

## We Are Treasured

### Description

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Exodus 19:1-13

In J.R.R. Tolkien's epics of *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings*, eagles occasionally play a role in saving characters when nearly all help is lost. Perhaps Tolkien had Exodus 19:4 in mind when he was writing. In this passage, God reminds the Israelites of the ways they have been rescued.

Has God rescued you when you felt lost? God cares for us in big and small ways. In Exodus 19, the Israelites' deliverance at God's hand is only the beginning. God goes on to describe the ways the Israelites will be cared for as a "treasured possession" (v. 5). God does not intend to save people only to leave them on their own. This is where the analogy between Exodus and the eagles in Tolkien's work ends. Once they have completed the rescue mission, the eagles fly home. God is making a long-term commitment to care for the people of Israel. Similarly, when we say yes to Jesus' love and forgiveness, this is only the beginning of our journey to walk with a God who treasures us.

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