

The Hand of God

Psalm 143:5-6

Fairview Memorial MBC, January 10, 2019

Introduction

Tonight, the subject that has been assigned to me by the committee is **"The Hand of God."** Whenever we begin to discuss the hand, arms, face, ear or other body parts as descriptions of God, we must understand that these descriptions are not to be taken literally. God is Spirit (John 4:24), and these figures of speech known as anthropomorphisms are used to describe God as if he had human features. The Bible is filled with these examples.

- **His fingers-** Psalms 8:3
- **His hand and ear-** Isaiah 59:1
- **His right hand and arm-** Psalms 98:1
- **His eyes-** 2 Chronicles 16:9
- **His back-** Isaiah 38:17

For the purpose of this Bible study, our focus is **"The Hand of God."** We are going to turn to Psalm 143 for our text as we gain an understanding of The Hand of God. We will consider **1) David Muses on the Works of God's Hands 2) David Stretches Out His Hands to God.**

David Muses on the Works of God's Hands

- **David prays**
 - Hear my prayer, O LORD
 - Give ear (anthropomorphism) to my pleas (supplications for favor) for mercy!
 - in thy faithfulness (honesty, steadfastness, trustworthiness) answer (respond to) me, and in thy righteousness.
 - Enter not into judgement with your servant (2)
 - In your sight shall not living man be justified—no man is righteous before God.
 - The enemy (someone hostile) has pursued (chased, followed after, persecuted) my soul.
- **David ponders**
 - I remember (recollect, bring to mind, mention) the days of old
 - I meditate on all thy works (all you have done)
 - I muse on the work of thy hands. (The LORD's)- muse- deep thought; think closely, study in silence- Webster's 1828
 - David defines for us the meaning of the Hand of God (1 Chronicles 29:10-12) v. 12
 - Therefore, the hand of God is an idiom referring to the supreme and almighty power and authority of God¹
 - We want to muse with David on the subject of the Hand of God.
- **#1 The Hand of God is Powerful and Big**
 - He is as a strong man that laid the foundation of the earth- Psalms 102:25
 - He holds the earth in His hands- Psalms 95:4
 - He formed and fashioned the heavens and the earth- Psalms 8:3
 - He gathers the winds in his fists? Proverbs 30:4
 - He is the potter and we are the clay- Isaiah 64:8
 - He knit us together in our mother's wombs- Psalms 139:15
 - He made the heavens and will one day fold up creation like an old garment- Upholder- Hebrews 1:10
 - He opens his hand and satisfies the desire of every living thing- Psalms 145:15, Numbers 11:23, Matt. 14:21
- **#2 The Hand of God is Providential and Guiding (Protecting)**
 - The book of Esther- His name is not mentioned, but we can see the hand of God humbling the proud and exalting the humble.
 - David could speak of suffering in human history. Job believed blessing and suffering came from the hand of God- Job 2:10
 - David could speak of Israel's history.
 - **Abraham, Isaac, Jacob-** dwellers in tents in Canaan and into Egypt.
 - **Joseph-** Genesis 49:22-24
 - **Moses and the redemption from Israel-** Ex. 7:5, 15:6; Hebrew 8:9
 - **The Hand of God wrote the Law of God-** Exodus 31:18
 - **The Hand of God veiled the glory of God before Moses-** Exodus 33:22-23
 - **The Hand of God would direct the history of Israel and of the world for the fulfillment of His purposes.** Some of the greatest moments would be seen when the Hand of God could be seen in the baby's fingers in the manger in Bethlehem, would be used to build things as a carpenter, would be extended in mercy towards

¹ Newell, J. (2003). Hand. In C. Brand, C. Draper, A. England, S. Bond, E. R. Clendenen, & T. C. Butler (Eds.), *Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary* (p. 711). Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers.

lepers, to sick, the blind, demoniacs, and others to heal. These hands would be outstretched and nailed to the cross and He would commit Himself into the hands of His father. After the resurrection, He would comfort the disciples before His Ascension to the right hand of God the Father.

- David could speak of his personal history.
 - **His life had been directed by God-** 2 Samuel 7:8
 - **His time on earth was in the hand of God-David-** Psalms 31:15
 - **His life was sustained by God's hand-Ps.** 63:8
- **#3 The Hand of God punishes the wicked- He will destroy His enemies.**
 - God is the Divine Warrior and His hand strikes the jaw of His enemies and breaks the teeth of the ungodly- Ps 3:7
 - God is the Divine Warrior who sharpens his sword and bends His bow toward His enemies. Psalms 7:12
 - God is the Divine Warrior and his hand will find out and destroy all His enemies- Psalms 21:8 -9
 - God is the Divine Warrior who will snatch the wicked, tear them from their tent, and root them out of the land of the living- Psalms 52:5
 - God will vindicate His name among His enemies and be glorified in His saints- No one will escape His powerful hand. Isaiah 43:13
 - **His Son was delivered or betrayed into the hands of sinful men-** Luke 24:7, Mark 14:41
 - **The lost, enemies of God, will fall into his hands-** Heb. 10:31
 - **The wicked, those on left hand, will be cast into everlasting fire in outer darkness.** Matthew 25:30, 41
- **#4 The Hand of God is Precious and Personal (Sovereign, Scarred, Saving)**
 - David saw His Lord standing at the right hand of the LORD.
 - **The Priest-King-** Psalms 110:1-2
 - **The hands that had the scars of redemption-** John 20:25
 - **Pendleton's Christian Doctrines-** Jesus is the only one qualified to have one hand on the heavenly throne and one hand extended towards sinners. – Bro. Jeremy Collins quote J.M. Pendleton
 - Isaiah said the LORD's hand can reach way down to save (Israel or a seeking sinner)- Isaiah 59:1
 - **The Hand of God has saved me. (He Touched Me)-**Is 49:16
 - **The Hand of God is guiding me.**
 - **The Hand of God has brought correction and repentance in my life.** Psalms 32:4; 38:2
 - **The Hand of God has carried me in the ministry.** Rev. 1:20
 - **The Hand of God is securing me today.** John 10:27-29
 - **The Hand of God is with the church.** Acts 11:21
 - **The Hand of God has built us an eternal home-**2 Cor. 5:1
 - **The Hand of God will wipe away all tears from my eyes.** Revelation 21:4
 - **The Right Hand of God will provide pleasures forevermore- place of honor, privilege, blessing.** Ps 16:8-11

David Stretches Out His Hands to God (6)

- **I stretch out my hands to you.** Psalms 63:4, 1 Timothy 2:7-8
 - Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on High-
 - **My Savior and Heavenly Father are on the throne-**Heb. 1:1-3, 10:12, Mk 16:19, Acts 2:33, Stood up- Acts 7:55
- **My soul thirsts after You, as a thirsty land. Selah.**
 - The thirsty soul- Psalms 42:2
 - Thirsty land- dried, cracked land languishing and yearning for rain to refresh, moisten, and saturate in abundance.
 - We need to cleanse our hands (our lifestyles)- James 4:8
 - We need to use our hands to work and be able to give- Ephesians 4:28
 - Let us enjoy the right hand of Christian fellowship- Galatians 2:9
 - We should be satisfied to be His hands in this world.

Application

1. **We must humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. He will humble all those who fail to humble themselves.**
2. **We can sing about the Hand of God and find joy at all times.** See how much David sang about God's hand in the Psalms
 - a. 1) He's Got the Whole World in His Hands 2) He Touched Me 3) There is an Unseen Hand of God 4) Hand in Hand with Jesus 5) Hold to His Hand to God's Unchanging Hand 5) He Leadeth Me oh Blessed Thought 6) Safe in the arms of God
3. **We can renew our mind and muse about the Hand of God and find strength and deliverance on the darkest of days.**
4. **We can know that His mighty hand will put down evil once and for all.** Psalms 2:9
5. **We can reach up to God in dependence on Him in praise and prayer.**
6. **We can know we are safe and secure in the Hand of God.** John 10:28-30
7. **We can know He will lead us through suffering and death all the way home.**