



Dear Church Family and Friends,

The internet has live-streaming channels from all over our world. With the click of a button, you can have an instant live view of almost any place in the world. A particular fascinating one to me is 'Hanover Bald Eagles'. It live-streams an active eagle's nest giving the viewer an intimate look at the life cycle of the American Bald Eagle. The bald eagle has been the national bird of the United States since 1782 when it was placed with outspread wings on the Great Seal of our country. In addition, it had previously been a spiritual symbol for the native people of our country.

Not only has our nation embraced the eagle as our symbol, scripture has equally made reference to this majestic and incredible bird of prey. It's image in scripture is often as swift, devastating and unstoppable judgement. In the Bible, 'swooping' or 'swiftly' as an eagle makes reference to our God who will bring judgement that is formidable and deadly.

Yet it is also portrayed as a nurturer and protector of her chicks. Deuteronomy 32:10-12 references the eagle as a protector and provider: ¹⁰...*the apple of his eye,* ¹¹*like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings to catch them and carries them on its pinions.* ¹²*The Lord alone led him; no foreign god was with him.*

So, in scripture the "eagles wing" is a symbol of fierce and sudden judgement, tender and certain protection and deliverance as he does with His people and nation Israel.

When the eagle swoops down, it comes quickly and overcomes its prey. When the momma eagle covers its eaglets with its pinions, they are safe indeed. And when the eagle soars high and mighty, no one can reach its heights. It is safe and secure and exalted.

And so it is with our Lord. He will come in judgement someday and it will be swift and certain. He will carry those who call him Lord to the eternal home that He made for His people. And when He holds up our spirits in times of trial, no one can pull us down.

One day we will gather and soar to an unknown yet incredibly perfect place prepared just for us. Our ultimate hope is in the exalted and sure salvation of our God.

Blessings,

Pastor Brian