

BACKGROUND TO ROMANS 9:17-18

* * * **THE HARDENING OF PHARAOH'S HEART** * * *

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Soli Deo Gloria!

OBSERVATION: Scripture indicates Pharaoh hardened his own heart a multitude of times (perhaps as many as 7) before God is said to have hardened Pharaoh's heart, and *Pharaoh did so in the context of unique, personal, and indisputably clear supernatural revelation from God.* In a sense, this scenario is analogous to the **unpardonable sin** Jesus introduced when members of the Pharisees attributed His miracles to the power of Satan (cf. Matt12:24-32).

LESSON: God's proffered opportunity for obedience and/or repentance does not continue indefinitely. Clear revelation that is consistently rejected inevitably leads to a hardening of an individual's heart, and may result in God judicially and irreversibly hardening a person into a state of judgment (cf. Rom1:18-32).

THE HARDENING PROCESS RECORDED IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS

Hardening Process Predicted	Pharaoh Hardens His Own Heart	Pharaoh's Heart was Hardened	God Hardens Pharaoh's Heart
(Prophecy)	(Personal)	(Factual)	(Judicial)
Exod. 3:19 ¹ Exod. 4:21 ² Exod. 7: 3 ²	Exod. 8:15 Exod. 8:32	Exod. 7:13 Exod. 7:14 Exod. 7:22 Exod. 8:19 Exod. 9: 7	Exod. 9:12*
	Exod. 9:34	Exod. 9:35	Exod. 10:01 Exod. 10:20 Exod. 10:27 Exod. 11:10 Exod. 14: 4 Exod. 14: 8

¹ Pharaoh's volitional response predicted in advance, consistent with the foreknowledge of God.

² God's action predicted in view of Pharaoh's foreseen response.

* Exodus 9:12 is the first occasion of God's direct activity in the hardening of Pharaoh's heart.