

Live as chickens or Fly like the eagles

There is an old fable that talks about a man who found an eagle's egg and put it in a nest of a barnyard hen. The eagle hatched with the brood of chicks and grew up with them. All his life, the eagle did what the barnyard chicks did, thinking he was a barnyard chicken.

He scratched the earth for worms and insects. He clucked and cackled. And he would thrash his wings and fly a few feet in the air.

Years passed and the eagle grew very old. One day he saw a magnificent bird above him in the cloudless sky. It glided in graceful majesty among powerful wind currents, with scarcely a beat of its strong golden wings. The old eagle looked up in awe. "Who's that?" he asked. "That's the eagle, the king of the birds," said his neighbor. "He belongs to the sky. We belong to the earth-- we're chickens."

So the eagle lived and died a chicken, for that's what he thought he was.

How sad when we who are children of the King live as chickens when we could fly with the eagles.

Isaiah 40:31

*"But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint."*

Deuteronomy 32:10-11

*"In a desert land he found him,
in a barren and howling waste.
He shielded him and cared for him;
He guarded him as the apple of his eye,
like an eagle that stirs up its nest
and hovers over its young,
that spreads its wings to catch them
and carries them on its pinions."*



A US quarter has a picture of a bald eagle with outstretched wings. This is the emblem of the USA decided by Congress on June 20th 1782 because the eagle has long life, great strength and majestic looks. It represents FREEDOM. The same emblem is on a silver dollar and half a dollar. It is estimated that there are about 70,000 bald eagles in the world and half live in Alaska.

The **coat of arms of Germany** also features an eagle. It is one of the oldest state symbols of Europe and is one of the oldest insignia in the world. Moreover, its history as an emblem began even earlier. To the Germanic tribes, the eagle was the bird of the god Odin. In 1815, a German Confederation (*Bund*) of 39 loosely-united German states was founded on the territory of the former German empire. Until 1848, the confederation did not have a coat of arms of its own. The Federal Diet (*Bundestag*) meeting at Frankfurt am Main used a seal which carried the emblem, double-headed eagle.

The eagle was retained during the German Empire (1871-1918) and the Weimar Republic (1918-1933), albeit with variations in symbolic meaning and design.

When Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933, the Weimar eagle was retained until 1935, when it was replaced by the emblem of the Nazi Party. It showed a black eagle with a swastika at its centre. In 1950, the Federal Republic incorporated the Weimar eagle, which thenceforward was called the "federal eagle", into its coat of arms. The design by Tobias Schwab dates from 1926. Since the accession of East Germany in 1990, the Federal Eagle has been the state symbol of the reunified Germany.



Eagles live as long as 30 years. They fly at an altitude of more than 3000 meters at speeds of up to 50 km per hour.

In Isaiah 40:31 God's Word says,
*"But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles."*

Eagles have a wingspan of over 2 1/2 meters and have excellent eye sight. They see forward and to the side at the same time. The eagle's eye is almost as large as the human eye but a least 4 times as sharp of that of a person with perfect eyesight. They can identify a rabbit moving a mile away.

The Bible talks about the eagles nest in Deuteronomy 32. A typical nest of a bald eagle is 3 meters wide and weighs 2 tons.

God is compared to an eagle in Deuteronomy 32:11
*"The eagle hovers over its young,
that spreads its wings to catch them
and carries them on its pinions."*

An eagle lies from 1 to 3 eggs and the incubation period is about 35 days by both parents. The young leave the nest in 10 weeks. They are pushed out of the nest and for the first few times fall down but the eagle spreads its wings to catch them and carries it back to the nest.

This is a picture of God wanting you to fly instead of living as chickens. Let's read again Isaiah 40:31,
*"But those who hope in the LORD
will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles;
they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint.."*

It is interesting that in God's Word, God is compared to an eagle caring for its young and so indeed God does care for us day by day. He feeds us, protects us and saves us when we fall.

But those who trust in God are also compared to an eagle soaring on its wings with renewed strength and enjoying protection and freedom.

“They that hope in the Lord.” They that by faith rely upon Him and commit themselves to His guidance shall discover that God will not fail them.

“They shall renew their strength” as their work is renewed or changed. Strength to labor, strength to wrestle, strength to resist, strength to carry on. They shall soar upward towards God. Soar on wings like eagles, so strongly, so swiftly, so high and heavenward. They shall press forward and not retreat. They shall walk; they shall run, the way of God’s commandments in His Word.

The eagle has strong affection for its young and is feeding it and protecting it but then the day comes when it is time to fly. The eagle stirs the young ones out of the nest and is educating it to fly on its own. This is a process of pushing the young one out of the comforts of the nest and teaching that they must use their wings and learn to fly.

God wants us to fly like an eagle and not live on earth like chickens. It seems cruel at first to push the young one out of the nest but the eagle knows the process and is always ready to pick up its young when it falters. So God want us to fly on the wings of faith, live by faith and step out in faith to serve Him and enjoy the freedom in His service and go from strength to strength under His guidance and direction.