

# "Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."

(Isaiah 49, verse 16)

## INFORMATION

God is speaking to his people in this verse. This verse is one of the most precious from the Bible because, here, we see the great love God has for his people. The preceding two verses read:

*"14 But Zion said, The Lord hath forsaken me, and my Lord hath forgotten me. 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."*

In verse 14, God's people cry that the Lord has forsaken them. God's response is not a simple, "no I have not forsaken you", but, rather, it is an endearing statement of love that illustrates how much better God's love is compared to men's love. If a woman has a newborn baby, will she forget about it, neglect it, or let it die? Sadly, we know that it does happen, but even among mankind, this is considered a heinous and terrible act. God confirms this sad fact, but then states, "I will not forget you." He is comparing his people to a precious baby, and that is how he thinks of them, precious and tender. But, God does not stop at his rebuttal, he moves on to tell us that he has done something permanent and inerasable; He has graven us on the palms of his hands. This makes us imagine literal carvings of our names upon his hands. Ask yourself, if you carve something in your hands, can you erase it? But, God does not stop there either. He tells us that our walls are continually before him. This means that everywhere He looks, He sees the walls of his people. These walls are not just small objects off in the distance, they are large and important to God, and forever in his sight.

## WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

When we are lonely or sad, we can find comfort that God cares; He is watching and is interested in us. When we feel like our lives just continue to take wrong turns, don't be discouraged. We are not forgotten or forsaken! When we are in need, PRAY to the one who is watching and listening and is able to answer. Also, remember that our names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life just as they are graven upon God's hands. We will not lose our salvation! We will not be forgotten!

# Relevant Passages

## **Job 1:10**

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

## **Psalms 139:5**

Thou hast beset me behind and before, and laid thine hand upon me.

## **Isaiah 41:10**

Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.

## **Isaiah 54:17**

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

## **2 Thessalonians 3:3**

But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

## **2 Timothy 4:18**

And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

## **2 Samuel 22:3-4**

The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. 4 I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.