WHAT IS THAT IN YOUR HAND?

James 4:14

*13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit"-*

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*14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*

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*15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that."*

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*16 As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.*

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*17 So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. (ESV)*

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Exodus 3:1-22

*1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.*

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*2 And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed.*

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*3 And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."*

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*4 When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am."*

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*5 Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground."*

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*6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.*

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*7 Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings,*

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*8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.*

*--*

*9 And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them.*

*--*

*10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."*

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*11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?"*

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*12 He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."*

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*13 Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?"*

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*14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"*

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*15 God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.*

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*16 Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt,*

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*17 and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey."'*

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*18 And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.'*

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*19 But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand.*

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*20 So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go.*

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*21 And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty,*

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*22 but each woman shall ask of her neighbor, and any woman who lives in her house, for silver and gold jewelry, and for clothing. You shall put them on your sons and on your daughters. So you shall plunder the Egyptians.*

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*"Our lives are evidence of our dependence on, or independence from Christ."*

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Exodus 4:1-5

*1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.*

*--*

*2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand? And he said, A rod.*

*--*

*3 And he said, Cast it on the ground. And he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from before it.*

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*4 And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand:*

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*5 That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee." (KJV)*

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The Hebrew word for "Rod" is "mat-teh": Definition: "a branch (as extending), a tribe (extended family) a tool for fighting/a weapon, a tool of correction, a scepter, a lance (for throwing), a walking staff, a support of life, bread..."

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Exodus 4:1-3

*1 And Moses answered and said, But, behold, they will not believe me, nor hearken unto my voice: for they will say, The LORD hath not appeared unto thee.*

*--*

*2 And the LORD said unto him, What is that in thine hand (dominion and power)? And he said, A rod.*

*--*

*3 And he said, Cast it on the ground." (KJV)*

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The Hebrew word for "hand": "yad" (yawd) Definition: "labor, pain and ministry..." but it also means "dominion, power and strength".

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Psalm 23:4

*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for though art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.*

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The word "rod" in this verse is defined very similarly as the word in Exodus 4:2, but if you look closely, you will notice that the Psalmist says, "Thy "rod" AND Thy "staff", they comfort me." Something that is very easily missed in many Scriptural passages is that the "rod" of the Lord is different from the "staff" of the Lord.

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The Hebrew word for "staff" is "mishenah" (mish-ay-naw). Definition: "support and sustenance".

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"We want happiness; God wants us to have joy,"

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"Happiness is circumstantial and temporal; Joy is internal and eternal."

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"Happiness is outside in. Joy is inside out."

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"Happiness is what we we pursue when our lives are in our own hands. Joy is self-evident when our lives are in God's hands."

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Matthew 5:1-12

*1 And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:*

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*2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying, 3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*--*

*4 Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

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*5 Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

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*6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

*--*

*7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

*--*

*8 Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

*--*

*9 Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

*--*

*10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

*--*

*11 Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

*--*

*12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you." (KJV)*

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The Greek word for "blessed" is "makarios". "a description of a Believer who is in the enviable position from receiving God's provision; favor which literally extend the benefits of His grace. This happens when receiving/obeying the inbirthings of faith."