

The Right Hand of God

In our study about “**the right hand of God**”, we first want to establish a few Biblical facts about God. The Scripture tells us that God is a Spirit and this Spirit is invisible. (**John 4:24, 1 Timothy 1:17, Hebrews 11:27**) The Scripture also tells us that Jesus is the image of the invisible God. (**Colossians 1:13-15**) The Bible states very clearly that Jesus was, in fact, the invisible God manifest in the flesh. (**1 Timothy 3:16, John 1:1, 14, Hebrews 1:3**)

Another very important Biblical fact is that Old Testament Israel was a One God Nation. The whole religious belief system of the Israel of the Bible was built on the foundation of Monotheism or One God. (**Deuteronomy 6:4**) This belief separated the Nation of Israel from all the other nations which existed at that time.

The use of the word “**arm**” in the Old Testament was a very familiar expression to the Hebrew people in that day. The word “**arm**” used throughout the Old Testament denoted help, mighty power, and strength.

We can clearly see this illustrated in the following Scriptures: Exodus **6:6**, Psalms **89:13, 98:1**, Isaiah **51:5, 53:1, 62:8, 63:12**, Acts **13:17**. The people of God in the Bible times knew what the word “**arm**” denoted: the mighty power and strength of their One True God.

Now let’s look at the term “**right**” as it was used in the Bible. In Bible times, the weapons, such as a sword or spear, were carried in the right hand and were used to attack. The word “**hand**” meant “*by the help or agency of someone, by means of someone*”.

In other words, Jesus was God manifest in the flesh; Jesus was the right hand of God. The invisible God took on a robe of flesh to deliver us from the penalty of sin.

This expression “**right hand**” was also a very familiar term to the Hebrew people in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Let’s look at the following examples of this phrase throughout the Bible. In Exodus **15:6, 12**, we see this expression used to describe how God met His people and saved them from doom.

Psalms 17:7 refers to the way God saved His people from their enemies; by His **“right hand”**. David used this same expression to express how God was his leader and his sustainer in **Psalms 16:8**.

The following are just a few of the many Scriptures that use the expression **“right hand”**: **Psalms 44:3, 45:4, 48:10, 60:5, 63:8, 77:10, Isaiah 48:13**. All these references refer to how the mighty power of God delivered His people from some type of destruction.

It is extremely evident that the Bible uses this Hebrew expression, **“the right hand”** very often as a way to describe the deliverance that God brings to His people.

All of the Israelites of Jesus’ day knew this expression very well and the powerful implications that it carried. The High Priest, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, and even the common people all were familiar with this Hebrew expression **“the right hand”**.

Peter used this expression on the Day of Pentecost to explain to all those who had gathered around to witness the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When they asked the question, **“What meaneth this?”**, Peter did not hesitate to answer them. (**Acts 2:12, 32-33**)

The listeners that day knew that Peter was proclaiming that Jesus was the right hand of God or the power of God to bring salvation to His people. Jesus Himself proclaimed to the council in **Luke 22:69**: **“Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.”**

They knew what He meant and exactly what He was saying. They knew that He was claiming by the power of God to bring deliverance. He was claiming to be their Messiah. This infuriated them to the point that they were more determined than ever to crucify Him.

The expression **“sitting or standing on the right hand of God”** was an example of a well-known and widely- used Hebrew idiom. The word “idiom” is a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deducible from those individual words.

We have many modern idioms that we use and hear on a daily basis a few examples are: **“raining cats and dogs”**, **“under the weather”**, **“hit the ceiling”** etc.....

“Raining cats and dogs doesn’t literally mean cats and dogs are falling from the sky, nor does “under the weather” mean one is standing under the rain, nor does “hit the ceiling” mean one jumps up and strikes the ceiling.

Just like the ancient Hebrew idiom “***standing or sitting on the right hand of God***” does not mean that one is actually sitting or standing on a large hand that belongs to God. This expression is figurative rather than a fixed definite place.

The Hebrew idiom “***sitting or standing on the right hand of God***” simply meant the power of God to bring salvation to the world through obedience to the Gospel message.

In other words, Jesus, who the Bible tells us is God manifest in the flesh, is who God used to bring redemption to the world. The Bible tells us that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. **(2 Corinthians 5:18-19)**

In the Book of Acts, Stephen proclaimed, “***Behold, I see the heavens opened and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.***” **(Acts 7:56)**

When the Hebrew religious council heard Stephen boldly say these words, they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and cast him out of the city and stoned him.

They knew what Stephen was proclaiming about Jesus that he was, in fact, their Messiah, their Emmanuel, their Savior. Here are several other New Testament passages that use some form of this Hebrew idiom: **Acts 5:31, Romans 8:34, Eph. 1:20, Colossians 3:1, Hebrews 1:3, 8:1, 10:12, 12:2, 1 Peter 3:22.**

Conclusion

God said in **Isaiah 63:5**: “***... I looked, and there was none to help, and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me....***”.

God Himself took on a robe of flesh so He could be that spotless Lamb which would take away the sins of the world. **(Isaiah 43:11)**

God used that body to die on the cross to purchase our salvation. **(1 John 3:16)** It was by Jesus that God saved us. Jesus is the right hand of God. Jesus Christ is the power of God to bring deliverance to His people now and forevermore through obedience to the Gospel message.

Peter answered the question that was asked on the Day of Pentecost: ***“Men and brethren, what shall we do?”*** Without hesitation, Peter clearly stated, ***“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”*** (Acts 2:37-38)

This is the Gospel message. It takes both believing and obeying to bring salvation. **(Mark 16:16)**

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