



World Christian Fellowship

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Right Hand of God

I had often wondered why the right hand is mentioned in this verse. What is the relevance of it?

Why not the left hand?

The two words “right” and “hand” together are mentioned at least 132 times in the Holy Bible. These verses show us four different purposes/meanings for the “right hand.”

1. In some verses, it is literally used as the right hand or the right side of the body.

Genesis 48:18, *And Joseph said to his father, “Not so, my father, for this one is the firstborn; put your right hand on his head.”*

2. It is also referred to as a direction. Typically, the right hand refers to the South. The left hand refers to the North.

Numbers 22:26, *Then the Angel of the Lord went further, and stood in a narrow place where there was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.*

3. Another meaning is a location of honour.

Hebrews 12:2, *looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

4. The last meaning refers to giving help/strength where needed.

Psalms 18:35, *You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great.*

In ancient times, a person with high or highest rank stood to the king's right side. Even today, a person may be called someone's "right hand man" or "wingman" when he or she serves as the closest person to another leader.

An example:

Genesis 48:13-14, *And Joseph took them both, Ephraim with his right hand toward Israel's left hand, and Manasseh with his left hand toward Israel's right hand, and brought them near him. ¹⁴Then Israel stretched out his right hand and laid it on Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand on Manasseh's head, guiding his hands knowingly, for Manasseh was the firstborn.*

Jacob blessed the child who would receive a greater blessing with his right hand. The right hand of God likewise relates to

this concept of someone being right next to God, acknowledging both authority and closeness to Him.

While God the Father does not consist of a physical body like humans do, the right hand of God is often used figuratively in Scripture.

In the Old Testament, the phrase is used to refer to the coming Messiah.

Psalm 110:1, *The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."*

*(Quoted in **Matthew 22:44**)*

Psalm 118:16, *The right hand of the Lord is exalted; The right hand of the Lord does valiantly.*

In the New Testament, we find additional expressions of this phrase in reference to Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:20-21, *which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.*

Romans 8:34, *Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.*

In fact, many times the New Testament writers use "the right hand of God" to express where Jesus is now.

Mark 16:19, *So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.*

Acts 2:33, *Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.*

The first martyr Stephen was said to have looked into the sky and saw Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

Acts 7:55, *But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,*

Colossians 3:1, *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.*

Hebrews 10:12-13, *But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of*

God, ¹³from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

1 Peter 3:21-22, *There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having been made subject to Him.*

The right hand of God, therefore, is a reference to both a place of proximity to God the Father and a position of power above all other powers. Jesus the Messiah exists at this right hand of God today, perfectly reigning with God the Father and God the Spirit in community and power.