

Living Under the Mighty Hand of God

Joshua 4:24: *that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”*

Here’s what God says: He wants all the peoples of the earth (us included, here in Australia this morning) to know His hand and that His hand is **mighty!** He wants us to have a revelation of that today. That is the kind of revelation that will feed our faith and energise our prayers!

1. The hand of the Lord

²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.”

- a) The context of this passage is Israel’s crossing of the Jordan river after 40 years in the desert. God did an amazing miracle: at a time of flood, when the Jordan river was overflowing all its banks, Israel crossed over on dry land. God parted the Red Sea with Moses and here he parted the Jordan river with Joshua. That is what the hand of the Lord can do.
- b) Joshua also told the people to bring 12 stones to stand as a memorial of that great act of God’s hand. Once submerged in the depths of the river, those stones became symbolic of the old life they were saved from and the new life in God they were to embrace.

This miracle happened to reveal what the hand of God can do!

The expression ‘*the hand of the Lord*’ is used 39 times in the Bible. It is normally used to refer to some visible expression of God’s power.

2. God wants us to know what it means to live ‘under the mighty hand of God’.

The ‘hand of the Lord’ is often associated with the impartation of blessing or symbolic of His supernatural assistance.

- a) In the book of Ezekiel, it is associated with **vision and guidance** (in at least 5 passages)

Ezekiel 37:1 - *The hand of the Lord came upon me and brought me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley; and it was full of bones.*

- b) In Acts of the Apostles, it is associated with **healing, signs, and wonders**

Acts 4:30 – *“by stretching out your hand to heal and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of your holy servant Jesus”.*

c) In Ezra, it is associated with **encouragement**

Ezra 7:28 - "So, I was encouraged, as the hand of the Lord my God was upon me"

d) In the life of Elijah, the hand of the Lord is associated with supernatural **strength and endurance.**

1 Kings 18:46 AMP (Amplified Bible) - ⁴⁶Then the hand of the Lord came upon Elijah [giving him supernatural strength]. He girded up his loins and outran Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel [nearly twenty miles].

e) In the gospel of John it is associated with **salvation and protection**

John 10:27-29 - ²⁷My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. ²⁸And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. ²⁹My 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.

Isaiah 49:16 - See, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me.

The word for *inscribed* in Hebrew is *chaqaq* which means 'to cut in', 'to make an incision', to 'engrave'. God is saying, I cannot forget you, I constantly recollect you – your name, your life and your circumstances are at my fingertips.

The pierced hands of Jesus bear the marks of all whom He bought by His blood. We are always before Him.

Among other things, to live under the mighty hand of God means to live a life...

- helped by God
- led by Him - having a vision from God, to experience his guidance, like Ezekiel,
- To see His hand stretched to heal and for signs and wonders, like with Peter
- To have supernatural physical energy, like Elijah
- To receive encouragement, like Ezra
- To be in the hand of God, inscribed in His hands - as deep as the scars in Jesus' hands.

3. The hand of the Lord is mighty

²⁴that all the peoples of the earth may **know the hand of the Lord, that it is mighty**, that you may fear the Lord your God forever."

To know the hand of the Lord... that it is mighty! It is not a weak, feeble hand, but mighty! **Isaiah 59:1** says that *the hand of the Lord is not shortened that it can't save!*

It can save, it can deliver, it can heal – it is a mighty hand!

The revelation of the mighty hand of God is such fuel to our faith! Once you get hold of that revelation you start praying some high-octane prayers, dynamic and powerful!

The prophet Habakkuk had a revelation of the power of God's hand:

Habakkuk 3:4 - *His brightness was like the light; He had rays flashing from His hand, and there His power was hidden.*

a) The hand of the Lord is *mighty* – *Gibbor* in Hebrew.

Gibbor means *possessing great and impressive power or strength*, and the word can be translated also as *courage, being a warrior* or simply a '*hero*'. The hand of the Lord is mighty! – it is capable to impressive deeds and courage like heroes do.

God Himself is called El-Gibbor (God of power, God our Hero, God our warrior). Isaiah 9:6 says that Jesus would be called "mighty God" – El Gibbor.

b) A mighty hand and an outstretched arm

Throughout Exodus and Deuteronomy, we read about God's *mighty hand and outstretched arm*:

Deuteronomy 4:34 - *³⁴Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?*

Conclusion

God wants us to know His hand and that His hand is mighty! He wants you and I to know that, not just intellectually, but experientially.

1 Peter 5:6-7 - *⁶Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, ⁷casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*