

Hand of the Lord

Points to Consider

1. The hand of the Lord Creates
2. The hand of the Lord Provides and Protects
3. Examples

The Hand of the Lord Creates

Ps 19:1 *The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.* NIV

Ps 95:3-7 *For the Lord is the great God, And the great King above all gods. 4 In His hand are the deep places of the earth; The heights of the hills are His also. 5 The sea is His, for He made it; And His hands formed the dry land. 6 Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. 7 For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand.* NKJV

The deep places of the earth are in God's hands. He formed dry land with His hands. Our response is to **worship** the one whose hand made all things.

Isa 48:12-13 *Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am he; I am the first, and I am the last. 13 My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.* ESV

God says His **hand** laid the foundation of the earth and his right hand spread out the heavens. When something is handmade it communicates an **intimate** connection between the creator and the created.

Isa 64:8 *But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand.* NKJV

Not only has God made us, He continues to mold us and shape us into vessels for **His** honor.

The Hand of the Lord Provides and Protects

Ps 138:7-8 *Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You will revive me; You will stretch out Your hand Against the wrath of my enemies, And Your right hand will save me. 8 The Lord will perfect that which concerns me; Your mercy, O Lord, endures forever; Do not forsake the works of Your hands.* NKJV

David was confident that the Lord's hand would be against his enemies while His right hand would **save** him.

Dan 5:22-24 *But you his son, Belshazzar, have not humbled your heart, although you knew all this. 23 And you have lifted yourself up against the Lord of heaven. They have brought the vessels of His house before you, and you and your lords, your wives and your concubines, have drunk wine from them. And you have praised the gods of silver and gold, bronze and iron, wood and stone, which do not see or hear or know; and the God who holds your breath in His hand and owns all your ways, you have not glorified.* NKJV

Belshazzar did not learn this important lesson from the **story** of his father that is recorded in Daniel 2. Even though we have heard all the stories of God creating, providing for, and protecting us, we sometimes forget to **live** in His hands. Some people want to take matters into their own hands. Others want to put their life in the hands of mere men. As a result of not living in God's hands, we don't live up to our God-given **potential**.

Examples

Ex 2:11-15 *Now it came to pass in those days, when Moses was grown, that he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens. And he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren. 12 So he looked this way and that way, and when he saw no one, he killed the Egyptian and hid him in the sand. 13 And when he went out the second day, behold, two Hebrew men were fighting, and he said to the one who did the wrong, "Why are you striking your companion?" 14 Then he said, "Who made you a prince and a judge over us? Do you intend to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" So Moses feared and said, "Surely this thing is known!" 15 When Pharaoh heard of this matter, he sought to kill Moses. But Moses fled from the face of Pharaoh and dwelt in the land of Midian; and he sat down by a well. NKJV*

When Moses took matters into his own hands, he became a **fugitive** who Pharaoh sought to kill.

Ex 3:9-10 *Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. 10 Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." NKJV*

Moses offered several **excuses** to why he didn't believe God's hand should use him as an instrument to deliver the Israelites.

Num 14:39-45 *Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly. 40 And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Here we are, and we will go up to the place which the Lord has promised, for we have sinned!" 41 And Moses said, "Now why do you transgress the command of the Lord? For this will not succeed. 42 Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the Lord is not among you. 43 For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the Lord, the Lord will not be with you." 44 But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop. Nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the Lord nor Moses departed from the camp. 45 Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah. NKJV*

The children of Israel took matters into their **own** hands and tried to take the Promised Land without God's help. It did not work!

Deut 26:6-10 *But the Egyptians mistreated us, afflicted us, and laid hard bondage on us. 7 Then we cried out to the Lord God of our fathers, and the Lord heard our voice and looked on our affliction and our labor and our oppression. 8 So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and with an outstretched arm, with great terror and with signs and wonders. 9 He has brought us to this place and has given us this land, "a land flowing with milk and honey"; 10 and now, behold, I have brought the firstfruits of the land which you, O Lord, have given me.' NKJV*

Moses' life was a **journey** where he learned the importance of trusting in God's mighty hand. The rich fool trusted in **himself** (Luke 12:13-21), while the rich young ruler trusted in his **riches** (Luke 18:18-23).

1 Sam 13:7-10 *As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. 8 Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. 9 So Saul said, "Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me." And he offered the burnt offering. 10 Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. NKJV*

Saul took matters into his **own** hands and offered sacrifices he had no right to offer.

1 Sam 13:13-14 *And Samuel said to Saul, "You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the Lord your God, which He commanded you. For now the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14 But now your kingdom shall not continue. The Lord has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the Lord has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you." NKJV*

As a result of Saul taking matters into his own hands, God took the **kingdom** out of his hands and gave it to a man after His own heart.

2 Chron 14:11-13 *And Asa cried out to the Lord his God, and said, "Lord, it is nothing for You to help, whether with many or with those who have no power; help us, O Lord our God, for we rest on You, and in Your name we go against this multitude. O Lord, You are our God; do not let man prevail against You!" 12 So the Lord struck the Ethiopians before Asa and Judah, and the Ethiopians fled. NKJV*

When Asa trusted in the hand of God for deliverance, God **saved** him.

2 Chron 16:1-2 *In the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa, Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah, that he might let none go out or come in to Asa king of Judah. 2 Then Asa brought silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the Lord and of the king's house, and sent to Ben-Hadad king of Syria... NKJV*

When Asa trusted in others, he enjoyed **temporary** peace but long-term war.

Ps 31:14-16 *But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, "You are my God." 15 My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, And from those who persecute me. 16 Make Your face shine upon Your servant; Save me for Your mercies' sake. NKJV*

David trusted in the Lord and knew the **safest** place to be was in God's hands.

Ps 31:5 *Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth. NKJV*

Luke 23:44-46 *Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. 45 Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. 46 And when Jesus had cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, 'into Your hands I commit My spirit.'" Having said this, He breathed His last. NKJV*

David and Jesus both **committed** their lives to God's hands.

John 10:27-30 *My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. 30 I and My Father are one." NKJV*

There is safety and protection in the Father's hand.

Practical Application

1. Are you the type of person who tends to take the bull by the horns and trust in yourself? What's that going to look like on judgment day?
2. Are you the type of person who likes to take a step back and trust other people? What's that going to look like on judgment day?
3. Every person and every group of the Lord's people must ask themselves if they are in the hands of the one whose hands were nailed to the cross.