

The Hardening Of Pharaoh's Heart

Exodus 4:21-23

- Exodus 3:19-20, "And I know that the king of Egypt will not give you leave to go, no, not by a mighty hand. And I will put forth my hand, and smite Egypt with all my wonders which I will do in the midst thereof: and after that he will let you go."
- Exodus 6:1, "And Jehovah said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for by a strong hand shall he let them go, and by a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land."

- It was through a series of plagues that God chose to harden Pharaoh's stubborn heart. (Exodus 7:3, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7; 9:34-35)

Plagues Upon Egypt

- Water changed to blood (Exodus 7:14-25)
- Frogs. (Exodus 8:1-15)
- Lice. (Exodus 8:16-19)
- Swarms of flies. (Exodus 8:20-32) Land of Goshen not affected. (Exodus 8:22-23)
- Livestock diseased. (Exodus 9:1-7) Herds of the Israelites were not affected. (Exodus 9:4)
- Boils. (Exodus 9:8-12)

Plagues Upon Egypt

- Hail. (Exodus 9:13-35)
- Locust. (Exodus 10:1-20)
- Darkness. (Exodus 10:21-29)
- The Death of the firstborn. (Exodus 11:1-12:30)

The story of the plagues is summarized in Psalms 78:44-51 and again in Psalms 105:28-36.

In Psalms 135:8 and 136:10 the death of the firstborn is the only plague mentioned at all.

A Night To Be Much Observed (Exodus 12:42)

- "It is a night to be much observed unto Jehovah for bringing them out from the land of Egypt: this is that night of Jehovah, to be much observed of all the children of Israel throughout their generations."

- In the future observances of the Passover, when the children would ask, “What mean ye by this service?”, they were to be taught its significance fully and clearly (cf. Exodus 12:26-27; 13:8, 14).
- After the plagues, Pharaoh released the children of Israel. (Exodus 12:31-37)
 - Note: Genesis 15:12-14 “They shall come out with great substance.”

- When God sent Moses to free the Israelites from Egyptian bondage ... (Exodus 3-4)
- a. He said that He would harden the heart of Pharaoh.
 - b. Even though it would result in the death of Pharaoh’s son - Exodus 4:22-23

The Hardening Of Pharaoh Definitions:

- “Chazaq” - [Exodus 4:21](#); [7:13,22](#); [8:19](#); [9:12,35](#); [10:20,27](#); [11:10](#); [14:4,8,17](#)
“literally signifies to strengthen, confirm, make bold or courageous” – (Clarke)
- “Qashah” - [Exodus 7:3](#) “harden, stiffen” – (Strong)
- “Kabed” - [Exodus 7:14](#); [8:15](#); [8:32](#); [9:7,34](#); [10:1](#)
“heavy; figuratively ... in a bad sense, severe, difficult ... grievous, hardened” – (Strong)

Pharaoh Hardened His Own Heart

- Exodus 7:13-14 Pharaoh’s heart was hardened, stubborn.
- [7:22](#); [8:15](#); [8:19](#); [8:32](#); [9:7](#); [9:34-35](#)
- In the first five plagues, and in the seventh, Pharaoh hardened his own heart.

God Hardened Pharaoh’s Heart

- Exodus 7:3 “I will harden Pharaoh’s heart.”
- Exodus 9:12; Exodus 10:1; Exodus 10:20; Exodus 10:27; Exodus 11:10; Exodus 14:4; Exodus 14:8; Exodus 14:17
- Not until the sixth plague (boils) did God begin to harden Pharaoh’s heart.

Purpose Of Hardening Pharaoh’s Heart

- To convince the Egyptians that the LORD is truly God. Exodus 7:3-5; 14:4
- To convince the Israelites that the LORD is truly God. Exodus 10:1-2
- To convince the world that the LORD is truly God. Exodus 9:13-17

Thus God hardened, or strengthened, one who was determined to resist that God might show His power and proclaim His name in all the earth!

The Hardening Of People In New Testament Times

- Such “hardening” was not unique to Pharaoh.
 - It happened in Jesus’ day (Mark 3:5; John 12:37-41) and it is not limited to the past!
 - The Ephesians. (Acts 19:8-10; Ephesians 4:18)
 - The Jews. (2 Corinthians 3:14)
 - The Hebrews. (Hebrews 3:12-14)

The Hardening Of People Today

- 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12 “and with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

The Hardening Of People Today

- God sends a strong delusion ... allows them to believe a lie. (Note: Man’s free will!)
 - Involves people who did not receive the love of the truth. (2 Thessalonians 2:10)
 - Involves people who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in sin. (2 Thessalonians 2:12)
- Why?
 - That they might be judged. (2 Thessalonians 2:12)

Conclusion:

- We have seen that God hardened the hearts of the wicked, and is willing to send a strong delusion for them to believe a lie ...
- How much better for us to have God strengthen our hearts in doing good, not evil ...

Conclusion:

- God will strengthen our hearts ...
 - If we love the truth.
 - If we believe the truth.
 - If we receive the truth.
 - If we remain firm in holding to the truth.