



WHAT'S THAT IN YOUR  
**HAND**

by Julie Caldwell

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Colorado Springs CO

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Sold as a slave and falsely accused, Joseph spent a number of years in Egyptian prisons. During this time, Pharaoh had two dreams which Joseph interpreted as seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. Joseph was propelled from prison into a powerful position—second only to Pharaoh.

During the years of famine, Joseph's father Jacob (also known as Israel) and his family moved to Egypt where Jacob's descendants greatly increased in number and filled the land. Eventually, a new Pharaoh came to power in Egypt who knew nothing about Joseph or what he had done. Fearful that Israel's descendants would turn on them, the Egyptians made them their slaves and oppressed them.

Years passed and this Pharaoh also died. But the Israelites continued to groan under their burden of slavery. They cried out for help and their cry rose up to God. God heard their groaning, and he remembered His covenant promise to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He looked down on the people of Israel and knew it was time to act.

So one day while Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law, God spoke to him through a bush that was engulfed in flames but didn't burn up. God told Moses that the cry of the people of Israel had reached Him, and He had seen how harshly the Egyptians abused them. Then God commanded Moses to lead His people out of Egypt.

While Moses protested multiple times, questioning whether or not the Israelites would believe God had truly appeared to Moses and called him out of Egypt, God gave him a sign...

*Exodus 4:2-4 (NLT) says, Then the Lord asked him, "What is that in your hand?" A shepherd's staff," Moses replied. "Throw it down on the ground," the Lord told him. So Moses threw down the staff, and it turned into a snake! Moses jumped back. Then the Lord told him, "Reach out and grab its tail." So Moses reached out and grabbed it, and it turned back into a shepherd's staff in his hand.*

This story reveals God's desire to lead the Israelites out of spiritual slavery into a place of spiritual freedom of worship to God. What was God's method to accomplish this? He used that which He placed in Moses' hand. As you consider how this story applies to you, could it be that God desires to do the same with you? Could it be that God desires to use that which He has placed in your hand to bring others out of spiritual slavery into a place of spiritual freedom of worship to God?

## **EXTRA INNINGS:**

1) What has God placed in your hand? A ball? A bat? Other?

2) Ask God how He would like to use it to lead others out of spiritual slavery and into a place of spiritual freedom to worship God. Then whatever God tells you to do with that which is in your hand, RESOLVE to use it to declare and display the significance of Who He is through the power of His might!



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