



SAVED TO SERVE
Pastor Andrew Henriques
www.prophecyagain.com
THE "HARDENING" OF GOD

1. In this Sabbath School Lesson, we will learn the meaning of God hardening Pharaoh's heart, and Jesus words "he that hath an ear, let him hear."

2. Moses was chosen by God to deliver the Israelites who were slaves in Egypt. What does Exodus 9:12 say God did? See also Exodus 10:20, 27

3. What did God say about Pharaoh prior to sending Moses to Egypt? Exodus 3:19, 20

4. How did God know that Pharaoh would not initially let His people go? 1 Samuel 16:7

5. **Note:** The word "heart" in this context refers to a person's mind and thoughts. See Proverbs 23:7; Hebrews 8:10; Philippians 4:7; Romans 8:27. Although God knew what Pharaoh would do, He did not force Pharaoh to do anything. He simply tested Pharaoh and left it up to Pharaoh to choose for himself. Let us confirm these points and see how God "hardened" Pharaoh's heart.
6. What did God send upon Pharaoh to "harden" his heart? Exodus 9:13-14

 - a) Besides freeing the Israelites, what was God's purpose in sending the plagues upon Pharaoh and Egypt? Exodus 9:14, 16

7. Why else did God send plagues upon Egypt, and why does God allow us to encounter trials and difficulties? Deuteronomy 8:2

8. What did Pharaoh do when he received God's message from Moses? Exodus 8:15, 32

9. What does it mean to harden your heart?
 - a) Exodus 9:34-35 _____
 - b) Nehemiah 9:16 _____
 - c) Acts 19:9 _____
 - d) **Note:** Pharaoh was the one who hardened his heart by rejecting the light of truth as it was revealed to him (John 3:19). God simply gave Pharaoh the test; it was Pharaoh's choice to harden his heart or to soften it and be converted.
10. Read Romans 9:17. In the context of raising up Pharaoh so that God could declare His name in the earth, what does Romans 9:18 say?

11. **Note:** Exodus 20:6 says that God shows mercy to those who love Him and keep His commandments. God's desire was for Pharaoh to repent and acknowledge Him as the one true God, but he remained prideful and unrepentant.

12. **Note:** Another phrase that is connected to “hardening your heart” in scripture is “they seeing, see not and hearing, they hear not” (Matthew 13:13-15; John 12:38-40). Jesus often said this and other variants of the phrase throughout His earthly ministry such as “he that hath ears to hear let him hear” (Mark 4:9). Let’s find out what these phrases mean.

13. Which Old Testament prophet wrote the words found in John 12:39-40? Isaiah 6:9-10

14. In John 12:39-40 and Isaiah 6:9-10, who does it say “blinded their eyes and hardened their heart”?

a) However, who is held accountable for closing their eyes and dulling their hearing in Matthew 13:13-15? (Answer in verse 15)

15. **Note:** Just like in Pharaoh’s account, God’s people in Isaiah’s time and Jesus’ time chose to reject the counsel and admonitions of God to their own demise. Likewise, God’s professed people today are committing the same sins as Pharaoh and the Jews - hardening their hearts and rejecting Bible truth. Let us see some practical examples of this.

16. Which miracle did the Jews **see and hear about** which is referenced John 12:9, 17-18? (Note: This is the same chapter where Jesus quoted from Isaiah that the people had blinded their eyes - John 12:40).

17. What other phenomenon occurred which some of the Jews **heard** and others did not hear? John 12:28-29

18. Next, in John 12:35-36, Jesus told the Jews to **believe** in the light (Himself) while the light was still with them. However, what was their response after **seeing and hearing** His miracles and preaching? John 12:37

19. **Note:** The same sad condition of the church is prevalent today! We see and experience God’s miracles and blessings daily, we hear His words from heaven through the printed Bible, and we are admonished by preachers to believe on Jesus, yet the majority of us still do not believe and will not surrender fully to Him. What spiritual condition are we suffering from? See the quotation below.

“The people must be given the truth, straightforward, positive truth. But this truth is to be presented in the spirit of Christ...The Lord has not given His people the work of making a tirade against those who are transgressing His law. In no case are we to make a raid on the other churches. Let us remember that, as a people entrusted with sacred truth, we have been neglectful and positively unfaithful. **The work has been confined to a few centers until the people in them have become gospel-hardened. It is difficult to make an impression on those who have HEARD so much truth, and yet have rejected it....” {9T 236.2}**

20. What do “gospel-hardened” individuals often do to faithful preachers who teach Bible truth and call people to repentance? Acts 7:54-59

21. As we close, compare and contrast Isaiah 6:10 with Mark 4:12. God desires that we would see, hear, and understand His truth so that we can be converted and healed. What healing does God want to give to us according to Mark 4:12?

22. Remember that one definition of hardening your heart is being guilty of willful sin (Exodus 9:34-35). What message is Jesus echoing to us today? Hebrews 3:15

23. The message of receiving conversion, healing, and forgiveness of sin was experienced by the prophet Isaiah. What did Isaiah behold when God’s train (or skirt of His robe) filled the temple? Isaiah 6:1, 3; John 12:41

a) What must we behold? Exodus 33:18; John 1:29

24. What did Isaiah say, and how did he feel when he saw the glory of God? How will we feel as we spend time in God's presence? Isaiah 6:5; Romans 7:24

25. What blessing did Isaiah receive from God after being touched on the lips by a seraphim (angel)? Isaiah 6:6-7

26. What work was Isaiah prepared to do after receiving forgiveness from God? Isaiah 6:8

“The spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Saviour....” {GC 70.2}