

Ezekiel 20:5-7

And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day when I chose Israel, and **lifted up mine hand** unto the seed of the house of Jacob, and made myself known unto them in the land of Egypt, when I **lifted up mine hand** unto them, saying, I *am* the LORD your God; In the day *that* I **lifted up mine hand** unto them, to bring them forth of the land of Egypt into a land that I had espied for them, flowing with milk and honey, which *is* the glory of all lands: Then said I unto them, Cast ye away every man the abominations of his eyes, and defile not yourselves with the idols of Egypt: I *am* the LORD your God.

In the scriptures Moses is told to take up the rod of God. In his obedience to God, Moses is to take up the Rod of God before Pharaoh. A true symbol of power in the hands of an ordinary man chosen to fulfill the plan of God. Moses was given very clear instructions by God to fulfill this event. It is very clear in our present walk with God as He has given us instructions to carry out the plan he puts before us. A true symbol of power is represented here. Not in ourselves but in Him that gives us the power.

Fulfillment of the battle would depend on Moses, for if Moses failed to hold up God's authority (*the staff by hand*) above the people as they fought the enemy they would not have God's help and they would lose the battle! Truly a lesson for the children of Israel to know that the power of strength comes through the mighty hand of God. Strength through their own hand would falter. Mankind has been the weaklink in the work of God. He doesn't fail, man does.

When we look at the practical side of things, we can see the honor in the position God gives us. Serving Him is something to hold in high esteem. The point of failure can always be directed back to us. God had taken away every excuse Moses had when the Lord called him to lead the children out of Bondage. God gave us a symbol when Moses went up to the Mount that shook because the presence of a Holy God was there. When it came to a point that Moses recognized God and his power, he climbed upon that mountain to see for himself. No doubt there was things in his mind that could not be sorted out. What would he see when he got close enough to the events taking place. Knowing of the stories he had heard that man was created in the image of God. What would he encounter?

When he got to that place of His presence, God bids him into His presence. Then God tells Moses to "take off his shoes for the ground upon which he stands is holy ground". There comes a time when in our lives we must take off every manmade barrier that will separate us from God. We must always preserve to move forward with, and for God. Realizing the power is not of ourselves but God's. Look what happens when we rely on our own strength. Moses is leading the children into the battle in the valley of Rephidim when Amalek attacks, He is tired, the people have murmured against him. He is weary and can no longer hold up the symbol of God's strength. Until others come in and hold him up, there is defeat.

Human weakness has to be dealt with. They came up with a plan to help Moses, help each other ... and to still honor the instructions of God to keep His authority held high! They simply plopped a rock under Moses for a chair ... and two of his faithful board members took one hand each on either side and helped hold up Moses' hands ... honoring the commands of God while still respecting God's called leader over them!

While God's providence guaranteed the victory ... their participation was required for the actual battle to be won!

God has chosen to work through man, whom He has created to spread the gospel to a lost and dying world. Things may appear foolish to us in the way God chooses to move. Here God chooses man to lift up or hold up a symbol of power. It is a pledge that He will provide a way for mankind when we lift or hold Him up.

The frequent use in the Bible of "*GOD'S HAND WAS UPON THEM*" simply meant this! It was a symbol of God's power and providence! In Genesis 14:22 Abraham raises his hand to pledge himself to God ... not to accept the gifts of a man – not even those of an earthly king, only to acknowledge God's ownership in his life! This is an absolute pledge that is not to be broken. Jesus tells us to let our promises be Yea and Amen..
A pledge symbol is a promise.

God also allows us to take that same pledge back to Him. by lifting our hands, we do so in submission to Him. We have pledged to God by an upraised hand our life

God in the Old Testament raised His hand in pledge to Israel ... He personally promised them His presence and power!

Jesus in the New Testament also raised His hands on Calvary in pledge to make His salvation a personal promise ... to each who will come to Him; He will in no wise cast any out!

The only thing for us to do is simply to recognize His presence, recognize His person, recognize His power, and His promise, and we are HIS!

Lifting up holy hands is a sign of both surrender and acknowledgement! The idea is not to be ashamed to surrender our life to God! It is an expression of praise of God's Lordship, like Abraham, we will not bow to the world, but lift him up in a Holy Praise. It is an expression of our submission to that Lordship!