

God's covenant purpose is to rescue his people so that they will worship him.

'Let my people go, so that they may worship me in the wilderness.' (Exodus 7:17)

God acts for his people by judging sinful, obstinate Egypt.

'I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment.'

Exodus 6:6

In Egypt, a cosmic battle takes place deep in Pharaoh's heart.

Pharaoh hardens his heart against God until God begins to harden Pharaoh.

4:21 *The Lord said to Moses, see that you perform before Pharaoh all the wonders I have given you the power to do. But I will **harden his heart** so he will not let the people go.*

7:3 8:15 8:19 8:32 9:12 9:34 10:1 10:20 11:10 14:4

**GOD ONLY HARDENS WHAT IS ALREADY SET.**

### CAUSE 1: A HEART RESISTANT TO GOD'S WORD.

5:1-2 Moses said: "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go...'

Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord, that I should obey him and let Israel go?

I do not know the Lord and I will not let Israel go."

5:22-23 Moses complains: Why, Lord, why have you brought trouble on this people?

6:1-2 God answers: "You will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go...he will drive them out of his country. Say to Israelites: 'I am the LORD...'

6:29 'I am the LORD. Tell Pharaoh king of Egypt everything I tell you.'

7:1-4 'I have made you like God to Pharaoh. You are to say everything I command you.'

### CAUSE 2: A HEART CONVICTED BY GOD'S WORD.

Pharaoh reacts to God's command by increasing his hatred of God's people.

5:7 Turns up heat: No longer supplies Israel with straw to make bricks.

5:9 Heavier work: Makes Israel work harder to distract them from God.

5:11 Forage for straw Maintains Israel's work quota while reducing supplies.

The plague judgements defeated Egypt's 'gods'.

Water Turned to Blood (Hapi)

Frogs Coming From the Nile (Heqet)

Gnats From the Earth's Dust (Set)

Swarms of Flies (Uatchit)

Death of Cattle and Livestock (Apis)

Ashes Turned to Boils and Sores (Isis)

Hail in the Form of Fire (Nut, Osiris)

Locust Sent From the Sky (Seth)

Three Days of Darkness (Re)

Death of Firstborn (Pharaoh)

The plague judgements created faith in Israel.

*Then the people bowed down and worshipped.*

Exodus 12:27

## PROCESS OF HARDENING

7:14-22	BLOOD	Did not take this to heart.
8:1-15	FROGS	Would not listen.
8:16-19	GNATS	Pharaoh's heart was hard.
8:20-31	FLIES	Would not let the people go.
9:1-7	PLAGUE	Heart was unyielding.
9:8-12	BOILS	Would not listen.
9:13-35	HAIL	He sinned again.
10:1-20	LOCUSTS	Would not let the Israelites go.
10:21-29	DARKNESS	<i>Get out of my sight! Make sure you do not appear before me again! The day you see my face you will die</i>

## PRETENDING TO SOFTEN

8:1-15	FROGS	<i><u>Pray to the Lord</u> to take the frogs away from me and my people and I will let your people go.</i>
8:20-31	FLIES	I will let you go to offer sacrifices to the LORD But you must not go very far... <u>pray for me.</u>
9:13-35	HAIL	This time <u>I have sinned.</u> The Lord is in the right and I and my people are in the wrong.
10:1-20	LOCUSTS	I have sinned against the Lord your God and against you. <u>Now forgive my sin.</u>

### EVANGELISM 101

People are not safe until they opt out.  
People are in great danger until they opt in.

Those officials of Pharaoh who feared the word of the Lord hurried to bring their slaves and their livestock inside. But those who ignored the word of the Lord left their slaves and livestock in the field. 9:20-21

The same sun that softens wax hardens clay.

## THE CALL TO CHRISTIANS

Fix our thoughts on Jesus  
Listen to God's word  
DON'T HARDEN our heart  
DON'T TURN from God  
DON'T DRIFT from church  
Encourage one another

### Hebrews 3

Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus...The Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."

Pharaoh said, 'Tomorrow' (Exodus 8:10)

God says, 'TODAY' (Hebrews 3:13)