

## THE TWO MARKS ON JESUS' PALMS

There are two cuttings or marks on the palms of the hands of the Lord Jesus Christ. The first mark is the nail prints that we inflicted upon the Lord collectively on the Cross at Golgotha. “Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing” (John 20:27). All of us are invited to examine this cut or piercing we inflicted upon the Lord. “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). The Lord has refused to erase these wounds or scars from his hands because they bear witness of his Godhead, the expiation of our sins, his resurrection, his return, and his immeasurable love for humanity. This is the wound or the marking we inflicted upon him, but there is another mark on the palms of his hands that he himself inscribed or cut into.

***Isaiah 49:16*** Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me.

The Hebrew word *ḥāqāq* is translated as “to cut in or on, cut upon, engrave, inscribe” according to James Strong. Look at the palms of your hands. They contain lines that do not communicate anything intelligible, but the palms of the Lord Jesus’ hands proudly display your name and mine. This is just incredible! Consider this mind-blowing fact: God’s word has been written upon animal skins, tree barks, papyri and various other materials, but, now, when the word was made flesh, God decided to write our names upon his own flesh. This is truly incomprehensible – who or what are we that God loves us so dearly that he cuts our names into his own flesh: his heavenly flesh! Can we just go on our knees and thank him for this amazing act of love. The greatest source of worry for the child of God is to be forgotten by God. I can only imagine the horror of those whose parents forget them due to dementia. “Who are you?” asks the parent, to which the heartbroken daughter or son replies, “I am your child.” Thankfully, the Lord Jesus has inscribed us into the palms of his hands – he never will forget us. Hallelujah! The wife of Job was convinced that God had forgotten and forsaken them, but Job refused to believe that his God had forgotten him. He held on dearly to this belief.

***Job 19:25*** For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:

***Job 19:26*** And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:

***Job 19:27*** *Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.*

How wonderful and comforting it is that the Lord Jesus always thinks about us! Brother, Sister, please understand what this means. Can a person forget his or her hand? No! The Lord has permanently etched us on his hand – and since the Lord lives forever, our memory lives with him forever. Have you been in trials and temptations where, like Job, you truly wondered whether the Lord forget you? Rest assured he has your name permanently inscribed in the palms of his hands. Not only did God remember Noah during the flood, but the rainbow proves God still remembers Noah – he will never his promises and his children. The moment we see a rainbow we remember Noah. It's as if God has inscribed the name of Noah in the expanse of the sky itself. "And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged" (Gen 8:1). In stating that he has graven us upon the palms of his hands the Lord I basically saying that just as his hands are a part of his own person, and he cannot forget himself, the Lord will never forget our names. Of all he created, there is nothing that cost the Lord more than we cost him. Therefore, it is impossible for him to forget us. He came in flesh for us, he submitted himself to the commands of humans that he created for 30 years for us, he suffered abuse and ridicule for us, and died for us. We are indeed his greatest possession and treasure.

***Isaiah 49:15*** *Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.*

Please consider this powerful truth: who s worthy to have their names inscribed on the body of God himself? No one! To have someone's name or mark on the body was a sign of ownership. Slaves in particular bore the names or insignia of their masters. "Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever" (Exodus 21:6). Imagine God marking his own heavenly body with our names! In doing this, he is confirming that the word was made flesh for us indeed – this body is God's gift for us. He is not satisfied to write our names in his book in heaven. He has made his body the book upon which our names have been permanently inscribed. What a contrast to Satan! Satan will force every human being to carry his name and his mark, but the Lord enters our names onto his body. There are no words to describe this – silence and prostration at the name of Jesus!

**Rev 13:16** *And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:*

**Rev 13:17** *And that no man might buy or sell, save he that had the mark, or the name of the beast, or the number of his name.*

God always numbers and names his people in his book, the Bible. In fact, the entire book of Numbers is about cataloguing every individual whom the Lord redeemed from Egypt. “Take ye the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, after their families, by the house of their fathers, with the number of their names, every male by their polls” (Numbers 1:12). Now, the Book of Numbers is recorded in the palms of the Lord’s hands. I have seen individuals tattoo the name of someone they love deeply on their arms, legs etc., but one day the worms will eat the names and their memories away. The body and the names will return to the dust. But the body of the Lord Jesus is not of this earth. The dust and worms could not touch it, and, now, our names are forever inscribed on his saving flesh. “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand” (John 10:27,28). Saints of God, is there a greater honor bestowed upon us than that God so loved us that he wrote our names upon his own body? Once we understand the above, the scripture below makes better sense. “And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him” (Mal 3:17). Imagine now Jesus stretching forth his hands to bless or heal someone – our names our displayed when he opens the palms of his hands. We are now and inseparable part of the blessings that flow from the hands of the Lord Jesus. Praise the name of Jesus! Let us determine to stay written and engraved in the palms of his hands forever!