

1. What does God mean that He will harden Pharaoh's heart (4:21)? Look at the 21 verses that refer to the hardening of Pharaoh's heart (Exod. 3:18-20; 4:21; 7:3, 13, 14, 22; 8:15, 19, 32; 9:7, 12, 34, 35; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 13:15; 14:4, 8, 17). What do you learn from them?
 - a. What is the "heart?" It seems to be the emotional seat of man and the decision-making center.
 - b. Did God harden Pharaoh's heart or did Pharaoh?
 - c. Notice in 9:34 that Pharaoh's servants also hardened their hearts.
 - d. Purposes of hardening Pharaoh's heart (see Rom. 9:17):
 - i. To slow his release of the people (4:21) to magnify the following points as well.
 - ii. To display God's power (9:16, 10:1, 11:9).
 - iii. As a memorial for future generations (13:15, 10:2, note dual purpose in 10:1-2).
 - iv. To get glory over Pharaoh and show that God is the LORD (14:4, 17-18). This includes the spread of God's fame throughout the earth (9:16).
 - e. In what way did God harden Pharaoh's heart?
 - i. Did he do it *actively*? That is, creating hardening (sin) in Pharaoh's heart? Of course we know God does not do that sort of thing (James 1:13).
 - ii. Or did he do it *passively*? That is, judge Pharaoh and treat him as the sin in his heart already was inclined to be? God removed restraints from Pharaoh to do what he wanted to do. In a sense, we could say that God allows them to more freely go down the path of sin. He removes the restraining hand of common grace through the Holy Spirit (Gen. 6:3, Isaiah 59:19, 2 Thess. 2:6-7).
 - f. To which New Testament passage would you refer if you wanted to find a similar teaching there?
 - i. Rom. 1:24, 26, 28.
 - ii. Rom. 9:17-18.
 - g. Does God do something actively inside a person to send people to Hell?
2. Note that in the plague where the water was turned to blood, the only apparent source of water was that filtered through the land or in wells, since in 7:24 the Egyptians dug around the river to find water to drink.
3. I wonder if there were some "vacation days" for the children of Israel during these plagues. For instance, the first one took 7 days. It seems that such a national catastrophe would certainly slow down the work.
4. What is happening in 7:11 and 7:22 where Pharaoh's magicians did the same things that Moses and Aaron were able to do by God's miracle-working power.