

Set Free Series, Part 17:

God's Hand and Pharaoh's Heart

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EXODUS 8-12

Data On God's Hand and Pharaoh's Heart

1. Pharaoh is a wicked man who doesn't know or fear God.

Exodus 5:1-2

Later, Moses and Aaron went in and said to Pharaoh, This is what Yahweh, the God of Israel, says: Let My people go, so that they may hold a festival for Me in the wilderness. But Pharaoh responded, Who is Yahweh that I should obey Him by letting Israel go? I do not know anything about Yahweh, and besides, I will not let Israel go.

2. God knows Pharaoh will not listen to Him.

Exodus 3:19, However, I know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go, unless he is forced by a strong hand.

Exodus 7:14, Then the Lord said to Moses, Pharaohs heart is hard: he refuses to let the people go.

3. God says on three occasions that He will harden Pharaoh's heart.

Exodus 4:21

The Lord instructed Moses, When you go back to Egypt, make sure you do all the wonders before Pharaoh that I have put within your power. But I will harden his heart so that he wont let the people go.

Exodus 7:3-4

But I will harden Pharaohs heart and multiply My signs and wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 Pharaoh will not listen to you, but I will put My hand on Egypt and bring the divisions of My people the Israelites out of the land of Egypt by great acts of judgment.

Exodus 14:4

I will harden Pharaohs heart so that he will pursue them. Then I will receive glory by means of Pharaoh and all his army, and the Egyptians will know that I am Yahweh. So the Israelites did this.

4. Three times Pharaoh hardened his heart and seven his heart hardened.

Pharaoh's Heart Hardens:

Exodus 7:13, However, Pharaohs heart hardened, and he did not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 7:22-23

But the magicians of Egypt did the same thing by their occult practices. So Pharaohs heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said. Pharaoh turned around, went into his palace, and didn't even take this to heart.

Exodus 8:19

This is the finger of God, the magicians said to Pharaoh. But Pharaohs heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Exodus 9:7

Pharaoh sent messengers who saw that not a single one of the Israelite livestock was dead. But Pharaohs heart was hardened, and he did not let the people go.

Exodus 9:35, So Pharaohs heart hardened, and he did not let the Israelites go, as the Lord had said through Moses.

What does it mean that his heart hardened? Did God harden? Did Pharaoh harden?

Key Phrase: “As the Lord had said”

Exodus 8:19 (See also: Exodus 4:21, Exodus 3:18-19)

This is the finger of God, the magicians said to Pharaoh. But Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he would not listen to them, as the Lord had said.

Pharaoh Hardens His Heart:

- Exodus 8:14-15
- Exodus 8:31-32
- Exodus 9:33-35

5. Six times God actually hardens Pharaoh's heart

- Exodus 9:12
- Exodus 10:1
- Exodus 10:20
- Exodus 11:10
- Exodus 14:4
- Exodus 14:8
- Exodus 14:17-19

Hebrew word for heart: leb --> inner man, mind, will, heart, understanding

Proverbs 28:14

How blessed is the man who fears always, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

Key: When it says that God hardens the heart it means God makes Pharaoh resist Him.

Exodus 4:21

The Lord instructed Moses, When you go back to Egypt, make sure you do all the wonders before Pharaoh that I have put within your power. But I will harden his heart so that he won't let the people go.

How can God hold Pharaoh responsible for what God made him do?

Conclusions

1. God and Pharaoh both call Pharaoh's resistance sin.

Exodus 9:27, 34

Pharaoh sent for Moses and Aaron. I have sinned this time, he said to them. Yahweh is the Righteous One, and I and my people are the guilty ones...When Pharaoh saw that the rain, hail, and thunder had ceased, he sinned again and hardened his heart, he and his officials.

2. Before the creation of the world, God ordained the hardening of Pharaoh.

Did God intend to rescue Israel and bring the plagues against Egypt?

Exodus 3:19-20 (See also: Exodus 4:21, Exodus 7:3-4, Exodus 11:9)

However, I know that the king of Egypt will not allow you to go, unless he is forced by a strong hand. 20 I will stretch out My hand and strike Egypt with all My miracles that I will perform in it. After that, he will let you go.

Ordained: To order or decree by virtue of a superior authority.

Ordained Plagues (See also: Exodus 9:15-16, Exodus 14:17-18, Exodus 14:30-31, Joshua 2:8-13)

- God wanted to rescue Israel from Egypt through the 10 plagues.
- Pharaoh is going to resist God to bring about the plagues.

Application

We serve a great God.