

HOW WAS PHARAOH'S HEART HARDENED? WHO DID IT? (Exodus Chapters 4 - 14)

WHO HAD A PART IN THIS PROCESS OF HEART HARDENING?

1. GOD HAD A PART IN IT.

1. In Exodus 4:21 God said, "I will harden his heart."
2. In Exodus 7:13 says the "He (God) hardened Pharaoh's heart, that he hearkened not unto them; as the Lord had said."
3. God's work was done through Moses of course.

2. THE MAGICIANS HAD A PART IN IT.

1. Exodus 7:22; "And the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments: and Pharaoh's heart was hardened."

3. PHARAOH'S PART IN IT.

1. Right in these same chapters the Bible just as definitely says that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. Exodus 8:32

JUST WHAT CONSTITUTES THE HARDENING OF A MAN'S HEART ANYWAY?

1. What was God's part in it?

1. He placed a demand before Pharaoh: "Let my people Go!"
 1. Pharaoh had to make up his mind what he would do about that.
 2. He had to make up his mind whether Moses and Aaron were really representatives of God.

2. HOW IT WAS DONE:

1. God Hardened Pharaoh's heart by forcing him to an issue which Pharaoh refused and rejected thereby hardening his own heart.
2. Light rejected, rightful obedience refused, inevitably hardens conscience and heart.

3. God's demand "LET MY PEOPLE GO" was not popular. God's demands more often are not popular.

1. Israel had grown from a body at first numbering about 75 souls to something like 3 million people at this time.
2. This Pharaoh had been on the throne of Egypt for something like a year when the demand was made.
3. What a blow to his political pride to sit by and see 3 million people desert him.
3. God's demands on us today are not popular: "Love not the world neither the things that are in the world." That is exactly what we do love.

SOME SYNONYMS FOR THE TERM "HARDENING."

1. Stubbornness, Rebellion, Willful opposition to God's revealed truth.

1. We reject God's revealed truth long enough and we will reach the point in the downward path of human possibilities where it is impossible for us to be saved. We will reach the "point of no return."
2. It is fairly certain that Paul had the hardened heart in mind when in 1 Timothy 4:2 he spoke of certain characters as "having their conscience seared with a hot iron."
 1. They are past feeling; no consideration for God's demand except rejection.
3. Heat is an element that softens clay while at the same time it will harden clay. That is exactly the effect of the Gospel of Christ.
 1. The gospel accepted will soften the heart but the Gospel rejected will harden the heart.

THE SOLEMN CAUTION. Two in number:

1. "Today if ye will hear his voice." Heb. 3:7, 15

1. Your attention to the voice of God must be with-out delay.
2. God does not promies you time but he has promised you today: The present opportunity.
3. Delay becomes like the disgusting, poisonous fungus feeding on the yet living tree. Just what this fungus will do to the tree so sin will do to you.
4. The specified time for hearing Christ's voice is:(1) Short; (2) Uncertain; (3) Succeeded by the darkness of the grave.

2. "Harden not your hearts!" Heb 3:8; 15 How we harden our hearts:

1. By inattention to the concerns of the soul.
2. By pursuing the works of darkness.
3. By a sordid attachment to the present world.
4. By being hypocritical of all others or even a few others or even one.
5. By becoming a minus sign rather than being a plus-sign.
6. The three compartments in a radio station:
 1. "Live END" You can live in the "live end" with Christ and other Christian
 2. "'Semi-live END"; You can live in the "semi-live end" (Luke warm, care-less, section) if you like.
 3. "Dead End"; You can live in the "dead end" all settled down in the world caring only about your self, critical of all others

3. A REMEDY OFFERED FOR RECOVERY

1. Begin now to refrain from being hypocritical, slamming and banging others around because they do not do things in ways we think they should.
2. Remember that your petty dislike for a particular thing does not mean that all others feel the same way.
3. Begin by confessing your own sins and not those of others.

4. SO FINALLY:

1. Our hearts are hardened by our rejection of God's demands; setting up our own standards; by our own censorious attitude toward others.
2. We need to remember the story of the two men: WHERE ONE SAW ONLY MUD THE OTHER SAW STARS.
 1. We see in others about what we look for and some times it is a very low picture we see of others and especially when we have set ourselves up as the standard by which will propose to take the measurment of another.
3. Our hearts are hardened by failure to look within ourselves.
4. Our hearts are hardened by our proneness to blame and censure others while at the same time excusing ourselves as above reproach.