

# CHAPTER 4

## THE EAGLE - THE STRONG ONE

*Isaiah 40:31 – Those who trust in the Lord for help will find their strength renewed. They will rise on wings like eagles; they will run and not get weary; they will walk and not grow weak. (Good News Bible)*

On the horizon they could see a rocky outcrop of craggy cliffs. The dusty road climbed gradually, then suddenly. The three passengers craned their necks to peer upward at the rock formation, while Dad kept his eyes on the road. At the very top of the rocky cliff they saw a nest.

“What bird do you think that nest belongs to?” asked Samson. Now they were through the rocky outcrop and had a clear view of the open sky.

“Over there,” shouted Mum. “I think that’s your answer.”

Out the left, high in the sky they saw two eagles, gracefully gliding on the air currents.

“What do eagles eat?” asked Serena.

“They eat small creatures like lizards, snakes and mice,” explained Dad. “See the eagles circling around way up there? They are probably looking for something to eat. They have excellent vision and they can spot a lizard basking in the sun on a rock, even from way up in the sky.”

“What’s fishion?” asked Serena.

“Not fishion, Serena – vision. It means eyesight,” explained Mum.

“Can the eagle teach us any of those special lessons?” asked Samson.

Dad thought for a moment.

“Remember how we said that people can have special ‘eyes’ to see the meaning of things in the Bible? The Bible teaches us about vision. Apart from having good eye sight, vision can mean having a plan for

serving God. When God gives you the idea, you get very excited about it. Doing God's work can be such an exciting thing. People who have a vision to do God's work are very encouraging people. That means they are enthusiastic and happy. They don't walk around being dismal and gloomy. They think and plan for the exciting thing that God has for them to do."

"The Bible tells us that the eagle is a very strong bird. We know that it is a large, heavy bird. Take off requires lots of strength. But once in the sky, it takes advantage of the air currents, and glides majestically, quite unaware of its weight. The Bible tells us to be like the eagle – not to get weighed down by the problems of life, but to rise up above the problems, putting our trust in God. When we do this we don't get all grumpy thinking about our problems, but instead we will have the joy of the Lord, and give it away to others. We can encourage others to trust God when they have problems."

## EAGLE FACTS

- An eagle has long wings. Each wing has a set of large feathers, called primary feathers, which can be spread out to allow the air currents to flow through.
- An eagle learns to soar by using the warm air currents. It spreads its wings and tail feathers and lets the wind carry it higher and higher. Then it glides down to catch another air current. Soaring saves energy because it does not have to flap its wings as often.
- The beak is powerful, large and hooked for killing prey and carrying it back to its nest.
- The legs are large, strong and thick. The feet have long, sharp talons so that the eagle can grasp and kill its prey.
- The eagle lives alone or in pairs.
- Eagles eat medium sized mammals and smaller birds. They also feed on animals that are already dead.
- An eagle lays two eggs, but usually only one chick survives.

