



### **God Has It All in His Hands (Including COVID)**

by Mark Taylor, Christian School and College/University Representative

As I reflect on all that has taken place during our experiences with COVID, I am reminded that God is in control of everything. He has not abandoned us, nor will He do so. Isaiah 49:15-16 promises: "I will not forget you. See, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands" (NIV).

I have thought many times about my father and his hands. He did so many incredible things with his hands. God used his hands in many ways. My dad was an exceptionally good carpenter; his hands were worn and calloused from the many years of toil. I wonder what Jesus' hands were like from His days as a carpenter. Before I review some of the scriptures regarding hands, I want to give you a few fun facts about the hands God has given us and how unique they are.

#### **Interesting Facts about Hands**

There are many interesting facts about human hands, such as the fact that fingers do not have muscles and it takes up to six months for a fingernail to grow from root to tip. You can find many more on the following website: <https://deserthandandpt.com/18-amazing-facts-about-human-hands/>. Hopefully, these facts have shed some more light on how our hands are so incredible! Who created these remarkable hands? God did!

#### **Hands in the Bible**

The Greek and Hebrew words that are translated as the English word "hand" appear approximately 1,800 times in the Bible. Of these occurrences, the literal sense is intended about 500 times and the figurative sense about 1,300 times.

### What did Jesus Do with His hands?

1. He blessed children with His hands. "Then people brought little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples rebuked them. Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these'" (Matthew 19:13-15, NIV).
2. All things are in His hands. "The Father loves the Son and has placed everything in his hands" (John 3:35, NIV).
3. He has created all things. "My own hand laid the foundations of the earth, and my right hand hath spread out the heavens; when I summon to them, they all stand up together" (Isaiah 48:13, NIV).
4. Jesus was a carpenter. "Coming to his hometown, [Jesus] began teaching the people in their synagogue, and they were amazed. 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these miraculous powers?'" they asked. 'Isn't this the carpenter's son? Isn't his mother's name Mary? Aren't his brothers James, Joseph, Simon, and Judas?'" (Matthew 13:54-55, NIV).
5. Jesus is a healer. "When Jesus came down from the mountainside, great crowds followed him. A man with leprosy knelt before him and said, 'Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.' Jesus reached out His hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!' Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy" (Matthew 8:1-3, NIV).
6. Jesus performed miracles with His hands. "When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. He touched her hand and the fever left her. And she got up and began to wait on him" (Matthew 8:14-15, NIV).
7. Jesus was a servant. "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you" (John 13:14-15, NIV).
8. Jesus was the final sacrifice for our sins, but He arose from the grave. "A week later [Jesus'] disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you!' then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe'" (John 20:26-27, NIV).

### Whose Hands

Recently a friend emailed me the poem "Whose Hands" (author unknown). Please allow me to share it with you.

*Hands!*

*A basketball in my hands is worth about \$19.*

*A basketball in Michael Jordan's hands is worth about \$33 million.*

*It depends on whose hand it's in.*

*A baseball in my hands is worth about \$6.*

*A baseball in Mark McGuire's hands is worth \$19 million.*

*It depends on whose hands it's in.*

*A tennis racket is useless in my hands.*

*A tennis racket in Venus William's hands is a championship winning.*

*It depends on whose hands it's in.*

*A rod in my hands will keep away a wild animal.*

*A rod in Moses' hands will part the mighty sea.*

*It depends on whose hands it's in.*

*A sling shot in my hands is a kid's toy.*

*A sling shot in David's hand is a mighty weapon.*

*It depends on whose hands it's in.*

*Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in my hands is a couple of fish sandwiches.*

*Two fish and 5 loaves of bread in God's hands will feed thousands.*

*It depends on whose hands it's in.*

I often think about all that God has done with His hands. His hands have guided us throughout history. God has been with us in the midst of a global pandemic, and He will continue to be with us always. I am confident that the song "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" written by Alan Livingston and made famous by singer Marian Anderson speaks to God's power over our lives. I have included the main verse with a few other suggested verses:

### **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**

"He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the whole wide world in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands

He's got the whole world in His hands."

He's got \_\_\_\_ (your school) in His hands

He's got \_\_\_\_ (your administrator) in His hands

He's got \_\_\_\_ (name of teachers or students) in His hands

He's got your teaching needs in His hands

He's got your financial needs in His hands

He's got COVID under control in His hands.

"He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the whole wide world in His hands.

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the whole world in His hands."

### **Remember that God Has and Had It All in His Hands, Including COVID!**

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