

"THING IN YOUR HAND"

By Sylvan A. Lashley

"And the Lord said unto Joshua, 'stretch out the spear that is in thy hand toward Ai; for I will give it into thine hand'. And Joshua stretched out the spear that he had in his hand toward the city" (Joshua 8:18).

God is great; He champions our causes and protects His people everywhere in unusual and unknown ways. Bible writers have captured this greatness in figures of speech, such as synecdoche (pronounced syn·ec·do·che) where the part represents the whole or vice-versa. The "thing in your hand" is a themed occurrence that runs through many Bible stories, and depicts how a part eventually becomes the whole through merger. The inanimate 'thing in hand' represents one side of a triangle, and the human person-thing in God's hand, becomes the second side of the triangle, to fuse for closure with the final side of the triangle when the "ultimate, Divine thing" of God's power transcends. The motion takes us from the inanimate thing, to the personal thing, and then to the Divine, Incarnate thing, an equilateral triangle of geometric proportions.

Bible writers have selected this figure of speech to show God's awesome power to deliver in times of distress. Thus, while the systems of Saul fail to defeat the Philistines, God uses the sling and stone as the inanimate thing to merge into the human personal thing through David to the final Divine "Thing", God Himself. It is the merged movement from inanimate to human to Divine that finally delivers victory. God use Moses' rod, that inanimate object, powerless by itself, to combine with Moses, the human "thing", undergirded and reinforced but powerful when combined with the human agent by faith, and made awesome by God's infused spirit to cross the Red Sea, and to permit the rod to become a snake. The trumpet blasts of the 300 men in Gideon's army represents the 32,000 soldiers and all of Israel, a part for the whole, yet without God to complete the triangle, nothing happens. When Israel is first defeated in ignominy at Ai (Joshua 7), the army returns to rout the men of Ai in chapter 8. It is when Joshua extends that thing in his hand, the spear, that it fuses with the human Joshua, to the Divine Ultimate thing to win victory. The widow's mite signifies the spirit of supreme sacrifice, Elijah's ravens, the widow of Zarephath's cruse of oil, as "the thing in hand" that fuses with the Divine Power. Today, you have "an inanimate thing in hand" that is merging with you the "person-thing" to combine with God ultimately to victory. <https://youtu.be/ADcv6Dembps>