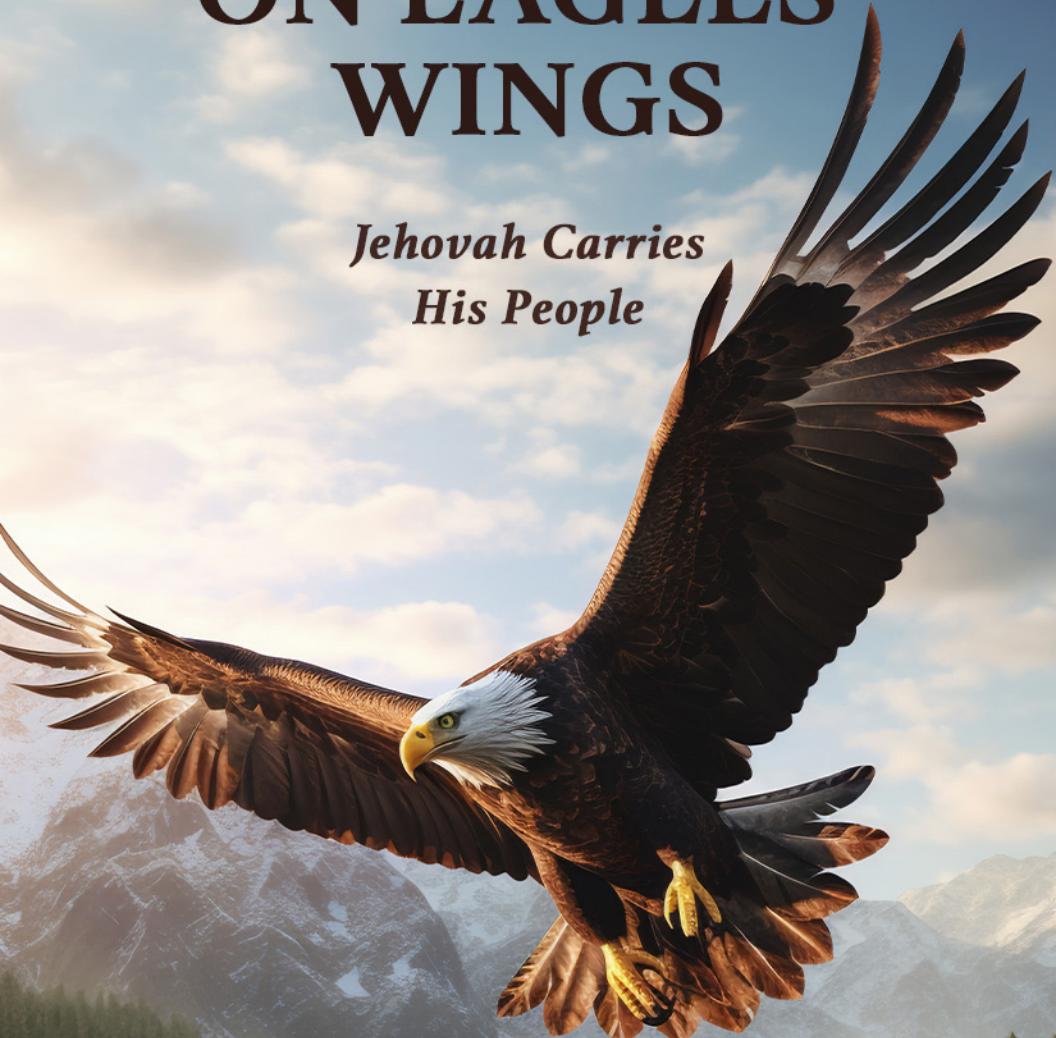


# ON EAGLES' WINGS

*Jehovah Carries  
His People*



ELDER KEITH J. WALKER



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Scripture: Exodus 19:4; Isaiah 40:28–31; Deuteronomy 32:11; Psalm 91:4

Opening Poem / Invocation

Watch the eagle in the sky.

Watch the eagle in the sky; it will rise above the storm.

Jehovah carried Israel on eagles' wings — and carried her out of Egypt.

Let us watch, wait, and be carried.

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## I. Purpose of this Booklet

A short sermon-booklet to encourage faith, endurance, and hope. Using the image of the eagle — a God-given picture of deliverance, strength, and uplift — we examine how Jehovah has carried His people in the past and how He carries us today. It is designed for preaching, teaching, small groups, and personal meditation.

## II. Key Scriptures

- Exodus 19:4 — God recalls bearing Israel on eagles' wings and bringing them to Himself.
- Isaiah 40:28–31 — The Lord gives strength to the faint; those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength and mount up with wings like eagles.
- Deuteronomy 32:11 — Like an eagle that stirs up its nest and carries its young on its wings.
- Psalm 91:4 — Under God's pinions we find refuge.

## III. Exposition — What the Eagle Image Teaches Us

### 1. Historical reminder: Exodus 19:4

- God reminds Israel of the Exodus as formative deliverance. The image depicts intentional, powerful, intimate protection and forming a covenant people.

## 1. The eagle's characteristics as spiritual metaphors

- Height and perspective: Eagles fly high and see far; God lifts us above immediate troubles so we can discern purposes that outlast pain.
- Strength and renewal: Eagles are strong and endure long flights; Isaiah promises renewed strength for those who wait on the Lord.
- Protection and carrying: An eagle shelters its young under its wings; God shelters and bears His people in weakness.
- Sovereign control of the elements: Eagles ride thermals and soar above storms; God lifts us above fierce trials in ways we may not understand.

### 1. Waiting and renewed strength (Isaiah 40:31)

- Waiting is worshipful dependence: prayer, obedience, patience, and expectation.
- The promise is practical: renewed strength, endurance for the journey, the capacity to run without fainting and walk without weariness.
- The reward is soaring — a spiritual elevation that changes our perspective toward hope.

## IV. Application — How Jehovah Carries Us Today

### 1. Remember God's past deliverances

- Testimonies of rescue (from addiction, fear, sickness, financial crisis) are proof that God bears His people. Remembering strengthens present faith.

### 1. Practice holy waiting

- Waiting is active: pray intentionally, study Scripture, worship, and serve during seasons of anxious expectation. Replace frantic striving with faithful obedience.

### 1. Seek refuge under His wings

- When overwhelmed, pray simply: “Jehovah, carry me.” Use Psalm 91 as anchor; cultivate daily devotion, Sabbath rest, confession, fellowship, and honest dependence.

### 1. Live with the perspective of the eagle

- Adopt a higher view: eternal priorities, God’s sovereignty, and the temporary nature of trials. Let this perspective shift responses from panic to praise and from despair to hopeful action.

## V. Practical Steps for Individuals and Churches Personal

- Morning prayer: “Lord, this day carry me as an

eagle carries her young. Renew my strength.”

- Keep a “deliverance journal” recording specific ways God has carried you.
- Observe a weekly Sabbath for rest and reflection on God’s provision.

## Congregation

- Testimony time: set aside a worship service for remembering God’s help.
- Small groups: study Isaiah 40 together; discuss practical ways to wait on the Lord.
- Outreach ministries: practical expressions of carrying others (food, counseling, visitation).

## VI. Illustrations, Fables, and Tales (10)

Each story is followed by a point and suggested use.

### 1. The Eagle and the Storm

**Story:** A terrible storm rose over the valley. Small birds flapped frantically and sought shelter. An eagle swept into the gusts, folding its wings and letting the updrafts lift it high above the clouds. Below, the frightened birds watched as the eagle rode the storm until it passed, landing calmly in the warm sun.

**Point:** The eagle doesn’t fight the storm — it rides the currents God provides. When we wait on Jehovah, He renews our strength and lifts us above the tempest

(Isa. 40:31).

Use: Opening illustration for a sermon; visual for adults and older children.

## 2. The Nest That Wouldn't Let Go

Story: A fledgling clung to the nest, terrified to step onto the ledge. The parent eagle nudged, urged, and even gently stirred the nest until the young bird spread its wings and leapt. Only after the fall did the fledgling find the lift and begin to fly.

Point: God sometimes stirs our comfort to teach us trust. He “flutters over His young” and urges us into the flight He intends (Deut. 32:11).

Use: Pastoral encouragement about change, growth, or calling.

## 3. The Traveler and the Guide

Story: A traveler lost in a wide plain wandered for days. Almost ready to give up, an eagle appeared, circling and then settling on a distant ridge. Following the ridge, the traveler found a spring and a safe road home. The eagle did not speak; it only showed the way.

Point: Jehovah’s guidance may be subtle — a sign, a Scripture, a person — but it points us to living water. He carries us not always by lifting us off the ground, but by leading our steps (Ex. 19:4; Ps. 91:4).

Use: Testimony lead-in; small-group reflection on guidance.

#### 4. The Farmer Who Couldn't See the Field

Story: A farmer fretted over a small patch of weeds and failing rows. A friend led him to a hill and showed him the whole valley where the “ruined” rows were a small part of a rich harvest. From higher ground, what looked catastrophic became manageable.

Point: Jehovah lifts us to a higher perspective so we see His purposes. When we mount up with wings like eagles, our troubles shrink under God’s sovereignty (Isa. 40:31).

Use: Illustration for anxiety and perspective.

#### 5. The Little Sparrow Who Wanted to Fly on Bigger Wings

Story: A small sparrow, exhausted from a long journey, hopped onto an old eagle’s back. The eagle rose, and the sparrow rested on feathers broader than any branch. When storms came, the sparrow was warm and sheltered under the eagle’s wings.

Point: Under Jehovah’s “pinions” we find refuge (Ps. 91:4). He shelters the humble and weary, carrying those who cannot bear the journey alone (Ex. 19:4).

Use: Children’s talk or dramatization with a blanket to represent wings.

## 6. The Eagle and the Distress Signal

Story: A village prepared flares to call help. One night a child lit a small torch that frightened the animals. From the cliff an eagle swooped, picked up the light on a twig, and carried it to the watchman's tower where it was seen. The village was saved.

Point: God often uses unexpected means to carry our cries to Himself and to others. Our small “torches” of prayer become visible when Jehovah lifts them to the right place.

Use: Illustration about prayer, providence, and communal response.

## 7. The Old Journal

Story: An old woman kept a leather journal filled with short entries: “Shelter found,” “Boat across river,” “Healed.” Her grandchildren read it and discovered a lifetime of God’s small, steady carrying — mercies that rarely made the news but kept life going.

Point: Like Israel’s memory of deliverance from Egypt, personal remembrance of God’s carrying strengthens faith for current storms (Ex. 19:4). Keep a record of God’s mercies.

Use: Encourage people to keep a “deliverance journal” or testimony time.

## 8. The Flight School

Story: A fledgling joined other young birds for lessons. The instructor would not let them flap aimlessly; each exercise taught them how to catch thermals, when to fold and when to soar. Afraid at first, they gained confidence through training and testing.

Point: Waiting on the Lord includes training — prayer, Scripture, fellowship. God “trains” the saints so they can soar; renewed strength comes through discipline and dependence (Isa. 40:31).

Use: Small-group discipleship illustration or youth lesson.

## 9. The Mountain Tale

Story (folk style): A mountain people believed an eagle was the messenger between summit and plain. When a child was lost, elders climbed and prayed; they said the eagle returned the child with new eyes, seeing farther and choosing a safer way.

Point: Across cultures the eagle symbolizes mediator and messenger. For God’s people, Jehovah is the true One who lifts and returns us with renewed sight and purpose (Deut. 32:11).

Use: Culturally sensitive folktale reflection; introduces universal imagery.

## 10. The Shepherd and the Wing

Story: A shepherd mourned a lost lamb. An eagle circled and then carried the lamb to a hollow where the shepherd later found it alive and warm. The shepherd could not explain how the lamb was saved, but he praised the One who used the eagle in that moment.

Point: Sometimes God uses creation and people to carry us. We do not always know the means, but we know the hand — Jehovah’s care that brings life from danger (Ex. 19:4; Ps. 91:4).

Use: Closing story for thanksgiving or benediction illustration.

## VII. Practical Suggestions for Using the Illustrations

- Opening hook: Use one short tale (30–90 seconds) to paint the theme and anchor the congregation’s imagination.
- Mid-sermon flesh: Insert one or two longer tales to unpack a main point (e.g., the nest story for growth; the flight school for spiritual discipline).
- Children’s moment: Use the sparrow and nest stories with simple props (blanket for wings, stuffed bird).
- Testimony service: Invite people to bring a “journal entry” like the Old Journal story and share three ways Jehovah has carried them.
- Small groups: Read a tale, then discuss: Where is God carrying you? What “flight lessons” do you need?

Short responsive readings or prayer prompts (use after a tale)

- Leader: “We remember how Jehovah carried Israel on eagles’ wings.” Congregation: “We trust Him to carry us today.”
- Prayer prompt: “Jehovah, carry me over this storm; teach me to ride the currents You provide.”

VIII. Reflection Questions (for personal meditation or group discussion)

- When have I most clearly felt God carrying me?
- What storms am I facing now where I need to “mount up with wings like eagles”?
- How does remembering God’s past help me face present fears?
- What practical habit will I adopt this week to practice waiting on the Lord?

IX. Short Sermon Outline (for preachers)

1. Opening illustration: Watch the eagle — rise above the storm.
2. Read Exodus 19:4 and Isaiah 40:28–31 (or paraphrase).
3. Point 1: Jehovah carries — the Exodus reminder.
4. Point 2: Jehovah renews — the Isaiah promise.
5. Point 3: Our response — waiting, worship, witness.

6. Application: Three steps to live under God's wings (remember, wait, serve).
7. Call: Invite the congregation to step into God's carrying today.
8. Closing prayer and benediction.

## X. A Prayer of Response

Jehovah our God, You are the everlasting One who bore Israel on eagles' wings and brought her to Yourself. Today we bring our weariness, our storms, and our fears. Teach us to wait on You. Renew our strength. Lift us above despair and give us a heavenly perspective. Carry us into deeper trust and service. Amen.

## Responsive Litany (brief)

Leader: "You who are weak, come under His wings."

People: "We come; renew our strength."

Leader: "You who are anxious, remember His deliverance."

People: "We remember; we trust."

Leader: "You who go out to serve, be carried as you carry."

People: "We go in His name."

## XI. Suggested Hymns and Benediction

### Suggested Songs

- "On Eagle's Wings" (Michael Joncas)

- “Under His Wings”
- “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”
- “It Is Well with My Soul”

## Benediction

May Jehovah, who bore His people on eagles' wings and gives strength to the faint, renew your strength today. May you rise above the storm, walk without weariness, and run with endurance. Go in peace; be carried and carry others.

## XII. In-Depth Metaphorical & Metaphysical Reflection (For sermon enrichment, study groups, or contemplative readers)

### 1. The Eagle as Image: Transcendence and Immanence

- Transcendence: The eagle's height points to God's loftiness — a capacity to lift and reorient a people beyond human limits.
- Immanence: The eagle shelters its young; God's majesty meets mercy in an act of personal carrying.

### 1. Bearing as Ontological Participation

- Being borne by God is more than transport: it is change of being. The Exodus is archetypal — a people relocated into covenantal identity.

- Metaphysically, grace alters the mode of existence: those carried begin to share God's horizon (freedom, endurance, vocation).

## 1. Storms and Thermals — Suffering as Potential Lift

- The eagle rides thermals formed in storms. Faith reframes suffering as a context where divine uplift can work — not a denial of pain but a claim about God's transforming providence.

## 1. Waiting as Active Ontology

- Waiting trains the will to participate in divine timing rather than be dominated by urgent human time; it is cooperative receptivity.

## 1. Wings as Boundary-Transformers

- Protection: wings produce sanctuary under threat.
- Movement: wings change direction and speed; being carried alters life's telos from mere survival to mission endurance.
- Vision: high flight enlarges sight; God's carrying gives perspective.

## 1. Nest and Stirring — Divine Provocation

- God sometimes “stirs the nest” to provoke flight;

these interventions are formative, midwifing new capacities.

## 1. Covenant Memory and the Human Soul

- Remembering God's past actions anchors identity and hope; journaling or testimony enacts this truth practically.

## 1. Ethical Implications — Being Carried Becomes Carrying

- Grace deputizes those carried to become carriers for others (hospitality, aid, ministry).

## 1. Risks and Balances

- Avoid sentimentalizing suffering or passive fatalism. Hold tensions: God's sovereignty and human responsibility; reality of suffering and God's transformative capacity.

# XIII. Practices: Meditations and Exercises

## 1. Lectio and Visual Imagination

- Read Exodus 19:4 slowly. Imagine desert dust, people, wings; allow the image to awaken memory and longing.

## 1. Breath Prayer

- Inhale: “Jehovah carries...”
- Exhale: “...on eagles’ wings.” Repeat for 5–10 minutes, allowing breath and phrase to steady heart and mind.

## 1. Guided Eagle Me

### 1. Deliverance Journal

- Each week record one concrete way you were carried. Over months this forms covenant memory.

### 1. Active Waiting Exercise (one week)

- Choose one anxiety-driven task. Replace one anxious act with one faithful act (prayer, Scripture reading, a small act of service). Note inward changes.

## Closing Reflection

Watch the eagle in the sky — not from fear, but with faith. Watch how God moves the currents of your life. Wait on Him. He will lift you, renew you, and bring you to Himself.

Written By Elder Keith Joel Walker