



The Hardening of Pharaoh Romans 9:17-18

I. God Raised Pharaoh Up for His Purpose (v. 17)

- A. Pharaoh proudly _____ the authority of God
(Ex. 1:8-14, 22; 5:1-2; Prov. 16:18)
- B. God demonstrated His _____ before Pharaoh
(Ex. 7:3-5; 7:14-12:32; 14:17-18; Ps. 105:26-36)
- C. God preserved Pharaoh for His sovereign _____
(Ex. 9:13-17; 14:4; Josh. 2:9-11; Isa. 46:9-10)
 - 1. "That I might _____ My power in you."
 - 2. "That My name might be _____ in all the earth."

II. God Hardened Pharaoh in His Sin (v. 18)

- A. Pharaoh _____ hardened his own heart
(Ex. 5:2; 8:15, 32; 9:27, 34)
- B. God _____ hardened Pharaoh's heart
(Ex. 4:21; 7:3, 13, 22; 8:15, 19; 9:12; 10:20, 27; 11:10)
 - 1. God's _____ is decisive in the hardening
(Rom. 9:18)
 - 2. The entire _____ points to God's
unconditional choice (Rom. 9:11-18)

- 3. Paul's anticipated _____ only makes sense
if God is sovereign in hardening (Rom. 9:19-21)
- 4. The rest of Romans connects hardening with
God's _____ (Rom. 11:7)
- C. God judicially confirmed Pharaoh in his _____
(Eph. 2:4-5; Rom. 1:24-28; Jms. 1:13-14)
- D. A hardened heart should make us _____
(Heb. 3:7-8, 12-13)

III. God Displayed His Glory Through Pharaoh (vv. 17-18)

- A. God's sovereignty is always working for His _____
(Ex. 9:16; 14:17-18)
- B. God's sovereignty should produce _____,
not argument (Ps. 115:3; Dan. 4:35)

TAKE HOME:

- Where am I hardening my heart _____ something
God has clearly said?
- Do I _____ God's sovereignty even when I
don't completely understand it?
- Am I living for my _____—or God's name?

Application Questions

James 1:22 says, *“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.”* These questions are designed to help you apply today’s message in your life. We encourage you to thoughtfully answer these questions and discuss your answers with others.

1. Where am I subtly (or openly) saying, like Pharaoh, “Who is the LORD that I should obey?”—and what specific obedience do I need to render to God today? (Ex. 5:1–2; Prov. 16:18; Heb. 3:7–8)
2. When God exposes my sin through conviction, consequences, or discipline, do I respond with genuine repentance—or only with temporary “relief” once the pressure lifts? (Ex. 9:27, 34; 2 Cor. 7:10; Prov. 28:14)
3. In what area am I repeatedly resisting God’s clear Word, and how might ongoing resistance be hardening my heart through “the deceitfulness of sin”? (Heb. 3:12–13; Heb. 4:7; Prov. 28:14)
4. Do I worship God for His sovereign freedom to show mercy and to harden, or do I mainly argue with Him when His sovereignty confronts my preferences? (Rom. 9:17–18; Ps. 115:3; Dan. 4:35)
5. How does the truth that God can “raise up” rulers and events for His purposes reshape my fear, anger, or despair about what’s happening in the world (or in my life)? (Ex. 9:16; Isa. 46:9–10; Rom. 8:28)
6. Where might God be “giving me over” to what I already desire as a form of judgment—and what urgent repentance is needed before my patterns calcify? (Rom. 1:24–28; Jas. 1:13–14; 2 Thess. 2:10–12)
7. If God has shown me mercy in Christ, how should that humble me toward others—especially toward people I’m tempted to dismiss as “too far gone”? (Eph. 2:4–5; Titus 3:3–5; 1 Cor. 4:7)
8. Whose “name” am I practically trying to make great in my decisions, relationships, and ambitions—mine or God’s—and how can I intentionally live for the proclamation of His name? (Ex. 9:16; Matt. 5:16; 1 Cor. 10:31)

*“God does not need to create evil in Pharaoh’s heart.
Pharaoh’s heart is already evil.”*

— R. C. Sproul