a booking residence on the strip in California, and God saved her.

And now, as C.T. Studwood say, she runs a rescue shop within a yard of hell. And she said to me yesterday, you know, I'm so indignant about this situation. Our nation's humiliated by a man who seemingly is intoxicated.

He's mad, religiously mad there in Iran. But she says, Brother Ravenhill, people get so disturbed when they see the flag being burned. And yet Americans burn it every day with their immorality.

The publication of filthy literature we send around the world, dirty films we send around the world. There are countries in the world won't accept any American films anymore. They question every bit of literature that we send.

And while we talk about all glory, we cover it with shame every day, with our divorces, and our immorality, and our sin. We're burning the flag, never mind the rest of the world. Everything it stood for is being dishonored.

And yet, when you think again, the same is true of the cross of Jesus Christ. It seems to have lost its luster and lost its wonder. The Word of God clearly says there is no God like unto our God.

What does it say here? I need to rush on. I have a lot to tell you this morning, as usual. Isaiah 40 verse 13 says, "...who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being his counselor, who hath taught him.

With whom took he counsel, and who instructed him, and taught him in the path of judgment, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding. This God I serve is the essence of all wisdom, all power, all authority, all majesty, all glory." I was reading about those black holes up in the sky. It's getting worse.

I thought all the black holes were on earth, but they've got them up in the sky now. And we think maybe they've burned out stars, and they have a power of suction. They can draw things into them.

Well, somebody has said up through there somewhere in infinity, man is beginning to tap the powers of creation. Well, whether he is or not, I want to tell you, I know the person that put it all there. And I've got no nerves about it.

I know he's a God of majesty. I know he's a God of glory. I know he never went to school.

I know nobody gave him any instruction. That's what it says clearly, very here, here very clearly. Verse 17, all nations before him are as nothing, and they accounted to him less than nothing.

Verse 18, to whom then will ye liken God, or what likeness will ye compare unto him? Well, let's leap over and find out what it's like in verse 22. It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers, that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and that spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in. He bringeth the princes to nothing.

He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted. Yea, they shall not be sown.

Yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth. And he shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the wind shall take them away as stubble. Verse 25, to whom then will ye liken me, or shall I be equal, saith the Lord? Now lift up your eyes.

Well, isn't that where the eagle lives? He doesn't scratch about on the earth. He doesn't buddy-buddy with, uh, rooks and and crows and sparrows. He ignores them.

He lives in an entirely different world. But he says here, you lift up your eyes on high, and behold what created the thing, these things. He bringeth out the stars, their host, which means against the stars.

I like a hymn that was written by, uh, who wrote it now? Oh, the man that wrote, When I surveyed the wondrous cross, Isaac Watts. Always reminds me of this hymn. He says he made the stars, those heavenly flames.

He counts their numbers, calls their names. His wisdom's vast and knows no bound, a deep, where all our thoughts are ground, are drowned. What is the creature's skill or force? The sprightly man, the warlike horse, the piercing wit, the active limb, all are to mean delights for him, but saints are lovely in his sight.

He views his children with delight. He seeks their, sees their hopes, and he knows their fears, and he looks, and he loves his image there. But again, it says the stars.

Look on high, behold he hath created, who hath created these things, and he bringeth out their host by number. He calleth them all by their names. I remember one night, I'd been to do one of those things they do in England, uh, at night time, after, uh, supper time is about nine o'clock.

And there was a fish and chip shop at the top of our street, and they always opened at night with the leftovers from the night before. They threw them in the old boiling oil, you know, of fat, and and we went, and you got a fish for a penny. Half a one for half a penny.

And my mother, when she was, you know, felt good, she'd give me a half penny for half a fish. Sometimes she got generous, gave me a whole penny. And, and I go to the fish and chip shop, and I was coming down the street one day, and I saw the stars.

It was a frosty night, and I remember there's a kind of a streak in the sky, and I said, Mother, the sky's very different tonight. There's a kind of a streak like the teacher makes with chalk through the sky. Now, I don't know how she knew, but she said, that's called the Milky Way.

Well, all I knew about milk was what came out of a cow, but she said, that's the Milky Way up there. And then afterwards, I read about it. It was estimated there were maybe a million stars, and it is the only unique path in the sky like that, the Milky Way.

Well, of course, since then, since I was a boy, a generation or two ago, they, uh, the world has changed. They have a telescope on Mount Palomar now, with a 63-inch lens. I'd love to look through it.

It must have been made in Ireland, because you're to sit inside of it to look through it. And once you get inside of it, and then you begin to see all the Earth. Do you know what science is telling us? We live in an expanding world, a shrinking world, and an expanding universe.

Every new plane we make shrinks the world. They get, it took, Wesley, I was reading this week, it took him three months to cross the Atlantic. You can cross it in three hours now, if it's a British plane.

But, uh, three hours instead of three months. Every new invention, we shrink the world, but we expand the universe. If you were to take a match and strike it, what the flame of that match is to the sun up there, that sun is, the sun's away in infinity.

It is not true there's only one Milky Way. There are hundreds of Milky Ways. It is not true there are millions of stars.

There are billions and trillions and quadrillions. And you know what? He knows their names. Well, if almighty God is interested in stars, they can't sing his praises.

He didn't redeem them. Are you trying to fool me and tell me he doesn't know my name? He doesn't know my address? Didn't God say one day when somebody had to go down to Ananias, Ananias, rather, go down to a street, call straight, and knock on the door of a certain man, and that's Peter? Well, if he knew the name and address of Peter, he knows my name and address too. Well, thank you, there's two of us.

But, he knows our names. What a God with such majesty and glory that he knows the very names of the stars. When Themistocles was the mayor of Athens, there were over 20,000 people lived in the city.

And he could recite the name of every person who lived in the city. He was so concerned about them. And yet it says here that this God, he made the stars.

He calls them by names, by the greatness of his might, that he is strung in power. Verse 28 says, Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth, he fainteth not, neither is weary, neither is any searching of his understanding. Don't you think we need a new concept of the majesty of God, as well as of the holiness of God? He hangs the world on nothing.

Took the American government, I don't know, 50 billion dollars to find that out. They sent some men to the moon, and everybody looks at the moon and wonders why it has no props. If we'd made it, we'd have stuck props and all kinds of gadgets around it.

God hangs it on nothing. But one of the astronauts says, the thing that astonished me was, as I looked at the moon and then looked back, the earth was hanging on nothing. Takes a bit of strength to hold the world up, but God does it by the very breath of his nostrils, as it were.

Now this is God, the God of infinite power, the God of infinite glory, the God of infinite mercy, the God who knows your name, and he knows your circumstances, and he knows everything through which you go. The psalmist says, there's not a thought in my mind that what thou knowest it altogether, you say it's impossible. Four billion people on the earth, and at this given moment, God knows the name, and he knows the emotion of every heart.

Well, I was reading the other day that they've invented a new computer. They're old, you know, about three weeks after they invent them, but anyhow, they've invented a new one. The new supercomputer is

called Gray One.

The new one is called Gray Two. Do you know what it can do? It can register 80 million things a day. No, a second.

Now do a bit of homework this afternoon, instead of watching the cowboys. 80 million a second? How many is that in a, in a, in a minute? How many in an hour? You don't ask for the rod before you leave, he'll tell you. But anyhow, 80 million a second? And that's a machine made out of a mind like mine, maybe a bit bigger, but, uh, it's made by a human mind, and yet it can register 80 million different things in a second? Are you suggesting the creator isn't greater than the created? And this is the God, I said that as introduction, because this is the God you're invited to wait upon.

That they that wait upon this Lord, who hangs the world upon nothing, who has never been, never been baffled by a situation, who has never been beaten. The God who cannot die, the God who cannot lie. He says, if I wait upon that God, I shall renew my strength.

You see, the contrast is here. Even the youth shall faint and be weary. That they that wait upon the, pardon me, verse 29, he giveth power to the faint, and even the youth shall faint.

But there is a text that says, and God, he cannot faint. Now again, we're, we're to be likened again to the eagle. It's a beautiful bird, it's a unique bird.

Look at the 39th chapter in the book of Job. Job 39 and verse 27 says, Doth the eagle mount up at thy command, and make her nest on high? She dwelleth and abideth on the rock, upon the crag of the rock, and the strong place. From thence she seeth afar off, seeketh afar off, and her eyes behold afar off.

Her young ones also suck up blood, and where the slain are, there is she. She makes her nest where? On the rock. Verse 27 says, She maketh her nest on high, and she dwelleth and abideth on the rock, and on the crag of the rock.

Say, where have you made this nest, your nest this morning? Have you made it on the rock, Christ Jesus? The rock that cannot be moved? She always builds her nest in a place of security. If there are no mountains, she'll take the highest of the trees that it's possible to find. I was reading recently in a certain book there that it says that uh, when Lewis and Carroll, you know those, Lewis and Clark, those famous evangelist, uh, explorers, were going through America when they came to Missouri Falls, they reported that they saw the, the, the nest of an eagle, and they, they made, they pinpointed it, and said it was extremely large.

Do you know that 50 years after that, that, that eagle's nest was still there? There's a place called Vermillion in Ohio, and years ago, in a high tree, I think a cottonwood tree, the eagles built their nest. And every year, they don't destroy the old nest, every year they add to the nest. Finally, after many years, a storm blew the, the nest down.

Do you know how big it was? It was seven feet across, it was six feet deep, and it weighed two tons. That's quite a nest. The eagle builds a nest in a place of security, and there's a lovely old hymn that says, he hideth my soul in the, in the cleft of the rock.

I'm not left to unexposed danger. There's a scripture that says, your life, your life, here it is, this is your life, it's hid with Christ, in God. That's pretty secure, isn't it? Could you get it any better anywhere else? She

buildeth her, dwelleth and abideth on the rock, on the, on the, uh, crag of the rock, and a strong place.

The study says, the young ones also suck up blood. A unique feature about this, it will never steal the lettuce out of your garden, an eagle won't condescend to that. It won't steal your corn, those coons do it.

I went out for a piece of wood for the fire last night, there was a, a big fat possum eating the cat's meat outside. Don't think an eagle would condescend even to steal that thing, it's the ugliest thing I've seen, I think. No, no, no, the eagle won't come round your garden, pecking around.

He doesn't do like those birds on the road, you know, when somebody runs over a rabbit or something, and you see those great big vultures, he, no, he, he scorns death, he wants everything alive. He's a great poacher. Last year, they took some men over in, uh, near, um, uh, near the Rockies, who were going up in planes, and they were shooting eagles.

Because what? They were stealing the lambs. Well, the only thing is, you shot the eagle, you couldn't pick it up. It dropped on the ground, and the, uh, the forest rangers were picking them up, and they watched these men, and they, I believe, actually sent them to jail.

But the bird likes something live, it will not eat garbage. Don't you wish a lot of Christians wouldn't? What a lot of garbage we eat. What magazines? Some women can't get through the months without the Red Book, or something like that.

But the eagle doesn't go after garbage like that. He won't steal something dead on the road, not unless he's totally starving. But he goes down, and he gets a young lamb, or he gets something else.

And he carries it squealing up there into the, into the sky. And then he has, he has awesome claws. Oh, he has lovely claws.

You know, this book, I could tell you a lot more time than I will take this morning. But, but this bird is so unique. Well, of course, he has to have a girlfriend.

And after he has a girlfriend, he has a certain call. He makes, which I wouldn't imitate, but he makes a certain call. And she may be miles away, and she hears it.

And she goes and joins him in the air. And they go up, they float up in the sky. And when he gets up there, he grabs her.

Not by the throat, that comes later. He flies up there, and suddenly makes a call, and they come together. And he gets her claws in his claws, and they spin over, and he rolls her around, and takes her for a rollercoaster trip, and says, well, sweetie, how do you like that? Strength.

And she delights in it. Well, if that bird can take its female friend, and give it ecstasy like that, God says, I'll put underneath, underneath you are the everlasting arms, or as he shoes there, the everlasting wings. He bears us on eagle's wings.

And then, of course, again, returning to the fact that he won't eat anything that's dead. He doesn't eat garbage. He'll go and find a beautiful young lamb, and he'll carry it up there, and then he'll put his great big talons.

He's got three big hooks at the front, and one at the back, to give him some balance. And he'll take his beak, and rip that little thing open. And what happens? Those little things are not content, unless they can live on warm blood, and live on flesh.

It says here that her young ones suck up the blood where the slain are. And the scripture's never wrong. It doesn't feed on garbage.

It doesn't take bits of cabbage out of the garden. It doesn't go to somebody's garbage can, and take junk. It finds something that's living.

It must have living flesh, and living blood. And isn't it about what John says in 6, John 6 53, except ye eat of my flesh, and drink of my blood, ye've no life in you. And so it compares again.

We think sometimes, beyond the sacred page, I seek thee Lord. But some of us find a lot more garbage, though we call it food on the sports page, don't we? How much do we feed on him? How much do we feed on his mercy? How much do we feed until we're almost intoxicated with his majesty, and his beauty, and his faithfulness, his holy character. Then look again, a little further over at the, uh, at a psalm.

What was the psalm? A hundred and, um, Psalm 103. Bless the Lord, O my soul, we sang it this morning, and bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, forget not all his benefits, who forgiveth all thine iniquities, who healeth all thy diseases, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who satisfies thy, sorry, who redeemeth thy life from destruction, who crowneth thee with loving kindness, and with tender mercies, who satisfies thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle.

Yeah, the eagle's unusual. Do you know the body of an eagle is no larger than a, than a barnyard hen? Its disproportion is enormous, because it has one of the greatest wingspans of any bird, as even as far as seven feet, carrying a light body on a very large, large wingspan. But he satisfies thy mouth with good things, so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle.

And that bird goes up in the sky, and he has a wail of a time, and he finds his partner, and he builds his nest, and he raises his young, and then one day he says, oh, I don't have the energy to get up there, I'm feeling pretty tired. Old age is coming up. And before long, he gets a little full of sympathy, you know, and self-interest, and he sits away in the cleft of a rock there, and he says, yes, look at those youngsters up there, look at my neighbor, he's up there too, and I don't have what it takes to get up there anymore.

And instead of looking up, he looks down, and when he looks down, all he sees are his feathers that are coming out. And then he gets distressed, and he says, my main feathers are dropping too. I guess my days are over.

You know, that comes in everybody's life. Remember, Elijah had a wail of a time, and right after that, he sent his notice in. To his surprise, the Lord took it.

He thought the Lord would say, Elijah, I can't do without you, and he says, all right, I'll take your notice. I've got a young fellow called Elisha coming up, one of your students, and he'll pick it up. This poor old eagle says, oh, my eyes seem to be getting a bit dim too, and my strength is going.

I don't think I'll bother to eat. I won't go hunting. I'll just sit here in the cleft of the rock, and keep away from the storm, and uh, I guess I'll get through.

Then one day, he sees a bird go shooting past, and he says, listen, I'm too young to die. I'm not, I'm not going to give in right now. I need to wake up.

And he shakes his head, and he beats his beak on the rock, and the beak falls off. And underneath, there's a new beak. And once he realizes he has a new beak, enough strength to go find his food, he flies a little, and before long, the food renews him, and before long, his youth is renewed.

And he lives another 50 or 60 years. He was going to give up. His feathers are dropping down.

He's getting weak. And he says, no sir, I'm going to get this thing in hand. I don't care what it costs, and you know, getting a little agitated even knocks his beak off.

And then he finds he has a new beak, and can eat, and enjoy it, and his strength comes, and out he goes. Well, isn't that the proof there's a second blessing? It must be, but anyhow. Oh my, what, what, what things God has for us.

Um, where's the scripture? Deuteronomy 32 11. Look at this a minute. Look at verse 9, for the Lord's portion is his people.

Jacob is the lot of his inheritance. So often you hear people say, you know, I've been in churches, and they have a little envelope in the uh, in the pew, and uh, it says on the envelope, the Lord's portion. That's not the Lord's portion.

The scripture is clear here. It says in verse 9, the Lord's portion is his people. Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.

He found him in the desert, and in a waste howling wilderness. He led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye. Now, as an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, and bare them on her wings, so the Lord did lead him.

Verse 13, he made him to ride on the high places of the earth. Again, the eagle will never build his nest in your barn. He'll never build his nest on the side of the wall, like the swallows do.

He won't build a nest where you can reach him. He builds his nest in the place which is inaccessible, away there in the heights. But you see, uh, the eagle usually doesn't have more than two youngsters.

And do you know what? The male is always hatched before the female. If there are two eggs, inevitably the male egg is hatched before the female. You know, that's how the Lord made them at the beginning.

He made Adam before Eve. You know why? Well, it's because he didn't want any advice. So, he, uh, the male came before the female.

And in the generation of eagles, the male egg is always hatched before the female egg. And the birds stay in that nest. Again, I say it may be as much as six or seven feet wide.

It could be less. Now, the nest isn't comfortable like most nests, but an eagle will actually go down onto the back of a sheep, and with his big claws, he'll tear the wool out in order that he may put it in the nest. But he doesn't make it too comfortable.

Because, you see, the two birds settle down and say, boy, isn't it great living around here? Huh? Isn't it comfortable? You know, Mother is so loving. Remember the storm the other day, when it seemed all the skies were breaking up, and she just sat over us and put her wings over us? And you know, another drop of rain goes through. She shelters them from the storm.

And not only does she shelter them from the storm, but some days the heat is too much, and so she puts her wings over them, and she lifts them so the wind blows through, and they get plenty of air conditioning in, but they don't get sunstroke. Her wings prepare them, prepare, preserve them from the storm, and the wings prepare, preserve them rather even from the heat of the day. But then the youngsters don't want to move.

You know, like some of you don't want to leave this nice place you're living in. You're hoping you'll get on the staff. But anyhow, they get settled down and comfortable.

And then Mother and Father say, you know what? These kids have been around here too long. Got to get them out of here. And they make some noises, and the youngsters say, now listen, you get your claws down, and you don't get out of here, because the old folk are trying to get rid of us now.

And we're going to stay around. And the Mother and Father say, are you going to get out? No, I'm going to stay here. I enjoy the fresh meat you brought yesterday.

My, that was delicious. Could you bring some from the same place again? Medium well. And, uh, I'm really enjoying it.

But when an eagle makes a nest, she always leaves protruding branches. Very seldom are the branches any thinner than my wrists. It's an ugly looking nest, though inside it's comfortable.

And they settle down, and so Dad says, all right sweetie, uh, when you see me coming in, you just hop off the nest. Because never, they're never left undefended. Neither are you and I left undefended.

Because if God isn't very near, He gives His angels charge concerning us anyhow. And so we're defended one way or another. And so the big old boy comes down, and he says, well I'm going to have my fun now.

The kids aren't. And when he comes down, he gets on that protruding branch with all his weight, and up goes the nest, and down go the birds. And they scream, and the bird watches.

Oh, the parent is so delighted. Once he sees those youngsters, you know, flying in the air, he says, oh isn't it great to see your children flying around like this? You know, like Papa Salerno has a son, he's always flying around. But he comes down now and again, and glad he's here this morning.

But you know, we'd settle down, but an eagle stirreth up a nest. She doesn't ask any advice. She says, it's time you got out of here.

And I was in a very famous church not long ago, and the pastor said, you know Brother Ravenel, this is the kind of church I've always wanted. Do you know, they pay for all the books. If I buy 50 dollars worth of books every week, the church takes care of it.

And they've just bought me a new gorgeous car, and I've everything I wanted. And I want to stay here till Jesus comes. I said, boy, that's dangerous.

He said, what, Jesus coming? I said, no, you saying you want to stay here, it'll most likely kick you out of the nest. You just say, this is, Lord, where I want to settle. He says, no, I'm going to stir up your nest.

Why? To prove what's in you, that's why. And one of those birds fly, and the other can't make it. He's going down, and suddenly an eagle makes a power dive, and goes underneath, and lifts it up.

And he says, I'll bear you on eagle's wings. Is God capricious? Does God play tricks on us? Are you going through the hottest spot in your life? Well, listen, he's going to bear you up. He'll let you go, go, go, until the very last moment.

Then suddenly he puts all his resources behind you, and lifts you into heavenly places in Christ Jesus. He stirreth up her nest. He stirreth up her nest.

Oh, I'm sure they don't like that. But notice again, it's no exaggeration of mine. Verse 11 of 32 of Deuteronomy says, as an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, when she sees they're not making it, she goes swooping down, and if need be, he goes down, spreadeth abroad her wings, and taketh them, and bears them on her wings.

Do you know, I think that maybe at that time, for the first time in its life, that little eagle realizes how much it loves its daddy or mummy. You know, it just thought, well, you're here to serve me, and you know, change my diapers if they wear them, and give me some food, and make me comfortable. And suddenly, it seems what it's all about.

The little thing hasn't enough sense. It says, I thought we were building, you know, we're in a secure place. The rain never gets on us, the heat never gets on us, or the birds have come, and that goes after them.

Boy, he shoots them down pretty quickly. This is the greatest place of security we've ever had. Wouldn't it be nice to stay here the rest of our lives, and the Lord said, I didn't make you for that reason, you better get out.

You better get out. And so it's, uh, it has to go out. But when it goes falling down, what happens? Well, uh, the mother goes underneath, or the father goes underneath again, and uh, and lifts it up.

Now let's go back to the 39th of Job. And verse 29 says, from thence she seeketh her prey, and her eyes behold her far off. As far as I can find out, the eagle has the most unique eye of anything in creation.

Any animal, never mind any bird. You thought that to use your cameras, you've all kinds of filters. Do you know an eagle has a built-in filter? Do you know an eagle can see an object no, no bigger than a tiny dog? It can see it two miles away.

What does it say? From thence she seeketh her prey, and her eyes behold her far off. She sees something she desires. A man in Scotland said that he, he, he found an eagle's nest up in the, in the hills of Scotland, the mountains of Scotland, and he built a blind, and he watched it, and he made detailed reports on it day by day, and he would see that bird suddenly stick its neck out, and there it would point in that direction and concentrate, and he said, I kept my glasses on it, and suddenly it made a power dive, and went about a mile and a half, and it was clocked at 120 miles an hour, and it swooped on a rabbit a mile and a half away, and it brought it back, and gave it to its young.

The eagle seeth afar off, her eyes behold afar off. Well isn't that exactly what we're supposed to do? The trouble is we keep looking down too much, and looking round too much, instead of looking up too much, and looking beyond too much. The world right now, the outlook is dark, the uplook is glorious.

The world says we don't know where we're going. Well goodbye, we know where we're going. If you don't want to join us, that's your business, but brother we're not staying round here too long.

The lodge gonna stir the nest up for a lot of us. Gonna kick some of you out of here to the uttermost. The eagle seeth afar off.

Well isn't that what brother Tony and the rest have been doing? They could seeth afar off to Tacoma, Washington. Well why not go to Dallas? There's plenty of rotten stuff there to deal with, but be your eyes lifted up, and you seeth afar off. And you go to the place of his appointing.

Jesus says lift up your eyes and look on the fields, look afar off. Moses lived there, over here, more than a thousand miles, a thousand years ahead. It says that Moses chose rather to surrender his place as a prince there in Egypt, with all the wealth, and all the ostentation, all the show, and all the servants, and all the creature comforts.

And one day he resigned every bit of it. Why? Because he says he chose rather to suffer affliction with the children of Israel, than suffer with the children of Israel. Why? Because he endured as what? Seeing him who is invisible.

It says more than that, it pinpoints it. It says he esteemed the reproach of Christ. Well how in the world did he know Christ? Please turn your tape over for the remainder of this message.

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