

DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART

“**The same sun which melts wax hardens clay.** And **the same Gospel which melts some persons to repentance hardens others in their sins**” – Charles Spurgeon.

The word **plague** means “*a blow*” or “*a stroke*”. God pounded Pharaoh blow-by-blow until He pounded him into submission. But in this process we see a HARDENING of Pharaoh’s heart to the point of no return.

The 10 Plagues:

- 1) Ex. 7:14-25 The First Plague: The Nile Turned to Blood
- 2) Ex. 8:1-15 The Second Plague: Frogs
- 3) Ex. 8:16-19 The Third Plague: Lice
- 4) Ex. 8:20-32 The Fourth Plague: Flies
- 5) Ex. 9:1-7 The Fifth Plague: Pestilence on Livestock
- 6) Ex. 9:8-12 The Sixth Plague: Boils
- 7) Ex. 9:13-35 The Seventh Plague: Hail and Fire
- 8) Ex. 10:1-20 The Eighth Plague: Locusts
- 9) Ex. 10:21-29 The Ninth Plague: Three Days of Darkness
- 10) Ex. 11-12:30 The Tenth Plague: Death of the Firstborn

After the 6th plague, it is recorded that “the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh”.

“...according to the text, the first one to harden Pharaoh’s heart was not God but Pharaoh. In fact ... the first seven consecutive references recounting the actual hardening of Pharaoh’s heart reveal that Pharaoh first hardened his own heart or that his heart hardened. This does not change the fact that God did, in time, add His judicial hardening to the process. But in doing so, He was not forcing Pharaoh to choose contrary to his own desire or inclination. He was merely confirming Pharaoh in his hardness, in keeping with the choices and inclinations Pharaoh had himself already expressed...” – **Layton Talbert** *NOT BY CHANCE* – p. 90

Someone has well said, “**God hardens those who harden themselves.**” This is very similar to what is recorded in Romans 1:24-28, where we read that God gave them over to a debased mind. When God lets someone go, they harden. There is a line that is crossed where God allows people to harden, but that line is known only to God (cf. Heb. 6:4-8).

Hebrews 3:7–8 (NKJV)

7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: “Today, if you will hear His voice,

8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness,

2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2 (NKJV)

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

1 We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.

2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

TODAY IF YOU WILL HEAR HIS VOICE DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEART!