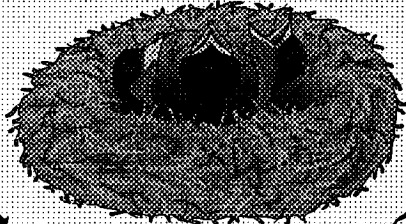
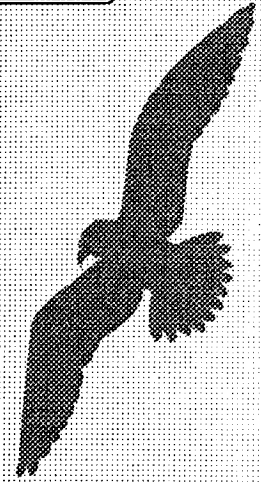


*'They shall  
mount up...*

# ON EAGLES' WINGS

*... with wings  
as eagles."  
Isaiah 40:31*



## AERY NUGGETS

Why those fears? Behold, 'tis Jesus  
Holds the helm and guides the ship;  
Spread the sails, and catch the breezes  
Sent to waft us through the deep  
To the regions  
Where the mourners cease to weep.

Though the shore we hope to land on  
Only by report is known,  
Yet we freely all abandon  
Led by that report alone,  
And with Jesus,  
Through the trackless deep move on.

Oh what pleasures there await us!  
There the tempests cease to roar;  
There it is that those who hate us  
Can molest our peace no more:  
Trouble ceases  
On that tranquil, happy shore.  
—T. Kelly

Dear Windblown,

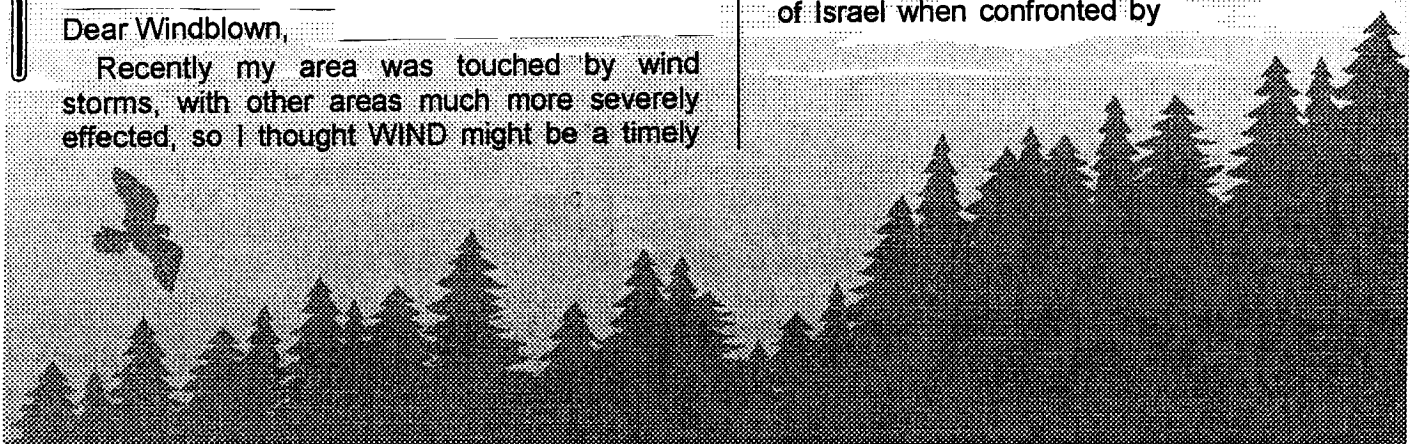
Recently my area was touched by wind storms, with other areas much more severely effected, so I thought WIND might be a timely

topic to consider. As we know, wind is but air moving with varying degrees of intensity, which can be invigorating, useful or desiructive. For centuries man has harnessed the wind to drive his ships through the waters, and, through the use of windmills, has pumped water and ground grain.

God too puts the wind to use in performing His purposes. When the flood had run its course, we read in Genesis 8:1, "And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged." After some passing of time, "Noah removed the covering of the ark, and looked, and behold the face of the ground was dry" (Gen.8:31).

After being enclosed for a year and ten days in the ark, what a pleasant sight dry land must have been to the eyes. Noah's first response, after leaving the means of his family's preservation, was to build an altar and offer burnt offerings. How good it is for us, having been delivered from some difficult circumstance, to praise God for His care over us.

A windy deliverance was experienced by the children of Israel when confronted by



the Red Sea before and the Egyptian army behind. But no problem, "Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided" (Exodus 14:21). What a way of escape! The Lord is no less powerful and full of surprises now than He was then.

Sometimes, as in the case of Jonah fleeing from the presence of the Lord, our faithful Creator might use seeming providence to redirect our steps. "But the LORD sent out a great wind into the sea, and there was a mighty tempest in the sea, so that the ship was like to be broken" (Jonah 1:4). But once the wayward messenger was stopped in his retreat, provision was made for his deliverance, "and the sea ceased from her raging" (Jonah 1:15). Though our loving Father would not take pleasure in forcing us to do His will, at the same time He may use measures to direct our steps in a path that will result in blessing for ourselves, and others.

The Galatians (6:7) were warned, "Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Hosea recorded these solemn words (8:7), which Jehovah spoke concerning Israel's sinful departure from Himself, "For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind" What a whirlwind will be reaped by those who die in their sins, and spend a lost eternity in hell.

Who could the prophet Isaiah be speaking of, but the Lord Jesus, when using the words, "A man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land" (32:2). What an all sufficient resource, God, Who so loved the world, provided when He sent His Son to seek and save that which was lost. Has He found you?

Agur, in his search for knowledge and understanding, asked, "Who hath gathered the wind in his fists" (Proverbs 30:4:)? We find the answer in Psalms 135:7, "He (Jehovah) bringeth the wind out of his treasures." Dispensing the wind is a job no man is equal to, but passing through God's hands, we can have perfect confidence that He is in control, and coming from His treasures gives the sense that it has value and will not be needlessly spent.

Though the Manager might say to the wind, "Come from the four winds" (Ezekiel 37:9), and it is His prerogative to use from what ever direction He chooses. the Psalmist says, "Thou breakest the ships of Tarshish with an east wind" (48:7). Other acts of judgment were also carried out by the east

wind. Could we entertain the thought that, with judgment coming from the rising of the sun, it would in type give a measure of light as to God's thoughts on the ways of His people?

The bride pleads, "Awake, O north wind; and come, thou south; blow upon my garden, that the spices thereof may flow out. Let my beloved come into his garden, and eat his pleasant fruits" (Song of Solomon 4:16). Here, the Bride is willing to accept conditions which might be adverse as well as those gentle, to produce pleasant fruit pleasing to her lover. We too have similar truth set before us in the words, "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God" (Romans 8:28).

Though wind can not be seen, its effect can be felt and heard. Jesus used it to describe 'new birth' when he told Nicodemus, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit" (John 3:8). Our 'new birth' is not by the will of man, but of God, and though it can not be seen, its effects can be felt.

With the world, 'seeing is believing', and so the Lord, in speaking of the Spirit of truth said, "Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him" (John 14:17); but for those looking for His coming on the day of Pentecost, "Suddenly there came a sound as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting ... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:2,4). In this case the wind would speak of His sovereign, and unpredictable, working.

As the wind can shake a reed (Matthew 11:7), so the Lord ascending on high gave gifts, for the perfecting of the saints, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about by every wind of doctrine" (Ephesians 4:14).

Trusting these thoughts and Scriptures will give food for meditation, especially the next time the 'WIND' blows, regardless of its direction.

Yours in that blessed hope,

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