



## **Bibles & Bows: He's got the Whole World in His Hands!**

May 7, 2024

It is not uncommon for us to think at times that the Lord has forgotten us. Where is the job for which I have been praying so long? Where is the godly spouse for whom I have been searching so long? There are numerous other instances where we can get discouraged at times and wonder if God has forgotten us. To answer whether God has actually ever forgotten us, let's look at His response to the complaint of Israel in Isaiah 49:14–16:

But Zion said, *“The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me.”*  
*“Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have graven thee on the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.”* Isaiah 49:14–16

In speaking of His care for us, God uses the image of a nursing mother. He asks, *“Can a woman forget her nursing child?”* And the immediate answer that one wants to give is, *“No, a nursing mother will not forget her nursing child!”* After all, the bond between an infant and her nursing mother is very strong. Physically and emotionally, a mother will be drawn to her nursing infant.

God is making the point that even if a mother were to forget her nursing child - something that is very unlikely to happen- He will not forget us, His people. God is absolutely committed to His children, and He will never ever forget a single one of them. God is perfect love, and He is absolutely faithful to His children.

But let's look closer at verse 16, God says, *“Behold, I have graven **THEE** upon the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me.”* The “walls” are a reference to the broken-down walls of Jerusalem while the Jews were in exile in Babylon. God is saying: *“I see your life; I know exactly what is going on in your life. I am fully aware of the challenges and the difficulties that you are facing, and I will not forget you.”*

If you want proof of God's love for you, then look at the hands of Jesus. If you believe in Jesus Christ and have trusted in His death on the cross for your salvation, then He has engraved you on the palms of His hands. Jesus will wear the wounds from the cross on His hands for all eternity. In Isaiah 53:5, God's Word says, *"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."* If you are ever wondering if God really loves you, then consider the pierced hands of Jesus; remember His death on the cross for you - - personally.

Jesus has already done the most important thing for you, and that is giving His life on the cross so that you can live.

C.H. Spurgeon, reminds us that *"These words apply, first of all, to God's ancient people, the Jews, but they these words are equally true of ALL believers."*

The phrase *"I have graven thee' does not say, thy name. Our name is there, but that is not all: I have graven THEE! See the fullness of this! I have graven thy person, thine image, thy case, thy circumstances, thy sins, thy temptations, thy weaknesses, thy wants, thy works; I have graven thee, everything about thee, all that concerns thee; I have put thee altogether there – in the shelter of my hand.*

*Wilt thou ever say again that thy God hath forsaken thee when he has graven thee upon His own palms?"*

These passages recap the promise of "having the situation well in hand. Here is security for time and eternity. The palm of the hand is a well-protected place and that hand can fold into a fist if threatened!

The Bible often speaks of God's hand, his right hand being a symbol of favor. Christians are told to humble themselves under God's power or mighty hand. The hand of Jehovah being upon one means that his power is exercised toward that one, either for good, blessing and protection, or for punishment and destruction, as the one may deserve.

### **Isaiah 41:10**

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

### **Psalms 136:12**

*"With a mighty hand and outstretched arm; His love endures forever."*

### **Isaiah 64:8**

*"Yet you, Lord, are our Father. We are the clay, you are the potter; we are all the work of your hand."*

**Job 12:10**

*“In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind.”*

**1 Peter 5:6**

*“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”*

**Habakkuk 3:4**

*“His splendor was like the sunrise; rays flashed from his hand, where his power was hidden.”*

**Psalm 95:5**

*“The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.”*

**Isaiah 48:13**

*“My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I summon them, they all stand up together.”*

**Mark 10:16**

And he took them up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them.

**Psalms 134:2**

Lift up your hands in the sanctuary, and bless the LORD

**Psalm 18:15**

*“Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous: ‘The Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!’”*

**Luke 23:46**

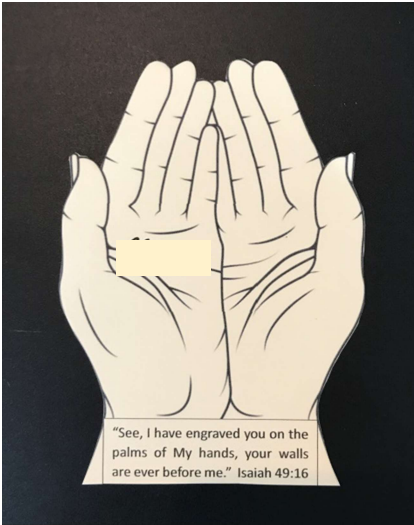
*“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into thy hands I commend My spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost.”*

**Acts 7:55**

But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into the heavens, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God!

“Behold, I have graven **THEE** upon the palms of my hands” –  
what love, what peace, what promise, what joy, what blessed assurance – that whatever we face today, tomorrow, next month, next year, for the future – I am graven on His palm – no fear, no worries, no doubts,

– I am shelter safe in the cleft of my God’s hands! As a Christian, what more do I need or what more could I desire?



*"See, I have engraved you on the palms of My hands, your walls are ever before me." Isaiah 49:16*

Everyone is struggling or dealing with something. Fold your hands and pray for those needs. Start with ten...make each prayer special.

