

# *The Eagle and Her Young*

**Deut 32:10-12**

**1**

**10** “He found him in a desert land, And in the howling waste of a wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He guarded him as the pupil of His eye. **11** “Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, That hovers over its young, He spread His wings and caught them, He carried them on His pinions. **12** “The Lord alone guided him, And there was no foreign god with him.

Here, in the song of Moses that he delivers to the Israelites, Moses waxes poetic as he describes what God had done for them. He describes them as a man who has been lost in the desert wilderness and is found by a protector. This protector gathers the man into his fold to care for him and to guard him as the pupil of His eye. You may have heard someone say about their sweetheart that...

**2**

*“She is the apple of my eye”*

This is where that saying comes from, but according to the various and sundry works of the internet, the phrase has an obscure origin in the English language. I find that assumption amazingly disappointing. The phrase is right here in Deuteronomy and is used in the passage exactly like it is used in the idioms of language. The apple of the eye refers to the iris or center of the eye. The idea is that if someone is in the center of the eye then they are the object of one’s focus. Moses is saying that the protector who had enveloped Israel in His care and protection would put Israel into the very center of His eye, would keep His focus on them. He then goes on to describe this protector as an eagle **3** who prepares its nest for its young, spreads its wings over its young, and carries them on its wings. Then Moses defines who this protector is...

**4**

**“12** “The Lord alone guided him,”

Israel is the man who was lost and the Lord is the divine protector who keeps it and cares for it; and at the same time shows the condition upon which the care and protection of the Lord is hinged...

**5**

“And there was no foreign god with him.”

The relationship being shown of the Eagle and her young is intended to illustrate for man the type of loving and caring relationship between God and His followers, all those that have "no foreign god before them." In the New Testament the followers of God through Christ are called...

**6**

*The Bride of Christ*

Now the term, "The bride of Christ" is not mentioned in the scriptures, but, even though the terminology itself is not mentioned, the idea has more than ample evidence to support it as seen in **Eph. 5** and **2 Cor. 11**, as well as in other places. God appointed for His Son, Jesus Christ, a bride, the Church. This Bride, Jesus accepted from his Father's hands. Of this Church and Bride, Israel, the physical Israel, was a type, a fore-shadow of the Church to come. The Old Testament is full of instruction in principle that is seen in literal Israel. We see the symbolic representation of the

Church, spiritual Israel; and in God's outward dealings with her as a nation, we see in type and figure, the principles of how He deals with His chosen people. When this is viewed with the eye of faith, then God can be seen in the accounts and examples of the Old Testament, and He is revealed therein.

But I guess the point is that if we just look at this passage, from the song of Moses, as having no prophetic implication, I think we would miss some of the value of what God is saying through him. He is describing the loving care and protection that God offers His chosen faithful, and that loving care and protection is the same for all His faithful chosen, whether those of Israel, or those who followed Him under the Patriarchal Law, or those of the Church.

In this lesson, there are some thoughts that we want to look at...

- 7) 1) The Nature of Israel
- 2) The Howling Waste of the Wilderness
- 3) The Wings that Protect

When we consider the prophetic implications of what Moses is saying, I think it brings a new understanding of the passage to us. It illustrates for us the...

- 8) A) Very essence of man, what he is by nature
- B) What he can become by the Grace of God

Here then is our first point in this lesson...

- 9) 1) The nature of Israel

**Jer 9:1-3**

10

*1* Oh that my head were waters And my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night For the slain of the daughter of my people! *2* Oh that I had in the desert A wayfarers' lodging place; That I might leave my people And go from them! For all of them are adulterers, An assembly of treacherous men. *3* "They bend their tongue like their bow; Lies and not truth prevail in the land; For they proceed from evil to evil, And they do not know Me," declares the Lord.

Israel is seen as an evil people full of lies and treachery. Jesus calls them...

**Matt 16:1-4**

11

*1* The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. *2* But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' *3* And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? *4* An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign;

Jesus tells them that they are looking for the wrong thing. Faith is not something out there, a sign. Faith is the inward response that is generated by external evidence. The Pharisees and Sadducees weren't asking because of their faith, they wanted a sign to believe in and that's why Christ calls them an evil and adulterous generation. What a sad commentary on these people. And

yet, is the world really any different today? People have such a hard time just accepting that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. It seems that most people today even have a hard time believing and accepting the Bible as the Word of God to be followed in its entirety. Does that make them evil and adulterous? What a description of the state of man by nature! But isn't that what Paul is talking about in...

**Rom 7:21-24**

**12**

**21** I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. **22** For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, **23** but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. **24** Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

Therein is our next point...

**13**

2) The Howling Waste of the Wilderness

The nature of man is described as...

**14**

### ***"A Howling Waste"***

Man is here compared to "a desert," and by definition this is speaking of an eastern desert—a barren, uncultivable land, where everything is parched up by the arid rays of the sun; not only do plants and flowers not grow, it is all but impossible to get them to.

But was man always this withered desert? When God created Adam in his own image, after his own likeness, was his heart an arid desert, then? In verse 27 of Gen:1 God creates man in His own image, with an immortal soul, then in...

**Gen 1:31**

**15**

**31** God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Man, in his creation, was good. He was neither evil nor adulterous, he was good. But man was created with a freewill spirit, the ability to make his own choices, whether right or wrong. The problem that all men have is that...

**Rom 3:21-23**

**16**

**21** But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, **22** even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; **23** for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

This what Paul is talking about in the passage we looked at from Rom. 7. The flesh of man is desirous for the pleasures that this world offers, the...

**17**

### ***Lust of the Flesh, Lust of the Eye, Pride of Life***

Paul is saying that left to his instinctive nature man will more often than not choose to be evil and adulterous, he will choose to be undisciplined, uncontrolled, and apart from God and His

salvation. Man was created "good." It was his choice to sin that ruined, desolated, and laid him waste.

There is, in the heart of man, a child of God desiring to be faithful and obedient. But, unfortunately, he finds that this desert is absolutely uncultivable; that whatever the hand of faith plants, soon withers under the sun of temptation, or is blasted by the hot breath of the sinful wind. Isn't that the picture that Christ paints in the parable of the sower in Mark 4?

The Lord finds His Israel "in the WASTE howling wilderness." Isn't this a figure of the desolate state of man? "A waste," a waste that chooses to be apart from God.

In the wars of history, the invading army would lay waste to the land, they would destroy the crops and fields that supplied the enemies' armies. That is the picture being painted for us in our text; a mighty conqueror has laid waste the heart of man, choking it with weed, cutting down its vines, filling its wells, pulling down its fences, and leaving it to be trampled down by the beasts of the world. This conqueror is Satan, and his triumphant army is the temptation that leads to sin. This, according to our text, is the state that man is found in by the Lord, the condition from which man needs to be rescued, saved. It is man's nature that brings us to our last point...

**18** 3) The Wings that Protect

**Jer 10:23**

**19**

**23** I know, O Lord, that a man's way is not in himself, Nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps.

Man doesn't have the ability to lead himself out of sin and away from the penalties that sin brings with it. It is beyond man to even escape it without help. That is what we are told in our text, that...

**20** C) God carried Israel on His pinions, His wings

D) He instructed him

E) He kept him as the Apple of His Eye

This expression is used in more than one place of scripture to signify the special tenderness of God in keeping his people.

**Ps 17:6-8**

**21**

**6** I have called upon You, for You will answer me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, hear my speech. **7** Wondrously show Your loving kindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at Your right hand From those who rise up against them. **8** Keep me as the apple of the eye; Hide me in the shadow of Your wings.

The apple of the eye speaks to the tender, loving care that we might have for someone or something. This is how Israel, God's people, are described. His followers are the...

**22**

**"The Apple of His eye"**

I guess the question that comes up in people's minds is...

**23**

***Are the Lord's people always kept?***

Are they never guilty of falling away? Are they always perfect in their understanding? Are they always kept from sin and folly? That doesn't fit with what the scriptures teach.

**1 John 1:8** 24

**8** If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us.

We sin, we fail, we make bad judgments, being a child of God doesn't keep us from making poor decisions, of that it would. We must keep the idea of protection from God in context. Where does God say that His children won't experience disease or difficulty in this world? Where does it say that no one we know and love will ever pass away? But it does say...

**1 Cor 10:13** 25

**13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

So if this doesn't mean that God removes any possibility of sin from us, what is it saying. This is where the context comes in. In what context will God keep us from any temptation we can't overcome? That has to be speaking in a spiritual context. Spiritually, there is nothing that can forcibly tear man away from God.

**Rom 8:38-39** 26

**38** For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, **39** nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

In the context of our spirituality, God has provided everything we will ever need to be successful in our efforts to live righteously, according to His will.

**Rom 12:1-2** 27

**1** Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. **2** And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

God loves man, His creation and has provided everything man needs to gain the reward He promises. The context of His protection is dependent upon the degree of commitment we bring to Him.