

Pharaoh's Heart - cont.

- “And Jehovah hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and he hearkened not unto them, as Jehovah had spoken unto Moses” (Exodus 9:12; note v. 14)
- “And Jehovah said unto Moses, Go in unto Pharaoh: for I have hardened his heart, and the heart of his servants, that I may show these my signs in the midst of them” (Exodus 10:1)
- “But Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go” (Exodus 10:20)
- “But Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not let them go” (Exodus 10:27)
- “And Moses and Aaron did all these wonders before Pharaoh: and Jehovah hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let the children of Israel go out of his land” (Exodus 11:10)
- “And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and he shall follow after them; and I will get me honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host: and the Egyptians shall know that I am Jehovah. And they did so” (Exodus 14:4; note v. 5)
- “And Jehovah hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: for

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the children of Israel went out with a high hand” (Exodus 14:8; note v. 17)

When the careful Bible student examines all these verses in Exodus, he or she will find that the hardening of Pharaoh's heart comes as a result of *both* the actions of God and the actions of Pharaoh, not just the actions of God. - *Chris Reeves*

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart - Part I

In the book of Exodus, the Lord raised up Moses to lead God's people out of Egypt, but Pharaoh hardened his heart and would not let Israel go. So, what does it mean that Pharaoh's heart was hardened? What does the Bible say?

What is the issue? The Bible says: (1) Pharaoh's heart was hardened; (2) Pharaoh hardened his own heart; and, (3) God hardened Pharaoh's heart. What is the explanation of these statements? Does the Bible contradict itself?

Many years ago, John Calvin (1509-1564) taught that all mankind are predestined by God apart from their own free will. He taught that man does not choose to be saved or to be lost; God chooses for man. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart was used as a "proof text" by Calvin to promote his theory of predestination. The hardening of Pharaoh's heart is still used as a "proof text" by many Calvinists today to promote Calvin's theory of predestination.

John Calvin wrote the following on Romans 9:17-18:

"We are accordingly to take two points into consideration here, first, Pharaoh's predestination to destruction ... and second, the purpose of his predestination ... his character was given to him by God ... Paul's purpose is to make

us accept the fact that it has seemed good to God to enlighten some in order that they might be saved, and blind others in order that they might be destroyed ... Paul does not inform us that the ruin of the ungodly is foreseen by the Lord, but that it is ordained by His counsel and will" (*Commentary on Romans*, John Calvin, 1539, pages 206-207).

Was Calvin right about Pharaoh? Before we attempt to understand the hardening of Pharaoh's heart, it is important that the Bible student get all the biblical information on the topic. What does the Bible say?

First, Pharaoh's Heart Was Hardened

- "And Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as Jehovah had spoken" (Exodus 7:13; note v. 14)
- "And the magicians of Egypt did in like manner with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as Jehovah had spoken" (Exodus 7:22; note v. 23)
- "Then the magicians said unto Pharaoh, This is the finger of God: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened, and he hearkened not unto them; as Jehovah had spoken" (Exodus 8:19)
- "And the heart of Pharaoh was hardened, and he did not let the children of

Israel go, as Jehovah had spoken by Moses" (Exodus 9:35)

Second, Pharaoh Hardened His Own Heart

- "But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them, as Jehovah had spoken" (Exodus 8:15)
- "And Pharaoh hardened his heart this time also, and he did not let the people go" (Exodus 8:32; note 9:7)
- "And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants" (Exodus 9:34)

Third, God Hardened Pharaoh's Heart

- "And Jehovah said unto Moses, When thou goest back into Egypt, see that thou do before Pharaoh all the wonders which I have put in thy hand: but I will harden his heart and he will not let the people go" (Exodus 4:21)
 - "And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 7:3)
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