

CARRIED ON EAGLES WINGS

Exo 19:4 *'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.*

God had marvelously delivered the Israelites out of Egyptian bondage with miracles and wonders. He defeated the whole army of Egypt by himself and brought His people to safety. He then provided water and bread supernaturally for His people. He was close with them and traveled in their midst in the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night. The cloud blocked the hot sun during the day and the fire provided them heat in the cold desert at night. [Ex. 13:21] On what basis did God do this for Israel? Was it their good deeds and their deserving piety? None of these can be seen among them. There is no mention of a single good deed done by the Israelites from the time they were in Egypt until they got to the mountain of Sinai. There is only mention of their being stiff necked, complainers, grumblers, fearful, ungrateful, and sinful. No, there had to be other grounds for God's being close to them and blessing them.

Exo 12:3 Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth of this month every man shall **take for himself a lamb**, according to the house of *his* father, a lamb for a household.

Exo 12:4 And if the household is too small for the lamb, let him and his neighbor next to his house take *it* according to the number of the persons; according to each man's need you shall make your count for the lamb.

Exo 12:5 **Your lamb shall be without blemish**, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats.

Exo 12:6 Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.

Exo 12:7 And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it.

Exo 12:8 Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it.

Exo 12:9 Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire-- its head with its legs and its entrails.

Exo 12:10 You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire.

Exo 12:11 And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It *is* the Lord's Passover.

Exo 12:12 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I *am* the Lord.

Exo 12:13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy *you* when I strike the land of Egypt.

The basis for God's goodness and blessing to the nation of Israel was not their deserving deeds or obedience to a set of rules. They were blessed by the obedience of faith in following God's direction in slaying an unblemished lamb and placing its blood on their doorposts. It was their faith in the blood of the lamb that was the reason God blessed them and was close to them. It was right after they sacrificed the lamb that God delivered them. He did not only deliver them out of bondage but He also prospered them and healed them. These blessings came not by their deserving deeds but by their faith in the lamb and by the shed blood.

Psa 105:37 He also brought them out [*of Egypt*] with silver and gold, And *there was* none feeble among His tribes.

Not one noble deed was recorded that would cause God to bless his people with prosperity or healing. Nothing but bad deeds were mentioned about them except their obedience of faith in killing the lamb and applying the blood. This shows that deliverance, healing, and prosperity come by grace and not works. God was close with His people all the way from Egypt to Mt. Sinai. He traveled in their midst. He did this not because the people deserved it, but because of the blood of the Lamb. However, things would change drastically when they reached Mt. Sinai. At this mountain God spoke to His people about how He had treated them so far.

Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

He said that He had **born them on eagles wings and brought them to Himself.** What does this mean? Many preachers have said that this refers to the practice of mother eagles carrying their young on their wings while they learn to fly. This sounds great in sermons, but if you ask any experts on eagles you will find out that this is a total falsity. Eagles in nature do not carry their young on their wings. It just does not happen. So since this is not referring to natural eagles, what can it refer to? The Eagle here represents the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

Eze 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the **face of an eagle.**

Ezekiel saw cherubs. These are the highest class of angels. These cherubs had four faces- a face of a man, a face of a lion, a face of an ox, and a face of an eagle. These cherubs were created to worship the Lord and reveal His nature. These cherubs teach of Jesus Christ. The four faces reveal the four-fold revelation of Jesus Christ found in the New Testament. The four gospels reflect this. Matthew reveals Christ as King [the Lion], Mark reveals Christ as the Ox [the Servant], Luke reveals Jesus as the Son of Man [face of a man], but **John reveals Jesus as the Son of God [the Eagle]**. When God says that he carried the Israelites on the wings of an eagle to Himself He is referring that Israel was brought close to God by the blood of the Lamb- which represents the person and work of His Son Jesus Christ [The Eagle]. Being carried on the wings of an eagle speaks of flight. Man cannot fly unaided. God is much too high for man to come close to by His own works and ability. There is no way for man to climb to God. No, God sent His Eagle to pick His people up and carry them to Himself. By the person of His Son Jesus and His finished work of redemption we were raised up with Him and were made to sit with Him in heavenly places. [Eph. 2:6] We were carried to be close to God on the wings of the Eagle! Receiving grace will always bring us close to God. Receiving what Jesus has done for us and placing our faith in the blood that has forgiven us of all our sins will bring us right into God's presence and open the way to prosperity and healing and God's blessings. The second you try to deserve God's blessings by your own good works you will find distance between you and God. This is what Israel found at Mt. Sinai.

Exo 19:4 'You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself.

Exo 19:5 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth *is* Mine.

Exo 19:6 And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These *are* the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel."

Exo 19:7 So Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before them all these words which the Lord commanded him.

Exo 19:8 Then all the people answered together and said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do." So Moses brought back the words of the people to the Lord.

Exo 19:9 And the Lord said to Moses, "Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and believe you forever." So Moses told the words of the people to the Lord.

Exo 19:10 Then the Lord said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their clothes.

Exo 19:11 And let them be ready for the third day. For on the third day the Lord will come down upon Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people.

Exo 19:12 **You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Take heed to yourselves *that you do not* go up to the mountain or touch its base. Whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.**

Israel did not understand the grace of God shown to them. They thought that God delivered them and blessed them because of them. God had to reveal to the people that they did not deserve His presence, deliverance, and blessings because of their deeds but because of the unblemished Lamb and His blood. He gave Moses the Ten Commandments and told Moses to present them to Israel. God wanted to test Israel. When they heard the commandments they all said that they would keep them. God had told them up to this point that He had blessed them and carried them on the wings of the Eagle, but they now chose a different means of relating to God. They chose now to relate to God based upon their personal holiness and obedience to a set of rules in order to deserve God's presence and blessings. Instead of accepting this new way of relating to God they should have said, "We are not able to keep these commandments perfectly. You have blessed us by your

grace, if you will allow us, please keep us on the wings of the Eagle and treat us on the basis of the Lamb.” They did not do this. They accepted the Law. What was the immediate result of their acceptance of the Law and this new way of relating to God? **It created distance with God.** God said, Ok, tell the people to wash themselves [purify themselves] and set bounds for the people so they will not be able to get close to me. Up till that point God was in their midst in the cloud and fire providing for them. Now, they had to stay away from God or they would be put to death. From Egypt to Mt. Sinai not one single person was killed by God for their grumbling, griping, unbelief, fearfulness, rebellion, or sin. God just kept on providing for them and blessing them because of the Lamb. The Eagle kept carrying them. Now that they accepted the Law things changed. The Eagle dropped them! They had to get to God themselves!

Moses went back up into the mountain and came down with the Ten Commandments on two stone tablets. He found that Israel had made a golden calf [idol] and was worshipping it. The Israelites boasted they would keep God's commandments and they immediately broke the first one- do not make or worship an idol! They could not keep the very first commandment!

Exo 32:27 And he said to them, "Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'Let every man put his sword on his side, and go in and out from entrance to entrance throughout the camp, and let every man kill his brother, every man his companion, and every man his neighbor.' "

Exo 32:28 So the sons of Levi did according to the word of Moses. And about **three thousand men of the people fell that day.**

God told the Levites to kill those who were worshipping the idol and three thousand people died that day. From that day onward we see that when Israel sinned, griped, complained, or rebelled judgment fell on them and people died because of it. It is important to note on the day Pentecost the age of Grace began and three thousand men got saved and received life! The Law kills, but Grace gives life! The Law reveals sin and produces wrath. It produces a distance from God. Under grace God traveled openly with the nation of Israel in the pillar of cloud and fire and His presence brought relief and protection. Once they accepted Law God removed himself behind a thick veil away from contact from the people. Only the High Priest could come before God with the blood of the Lamb. This

reveals how we can draw close to God today- by the blood of the Lamb. We must settle this question with finality- How are we going to experience closeness with God and receive His deliverance, prosperity, and healing? Is it fully on the basis of the shed blood of the Lamb of God or our works? It is one or the other. You cannot mix the two! If we choose the blood of the Lamb then we will be carried on the wings of the Eagle [the Son of God] into the very presence of God where we find the fullness of His blessings. If we choose our works we will find a distance between us and God. We will find frustration, lack, and sickness. We will find guilt and condemnation. We will always be trying to climb to God and never reaching Him. He will be veiled from our view in darkness. It is time to place your full trust in the Lamb of God and His blood and let the Eagle carry you to God and His blessings. It is time to fly child of God!