

## Those Who Wait; Isaiah 40:27-31

### I. Eagles

- A. There has been a lot said about a certain molting process that eagles may go through when they are around 40 years old
  - 1. They fly to a mountain (or valley) and scrape off their beaks and talons; and since they are made of keratin, they grow back
  - 2. They pluck out old useless feathers so new younger and stronger ones can grow back
  - 3. This process is said to take about 150 days
  - 4. There are even websites that propose that eagles that have gone through this process bring food to those eagle going through it, since they cannot hunt for themselves
  - 5. Mostly, these theories come from biblical commentaries or sermons
  - 6. There are great lessons we can learn from this process, but I'm not convinced that this happens to the eagle
- B. I'm not really sure we can fully understand which bird God is referring to
- C. Leviticus 11:13; "And these you shall detest among the birds; they shall not be eaten; they are detestable: the eagle, the bearded vulture, the black vulture,
- D. There may be a footnote in your bible that says, "The identity of many of these birds is uncertain"
  - 1. The Hebrew word translated "eagle" is used 26 times in the Old testament, and twice is translated "vulture"
  - 2. The Hebrew words for "buzzard" and "vulture" are only used here in Leviticus 11:13
  - 3. The Greek word translated "eagle" is used 5 times in the New Testament, and twice is translated "Vulture"
- E. So, while there may be some great lessons from the myth of the eagle's molting, I don't think that is what God is talking about in this text

### II. Wait

- A. "The basic word from which 'wait' is derived means 'to wind' or 'to twist,' the word 'rope' being a noun that comes from this term. The meaning here is that the believer should let the Lord be his lifeline, his cord of escape." Broadman Bible Commentary
  - 1. Isaiah 8:11–17; 11 For the Lord spoke thus to me with his strong hand upon me, and warned me not to walk in the way of this people, saying: 12 "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what they fear, nor be in dread. 13 But the Lord of hosts, him you shall honor as holy. Let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. 14 And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 15 And many shall stumble on it. They shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken." 16 Bind up the testimony; seal the teaching among my disciples. 17 I will wait for the Lord, who is hiding his face from the house of Jacob, and I will hope in him.
- B. This is the hope that David attributes to Jesus

1. Acts 2:25–28; 25 For David says concerning him, “ I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand that I may not be shaken; 26 therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; my flesh also will dwell in hope. 27 For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. 28 You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.’
- C. We can be very quick to act and very loathe to wait
1. Abraham and Sarah did not wait for Isaac, but instead had Ishmael
  2. The Israelites did not want to wait on God, but instead put their hope in a king, rejecting God in the process
  3. The Israelites had been waiting for the promised Messiah, the Hope of Israel
    - a) Acts 28:20; For this reason, therefore, I have asked to see you and speak with you, since it is because of the hope of Israel that I am wearing this chain.”
- D. But a patient waiting is what God desires from us; a hope placed in Him which will not falter
1. 1 Corinthians 15:1; Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,
  2. 1 Corinthians 15:58; Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.
  3. Hebrews 10:19–25; 19 Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the holy places by the blood of Jesus, 20 by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain, that is, through his flesh, 21 and since we have a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.
- E. Isaiah says that this steadfast patience, this perseverance of hope in God produces a renewed strength
- III. Shall Renew Their Strength
- A. "The man of faith may sometimes soar on eagles' wings, or run without wearing; but most of the time he will merely walk. And the real test of his faith comes, not when he flies or runs, but when he must plod along. It is in the monotony of everyday life that the man of faith reveals his true character." Broadman Bible Commentary
  - B. It is very easy to grow tired of doing what is right, especially in a world where that behavior is frowned upon
  - C. We take every opportunity to violate laws that are not convenient for us, especially if it gives us pleasure or saves us time and money
    1. Tax laws
    2. Speed limits, stop signs
    3. Drugs

4. Politics
- D. But, our steadfast hope is in the Living God who came and lived as flesh in a time where most of us would not wish to have lived
  1. No refrigeration
  2. No plumbing
  3. No HVAC
  4. The streets filled with refuse and sewage (which is why feet washing was so important)
  5. I find it funny to watch people in restaurants prepare food with plastic gloves on, to constantly use anti-bacterial liquids
  6. If Jesus could be steadfast during the 1st century, then I can be during the 21st
- E. Just how did Jesus (and others) renew his strength?
  1. Matthew 14:23; And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone,
  2. Luke 9:18; Now it happened that as he was praying alone, the disciples were with him. And he asked them, "Who do the crowds say that I am?"
  3. 1 Timothy 4:13–16; 13 Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. 14 Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. 15 Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. 16 Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers.

#### IV. Not Faint

- A. This is the idea of the text, do not get weary, renew your strength
- B. We have a responsibility to strengthen each other
- C. When we see brothers or sisters who are close to "fainting" we need to step in and offer encouragement, whatever form that takes
  1. Luke 22:31–34; 31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, 32 but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." 33 Peter said to him, "Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death." 34 Jesus said, "I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me."
  2. Acts 14:21–22; 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch, 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
  3. Acts 16:4–5; 4 As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.
- D. Our strength comes from the Lord
  1. Romans 16:25–27; 25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of

the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

2. Philippians 4:13; I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

E. So, do not grow weary

1. Galatians 6:9–10; 9 And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. 10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

2. 2 Thessalonians 3:13; As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

3. Hebrews 12:3–4; 3 Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. 4 In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

4. Revelation 2:1–3, 7; 1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: ‘The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands. 2 “ ‘I know your works, your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil, but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not, and found them to be false. 3 I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name’s sake, and you have not grown weary. 7 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.’

V. Those Who Wait

A. Is your hope in the Almighty God, Creator of the universe, the Author of Life?

B. Are you strengthening others

C. Are you being strengthened (not growing weary)