



# World Christian Fellowship

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## Hand of God

**What about 'the hand of God'?**

**What does that mean?**

Many would think of the moment when Diego Maradona, in the 1986 World Cup, scored for Argentina against England with a decisive, illegal, but unpenalised, hand ball. It became known as the 'hand of God goal'. In the Bible, 'the hand of God' means something far more profound. In the passages for today we see beautiful truths about God, which are conveyed to us through the metaphor of 'the hand of God'.

The Hand of the Lord:

1. Mighty
2. Dangerous and deadly against His enemies
3. Empowers His servants
4. Heavy to discipline His people
5. Help His people
6. Always be with His people today.

This study grew out of a desire to better understand the hand of the Lord.

**Acts 11:21**, *And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.*

The Bible often talks about the Hand of the Lord.

In the KJV, the phrase "hand of the Lord" is found 39 times, 36 times in the Old Testament, and 3 in the New Testament.

The phrase "Hand of God" is found 16 times in the Bible, 7 times in the Old Testament and 9 times in the New Testament.

## **1. Mighty**

This truth may seem too obvious to mention, but the Lord wants everyone to know that His Hand is mighty.

God made this clear when Joshua was leading the Children of Israel, and the Lord miraculously dried up the Jordan River for His people to cross over into the Promised Land.

**Joshua 4:20-24**,

The Hand of the Lord is mighty! The Book of Job stresses that God's Hand was mighty enough for creation.

**Job 12:7-10,**

The Hand of the Lord is mighty!

**Proverbs 21:1,**

**1 Peter 5:6-7,**

## **2. Dangerous and deadly against His enemies**

The very first time we see this "Hand of the Lord" phrase in God's Word, it's in connection with the judgment God was going to pour out on Egypt.

**Exodus 9:1-4,**

The Hand of the Lord is dangerous and deadly to His enemies.

**1 Samuel 5:1-7,**

The Hand of the Lord is dangerous and deadly to His enemies.

**Psalm 75:5-8,** *Do not lift up your horn on high; Do not speak with a stiff neck.' "*<sup>6</sup>*For exaltation comes neither from the east Nor from the west nor from the south.* <sup>7</sup>*But God is the Judge: He puts down one, And exalts another.* <sup>8</sup>*For in the hand of the Lord there is a cup, And the wine is red; It is fully mixed, and He pours it out; Surely its dregs shall all the wicked of the earth Drain and drink down.*

When the Hand of the Lord is against you, you are in extreme danger. When the Hand of the Lord is against you, nothing and no one on earth can help you. And the Hand of the Lord is against His enemies, unless they turn to the Lord and receive Him.

### **3. Empowers His servants**

The Hand of the Lord gave Elijah the strength to run before Ahab's chariot a distance from 16 to 20 miles!

**1 Kings 18:44-46,**

The Hand of the Lord is mentioned 7 times in the Book of Ezekiel. There God's Hand empowered Ezekiel to go places and see things he never could have seen without the Hand of the Lord upon him in a miraculous way.

**(Ezekiel 1:3; 3:12-14; 3:22; 8:1-3; 33:22; 37:1-3; &40:1-2)**

### **4. Heavy to discipline His people**

There were times when King David felt the heavy hand of God's discipline in his life. In Psalm 38, David prayed a desperate yet hopeful prayer to the Lord.

**Psalms 38:1-3,**

David looks back at the discipline of God in Psalms 32.

**Psalms 32:1-5,**

### **5. Help His people**

Ezra was certainly helped by the Hand of the Lord.

**Ezra 7:6-9,**

**Ezra 7:27-28,**

The Hand of the Lord will surely help His people! King David gave us this strong assurance.

**Psalms 37:23-24,**

**Psalms 145:16,**

This metaphor of the extraordinary generosity of God, who opens his hand to us to satisfy our desires, comes in the middle of a section of the psalm that describes God's great love and faithfulness to us.

### **6. Always be with His people today.**

**Acts 11:19-21,** *Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only.<sup>20</sup> But some of them were men from Cyprus*

*and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. <sup>21</sup> And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.*

The Hand of the Lord was surely with the Christians.

### **But is the Hand of the Lord with us today?**

Sometimes we might be tempted to doubt it, maybe because we don't see a great number turning to the Lord, or maybe because we are going through a terrible hardship.

### **Conclusion:**

#### **The hand of God writes your name in the book of life**

What an amazing privilege to have God's hand write your name in 'the book of life' belonging to Jesus.

**Revelation 13:8**, *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.*

Many times, we read of Jesus healing through laying his hands, on sick people, or even just touching them with his hands (Mark 6:5; 8:23).

At other times, he put his hands on the people to bless them (Mark 10:16).

He told his disciples that their hands would be used to heal the sick (Mark 16:18).

Indeed, people were healed through the laying on of their hands (Acts 8:17–18). Others were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17; 19:6)

Received gifts through the laying on of hands (2 Timothy 1:6).