

The Hardening of Pharaoh

Romans 9:17-18

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

- A. Pharaoh proudly rejected the authority of God
- B. God demonstrated His power before Pharaoh
- C. God preserved Pharaoh for His sovereign purpose
 - 1. “That I might show My power in you.”
 - 2. “That My name might be proclaimed in all the earth.”

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

- A. Pharaoh willingly hardened his own heart
- B. God sovereignly hardened Pharaoh's heart
 - 1. God's will is decisive in the hardening
 - 2. The entire context points to God's unconditional choice
 - 3. Paul's anticipated objection only makes sense if God is sovereign in hardening
 - 4. The rest of Romans connects hardening with God's election

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

C. God judicially confirmed Pharaoh in his rebellion

D. A hardened heart should make us tremble

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

- A. God's sovereignty is always working for His glory
- B. God's sovereignty should produce worship, not argument

TAKE HOME:

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