

## **THURSDAY** *July 24* **Hail, Locusts, and Darkness**

Read Exodus 9:13–10:29. How successful are these plagues in getting Pharaoh to change his mind?

IT DEPENDS – ALL OF THE PLAGUES WERE WONDERS OR MIRACLES OF GOD THAT CONVINCED PHARAOH TO CHANGE HIS MIND TEMPORARILY.

NONE OF THEM CONVINCED PHARAOH TO CHANGE HIS MIND PERMANENTLY BECAUSE PHARAOH HIMSELF REFUSED TO A LONG TERM CHANGE AND THEREBY HARDENED HIS OWN HEART.

“AND THE LORD SAID UNTO MOSES, WHEN THOU GOEST TO RETURN INTO EGYPT, SEE THAT THOU DO ALL THOSE WONDERS [4159-MIRACLE, TOKEN, OMEN] BEFORE PHARAOH, WHICH I HAVE PUT IN THINE HAND: BUT I WILL HARDEN [2388-ENCOURAGE] HIS HEART, THAT HE SHALL NOT LET THE PEOPLE GO” (EXODUS 4:21).

1ST GOOD SENSE — STRONG’S—HARDEN = #2388 A PRIMITIVE ROOT; TO FASTEN UPON; HENCE, TO SEIZE, BE STRONG (FIGURATIVELY, COURAGEOUS, CAUSATIVELY STRENGTHEN, CURE, HELP, REPAIR, FORTIFY), OBSTINATE; TO BIND, RESTRAIN, CONQUER:

2ND BAD SENSE — VERSE 14—STRONG’S- #3515 HARDEN = FROM 3513; HEAVY; FIGURATIVELY IN A GOOD SENSE (NUMEROUS) OR IN A BAD SENSE (SEVERE, DIFFICULT, STUPID):

“AND THE LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] THE HEART OF PHARAOH, AND HE HEARKENED NOT UNTO THEM; [NOT IN THE HEBREW] AS THE LORD HAD SPOKEN UNTO MOSES” (EXODUS 9:12).

“AND WHEN PHARAOH SAW THAT THE RAIN AND THE HAIL AND THE THUNDERS WERE CEASED, HE SINNED YET MORE, AND HARDENED [3513-IN A BAD SENSE] HIS HEART, HE AND HIS SERVANTS” (9:34).

“AND THE HEART OF PHARAOH WAS HARDENED,[2388-ENCOURAGED] NEITHER WOULD HE LET [NOT IN THE HEBREW] THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GO; AS THE LORD HAD SPOKEN BY MOSES” (EXODUS 9:35). ]

#### SUMMARY:

BY HIS MIGHT WONDERS GOD ENCOURAGED PHARAOH AGAIN AND AGAIN TO LET THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GO AS HE TOLD MOSES THAT HE WOULD DO. PHARAOH WAS ENCOURAGED BUT THEN HARDENED HIS OWN HEART, IN A BAD SENSE, AND REFUSED TO LET ISRAEL GO.

GOD DESCRIBES THE CONCLUSION OF THE ENTIRE PROCESS IN THIS NEXT VERSE, THAT IS ALL OF GODS ENCOURAGEMENT LED TO PHARAOHS OWN CHOICE TO HARDEN HIS HEART AND THUS THE ENTIRE PROCESS LED TO A HARDENING OF PHARAOHS HEART AS PREDICATED BY GOD:

“AND THE LORD SAID UNTO MOSES, GO IN UNTO PHARAOH: FOR I HAVE HARDENED [3513-IN A BAD SENSE] HIS HEART, AND THE HEART OF HIS SERVANTS, THAT I MIGHT SHEW THESE MY SIGNS BEFORE HIM” (EXODUS 10:1).

“BUT THE LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] PHARAOH'S HEART, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT LET [NOT IN THE HEBREW] THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GO” (EXODUS 10:20).

HEBREW:

“LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] PHARAOH'S HEART, CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GO” (EXODUS 10:20).

“BUT THE LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] PHARAOH'S HEART, AND HE WOULD NOT LET THEM GO” (EXODUS 10:27).

HEBREW:

LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] PHARAOH'S HEART, “TO BE ACQUIESCENT” GO” (EXODUS 10:27).

“AND MOSES AND AARON DID ALL THESE WONDERS [4159-MIRACLE, TOKEN, WONDER] BEFORE PHARAOH: AND THE LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] PHARAOH'S HEART, SO THAT HE WOULD NOT LET THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GO OUT OF HIS LAND” (EXODUS 11:10).

HEBREW:

“AND MOSES AND AARON DID ALL THESE WONDERS [4159-MIRACLE, TOKEN, WONDER] BEFORE PHARAOH: AND THE LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] PHARAOH'S HEART, CHILDREN OF ISRAEL GO OUT OF HIS LAND” (EXODUS 11:10).

“AND I WILL HARDEN [2388-ENCOURAGE] PHARAOH'S HEART, THAT HE SHALL FOLLOW AFTER THEM; AND I WILL BE HONOURED UPON PHARAOH, AND UPON ALL HIS HOST; THAT THE EGYPTIANS MAY KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD. AND THEY DID SO” (EXODUS 14:4).

“AND THE LORD HARDENED [2388-ENCOURAGED] THE HEART OF PHARAOH KING OF EGYPT, AND HE PURSUED AFTER THE CHILDREN

OF ISRAEL: AND THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL WENT OUT WITH AN HIGH HAND.

AND I, BEHOLD, I WILL HARDEN [2388-ENCOURAGE] THE HEARTS OF THE EGYPTIANS, AND THEY SHALL FOLLOW THEM: AND I WILL GET ME HONOUR UPON PHARAOH, AND UPON ALL HIS HOST, UPON HIS CHARIOTS, AND UPON HIS HORSEMEN” (EXODUS 14:8, 17).

CONFIRMATION OF INTERPRETATION - USED TO DESCRIBE GODS PEOPLE AND PHARAOH:

“Wherefore then do ye harden [3513-IN A BAD SENSE] your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts? when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?” (1 Samuel 6:6).

1 SAM 6:6 - HARDENED X2 = #3513 OR KABED {KAW-BADE'}; A PRIMITIVE ROOT; TO BE HEAVY, I.E. IN A BAD SENSE (BURDENSOME, SEVERE, DULL) OR IN A GOOD SENSE (NUMEROUS, RICH, HONORABLE; CAUSATIVELY, TO MAKE WEIGHTY (IN THE SAME TWO SENSES):

Nut was the Egyptian goddess of the sky and heavens and was often depicted as controlling what happened under the sky and on the earth. Osiris was the god of crops and fertility. In the Bible, hail is often associated with God's judgment (*Isa. 28:2, 17; Ezek. 13:11-13*). During this plague, those who hide their property in a safe shelter will be protected (*Exod. 9:20, 21*). Everyone is now tested: will they, or will they not, believe God's Word and act accordingly?

**God announces that His purpose in letting Pharaoh live is for the whole earth to know Him (*Exod. 9:16*). The king of Egypt**

now confesses that he has sinned, but later he changes his mind—  
YET AGAIN.

The Egyptian god of storm, war, and disorder was called Seth. Together with Isis, they were considered agriculture deities. Shu was a god of the atmosphere. Serapis personified divine majesty, fertility, healing, and afterlife. Not one of the Egyptian gods could stop God's judgments (*Exod. 10:4-20*) because idols are nothing (*Isa. 44:9, 10, 12-17*).

Pharaoh's servants urged him to let Israel go, but he refused again. He offered a compromise, which Moses rightly rejected because women and children are a vital and inseparable part of worship and the faith community.

Finally, Ra was the principal Egyptian god, the sun god. Thoth was a moon god. Neither was able to give light. Pharaoh again tries to bargain, but in vain. A three-day period of darkness struck Egypt, but there was light where the Israelites lived. The separation could not be more spectacular.

Yet, no matter the battering that his nation took, Pharaoh was determined to fight back and not to relent. Though we don't know his deeper motives, at some point it could have become purely a pride thing. No matter how powerful the evidence, no matter how obvious it was what was happening (even his own servants declared, " 'How long shall this man be a snare to us?

Let the men go, that they may serve the LORD their God. Do you not yet know that Egypt is destroyed?' " [Exod. 10:7, NKJV]), and no matter that the correct choice was right there before him —after a bit of waffling, Pharaoh still refused to surrender to God's will and let the people go.

What a dramatic example of the words, "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18, NKJV).