

Hardening of Pharaoh's Heart Pt 5

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“And the LORD said unto Moses, See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet. 2 Thou shalt speak all that I command thee: and Aaron thy brother shall speak unto Pharaoh that he send the children of Israel out of his land. 3 And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt. 4 But Pharaoh shall not hearken unto you, that I may lay my hand upon Egypt, and bring forth mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt by great judgments. 5 And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them. 6 And Moses and Aaron did as the LORD commanded them, so did they. 7 And Moses was fourscore years old, and Aaron fourscore and three years old, when they spake unto Pharaoh.” Exodus 7:1 – 7

This morning we return to our New Series entitled “Against all the gods of Egypt.” This will be part 5 of our introduction entitled, “The Hardening of Pharaoh’s Heart.” There are 5 things from my outline we are considering:

- I. **The Consequences of A Harden Heart.** (It’s effects)
- II. **The Causes of A Harden Heart.** (God: Supernatural/Natural)
- III. **The Clarity of A Harden Heart.** (God is sovereign)
- IV. **The Conclusion of A Harden Heart.** (The glory of God)
- V. **The Cure of A Harden Heart.** (Conversion/Salvation, Ezek.36:26)

Under our first point: **I. The Consequences of a Harden Heart:**

We have seen that the consequences and or effects a harden heart in the life of Pharaoh was three-fold.

1. **The first effect of a hardened heart is a WILLFUL DEFIANCE not to hear:** Exodus 8:15, *“But when Pharaoh saw that there was respite, he hardened his heart, and hearkened not unto them; as the LORD had said.”* One of the awful effects of a hardened heart is the willingness not to hear, that is, the willingness to defy God and not to hearken or listen unto God.
2. **The second effect of a hardened heart is found in WILLFUL DISOBEDIENCE not to obey God: Exodus 8:32.** *“And Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also, neither would he let the people go.”* The second effect of a harden heart is disobedience, that is; they will NOT OBEY the word of God.
3. **The third effect of a hardened heart is seen in WILLFUL DEPRAVITY: Exodus 9:34,** *“And when Pharaoh saw that the rain and the hail and the thunders were ceased, he sinned yet more, and hardened his heart, he and his servants.”* This is the end result of not hearing God’s word, of not obeying God’s word, it leads to

sinning yet more.

We have used Romans 1 to show the similarity of the heart of Pharaoh with those Paul has described here in Romans 1. Pharaoh was given clear revelation of the Living and True God but like many here in Romans 1 he suppressed the truth of God's revelation, he suppressed his conscience and he suppressed creation and he worshipped the works of his own hands.

II. The Causes of A Harden Heart. (God: Supernatural/Natural)

We saw in our second point that God hardened Pharaoh's heart with a holy judicial, penal hardness. God's hardening of Pharaoh's heart is nothing more than the removal of His restraining grace and allowing Pharaoh to live in the corruption of his own heart. We saw the application of the remainder of Romans 1 and that God still allows a sinner's heart to harden by turning their hearts over to a reprobate heart.

III. The Clarity of A Harden Heart. In this third point by clarity I mean for us to get a clear understanding that God's action of the hardening of Pharaoh's heart was based on His sovereignty and was for His Glory. Romans 9 clearly sets forth for us the clear teaching of the Sovereignty of God in the actions of His purpose in His will in the affairs of men. Please turn to Romans chapter 9 with me, on the way over there I want to read 3 verses that I will make references to: Exodus 9:15 & 16; 33:19.

- Ex.9:15 & 16, *“For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. 16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”*
- Ex.33:19, *“And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.”*

Now as you turn to Romans 9, if you have not heard this before, you might be shock to hear some precious truths that most preachers would rather just gloss over and not deal with. By God's grace I hope to show and teach on this needful and important subject of the Sovereignty of God in the aspect of His purpose and will in the affairs of heaven and earth. Let's pick up at verse 11 – 24.

No doubt these things written here are deep and hard to be understood, nonetheless it speaks powerfully of the omnipotent power and supreme authority of the Most High GOD! These verses again brings before us some of the most solemn truths regarding God's SOVEREIGNTY revealed in Scripture. If you notice very clearly the Apostle Paul does not appeal to human reasoning to be put up on some theological auction block to accept or

reject the teaching of God's Sovereignty. The ABSOLUTE TRUTH in Scripture is never presented this way, but always, THUS SAITH THE LORD or as we have explicitly here in Romans 9 in verse 13, "As it is written" or in verse 17 "For the Scripture saith!"

Jonathan Edwards the great American Theologian God used mightily in the blessed revival known as the Great Awakening said this about God's Sovereignty, "*Absolute sovereignty is what I love to ascribe to God.*" William Cowper who lived in the 1700's said this in the lyrics of a hymn: "*Ye fearful saints, fresh courage take; the clouds ye so much dread are big with mercy; and shall break in blessing upon your head. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace; **behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face.***" Gordon Bayliss would quote that last part, "*Behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face,*" quite often. Edwards also says, "*God has willed everything that has happened, everything that is happening and everything that will happen and I love it.*" This understanding of God's sovereignty is difficult for some people to accept, because it includes everything that happens regarding what we call good and what we call bad. Edwards again says, "*The sovereignty of God is the stumbling block on which thousands fall and perish.*" Sad to say but true that this mindset against God's sovereignty persists today and sadder still is the fact that few pulpits in our land ever address the absolute sovereignty of God. Some might speak of this in a relative term, but not in the absolute sovereignty of God, that He rules and reigns in all things and that He has decreed from eternity past everything that shall come to pass. We see this so clearly and so powerfully here in Romans chapter 9.

The first thing we see in our immediate text in Romans 9 is where Paul makes the point very clear regarding the doctrine of election and reprobation in verses 11-14. Paul establishes the truth regarding the doctrine of election in verse 11, "*For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth.*" Before Jacob or Esau were ever born, the PURPOSE of GOD according to ELECTION already stood and it was not base on one doing good and the other evil, no it was based on HIM that CALLETH! Then in case you really didn't get it, like the many that don't he add something so powerful to clear up any misunderstandings in verse 13, "*As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.*" Many try to ease it up as though they are trying to defend God by saying something like, "*What Paul really means is that he love Jacob but that God only love Esau less.*" Well if hate really means love less then let us apply it to Scripture and see, turn to Hebrews 1:9, "*Thou hast **loved righteousness, and hated iniquity;** therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.*" What Paul really means here is that God LOVED righteousness, but iniquity or sin, God just loves it less, I mean God really doesn't hate iniquity and God doesn't hate sin, He just loves it less. What person would really believe that God only loves sin less than righteousness? You would have to be a fool, because God altogether HATES SIN and God HATES iniquity! In Romans 9, God loves Jacob and God hates Esau, PERIOD! God hatred is based on His Holiness and Righteousness, not like our sinful depravity, when we hate or despise someone, God's hatred is a HOLY HATRED! Now, Paul knew people would recoil back and say, how can this be, how is it that this is true, real simple because

God is SOVEREIGN and He is in the HEAVENS and has done whatsoever He pleases to do? This is why Paul added verse 14 to dispel any misunderstanding of what God had said, *“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.”* Paul answers his own rhetorical question with a definite and clear cut denial = GOD FORBID! He does this so that there will be no arguments or misunderstanding as to what he has said. One of the reasons again that most people have a problem with this subject is because they have a faulty theology. Therefore, I’ve come to the conclusion that only those with a faulty, flawed and defective theology have a problem with this subject of the SOVEREIGNTY of God in the HARDENING of PHARAOH’S HEART. When a person understands and sees the essence of the Sovereignty of God it answers the inevitable of all of our inquiries regarding the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart and texts like here in Romans 9 and thus we bow down to our God’s PURPOSE and WILL and confess humbly, thank you Lord, that you did not harden my own heart and that I was not born Pharaoh or Esau.

Then he begins verse 15 with the word FOR to show the continuation of his thought, **“For** *he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”* Paul uses the example of Moses in Exodus 33. Moses had asked the Lord to show him His Glory and this is how God responds in Ex.33:19, *“And he said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will shew mercy on whom I will shew mercy.”* In other words God’s mercy is showing the action and prerogative of His own choice that belongs to God alone. Paul again answers in verse 16, *“So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.”* Paul shows that salvation is not of man’s will or of man’s strength, but OF GOD who is the one who shows MERCY. The word IT refers to the CAUSE not the result of a man’s supposed will. In other words this is the expressive determination of God without man’s input, yea it is HIS SOVEREIGN PURPOSE from eternity past, this is why Paul begins this verse with SO THEN, to clarify that it is HIS SOVEREIGN PREROGATIVE alone to SHOW MERCY!

I cannot remember who said this but as one writer says, *“We do not have the right to ascribe to the Lord a limited or softened sovereignty **because the Spirit-inspired Bible writers do not.** We must be content to rest in what God has said, and to place our hands over our mouths in humble submission to his word. Of course, Scripture also makes clear that though God somehow stands behind both evil and good, he does not stand behind them symmetrically; he does not stand behind them with equal ultimacy. God is not evil, nor is he the author of it. Neither is he cruel, ordaining awful circumstances as some kind of divine sadist reveling in the misery of his creatures. May it never be! Since the Bible expresses with equal force that God ordains, uses, and brings about evil circumstances in the world and that God is in no way to be construed as the author of evil, we must never emphasize one to circumvent the other.”* By no means does this writer not do we emphasize in any form, shape or manner the God is the author of sin. I say this because when you up a subject like ours regarding God’s sovereignty and that God hardened Pharaoh’s heart, you can always hear the flying buzzards saying, *“Ah, Pastor Joe, then what you are saying is that God is the author of sin...”* No that is not what I am saying, I’m just not making excuses when we come across hard texts like these. The reason for this type of emotional or sentimental outburst is because again, of a

faulty theology. My dear ones be very much assured that GOD IS NOT THE AUTHOR OF SIN! But on the other side of the coin we must neither strip Him of HIS SOVEREIGNTY! We must bow down to the words of Rev.19:5 & 6 in humble submission, *“And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. 6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, **Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.**”* Yes, ALLELUIA, the LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNETH!

Then Paul here in Romans 9 pulls another example from Exodus to further demonstrate God’s SOVEREIGN ACTIVITY, that is, that God’s salvation and God’s judgment is solely contingent on HIM who works all things according to the purpose and counsel of HIS OWN SOVEREIGN WILL! Just as we are told in Daniel 4:35, *“And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he doeth according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: **and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**”* Isaiah 46:9-11 also declares this, *“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, 10 Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure: 11 Calling a ravenous bird from the east, the man that executeth my counsel from a far country: **yea, I have spoken it, I will also bring it to pass; I have purposed it, I will also do it.**”* Therefore Paul quotes again from the book of Exodus in verse 17, *“For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.”*

Again, I reiterate, these are hard sayings, but does in no way implicate God doing any injustice what so ever, because the JUDGE of all the earth will always be right. Oh my dear ones if we ever fall prey to the idea that there is injustice with God, then we are basically saying that there is a higher standard outside of God. You see, we must read and study the Scripture so that the more you read and study the Bible we reevaluate and recalibrate our own mind regarding thoughts we had about God, righteousness, sin, salvation and judgment and thus forces us to subject ourselves to a BIBLICAL and GOD-CENTERED view of justice, rather than a man-centered unbiblical one. This is why Paul constantly says, the Scripture saith or it is written to show it is not his opinion or idea, but it is THUS SAITH THE LORD! So Paul quotes from Exodus 9:16 to cause us to understand that the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart and his impending judgment is perfectly just,

Let me just say in passing that Pharaoh is no different or worse than any save sinner that has obtained mercy. I was no different than Pharaoh, Pharaoh was born a sinner, Joe Maldonado was born a sinner; Pharaoh was born dead in trespasses and sins and I was born into this world dead in trespasses and sins, Pharaoh walked according to the course of this world and I did likewise, but as Paul says in 1 Cor. 4:7, *“**For who maketh thee to differ from another?**”* The answer is GOD, He came to me one day in mercy and saved my soul and all I say is I thank you Lord that I was not born Pharaoh KING of Egypt, but simply wretched Joe Maldonado. *“For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared*

throughout all the earth.”

Here Paul quotes Scripture that God is saying that He had raised Pharaoh in order to show that nothing on this earth not even the most powerful king of Egypt at that known time could thwart, stop or prevent HIM from performing and accomplishing HIS PURPOSE. God says so clearly, I RAISED THEE UP PHAROAH, so that I MAY SHOW MY POWER IN THEE and so THAT MY NAME not yours pharaoh, BUT MY NAME SHALL BE DECLARED throughout all the EARTH! When it says that God raised Pharaoh up it means that God preserved HIM alive upon the stage of history. I made you king, I kept you alive, I have cause you to exist. You see, Pharaoh's place in the annals of history was solely assigned to him by the power, decree and providence of God. It was not by mere chance or luck, no it was in the DIVINE plan and purpose of God along with the particular destruction and judgment assigned to him. In simple words, the raising up of Pharaoh along with his defeat and destruction was but the manifestation of the SOVEREIGN OMNIPOTENCE of GOD! God raised Pharaoh in order to show or display His OMNIPOTENT POWER, so THAT God's name might be declared in the whole world. God did this with Pharaoh so that He would display His own Glory:

Now, so that we will not misunderstand what Paul is saying, just like a seasoned courtroom lawyer making a powerful point in his argument, throws a THEREFORE: verse 18, *“Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.”* What a DIVINE affirmation assign to Moses and to Pharaoh. Here is Paul's conclusion to 2 Divine points and 2 Divine arguments. One is based on the salvation of sinners and one is based on the justice on sinners, one is extended mercy where the other is left to the damnation of their soul and the whole underlying truth is that all of God actions and works are RIGHTEOUS! Psalm 145 sets forth this truth so clearly, turn there for a moment and we will return to Romans 9. (Read Ps.145:1-21.) As you turn there Prov.21:1 says, *“The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”*

As we return to Romans 9 notice that in verse 18 Paul keeps the order in sequence. First with Moses God showed him mercy and secondly with Pharaoh God removed His restraining grace and allowed his heart to harden. How often we read in Exodus that is seemed that Pharaoh was going to let the children go and when the plague was removed, he would harden his heart again and again. But when you see it through the New Testament eyes, it was not Pharaoh who was in control or in charge, it was God, God was at work. God was going to bring judgment on Pharaoh and upon the nation of Egypt. God was preparing to move His people out of the land with His OMNIPOTENT OUTSTRECHED HAND! We must remind ourselves in Deut.32:4, *“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”* But again, we get so self-righteous in our thoughts and think that it is unfair for God to act and treat Moses one way and Pharaoh another way, but again we must remind ourselves that His ways and His thought are not our ways and our thoughts, His ways are no doubt infinitely higher than ours. Verses 19 and 20 answers any objections you might have against God,

“Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? 20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?” Will you this morning find fault with God? This is where we either submit ourselves to the word of God or allow our puny minds to fight against God, not knowing that He can do with us what He did with Pharaoh.

Do you think that Pharaoh was the only one whom God harden the heart? Oh my dear ones, it must be pointed out to you that the case of Pharaoh does not stand alone by any means in Scripture.

- Exodus 14:17, “And I, behold, **I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honour upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen.**”
- Deut.2:30, “But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass by him: **for the LORD thy God hardened his spirit, and made his heart obstinate,** that he might deliver him into thy hand, as appeareth this day.”
- Joshua 11:19 & 20, “There was not a city that made peace with the children of Israel, save the Hivites the inhabitants of Gibeon: all other they took in battle. 20 **For it was of the LORD to harden their hearts, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly,** and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses.”
- A message to the Phillistines in 1 Samuel 6:5 & 6, “Wherefore ye shall make images of your emerods, and images of your mice that mar the land; and ye shall give glory unto the God of Israel: peradventure he will lighten his hand from off you, and from off your gods, and from off your land. 6 **Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh hardened their hearts?** when he had wrought wonderfully among them, did they not let the people go, and they departed?”
- We saw last time from Romans 1:21-22; 26-28, “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and **their foolish heart was darkened.** [was darkened = aorist tense and passive voice in the Greek which means that the aorist tense speaks of an action occurring at a point in time and the passive voice speaks of, that this effect came from an outside source and not of themselves.] 22 *Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.*” 26-28, “For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: 27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. 28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over to a reprobate mind,** to do those things which are not convenient.” God gave Pharaoh over to a reprobate mind also.

The last example we can read together in 1 Peter 2:6-10, “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not

be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: [Notice this next phrase:] **whereunto also they were appointed.** 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” So Pharaoh was not the only one whose heart was hardened!

Then Paul concludes his powerful argument in verses 21-24, “Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, 24 Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles?” Paul clearly vindicates God and His sovereign purposes without regards to man’s input that is; God’s MERCY and JUSTICE is served by God’s SOVEREIGN HOLY ACTION and therefore we must bow to the Divine declaration and Divine revelation!

Jeremiah 18:1-6, “The word which came to Jeremiah from the LORD, saying, 2 Arise, and go down to the potter’s house, and there I will cause thee to hear my words. 3 Then I went down to the potter’s house, and, behold, **he wrought a work on the wheels.** 4 **And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.** 5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 6 O house of Israel, **cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter’s hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.**” Thought this is primarily applied to Israel, but the application is to all in the sense of creation, that is, we are all but CLAY! Then of course our Lord Jesus Christ Himself says so clearly in Matthew 20:15, “Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?”

If God is the potter and we are the clay then we have no say so, there is no democracy or freewill voting in the administration of God’s decree and counsel, His purposes and will trump any voicing of our opinion or thoughts, because it is God’s prerogative and power to take of the same lump of clay and make one a vessel unto honor and another one unto dishonor. Verse 22 is frightening, because what IF God is willing to show His wrath and to make His power known, that He endures with such longsuffering vessels of wrath FITTED TO DESTRUCTION! The problem is lies in what Solomon clearly says in Ecclesiastes 8:11, “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” I am so thankful for verse 24 because it includes the Gentiles, which would include me in God’s mercy.

Thus, we see the essence of our third point, The Clarity of a Harden Heart, this falls under the sovereignty of God because as it says again in Romans 9:16-18, “So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy. 17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. 18 Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have

mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth.” Which brings us our fourth point:

IV. The Conclusion of A Harden Heart. (The glory of God)

This whole idea or teaching about the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart is all based on the aspect of the GLORY OF GOD, this is the conclusion of the whole matter, it is all for THE GLORY OF GOD! Psalms 145:11, *“They shall speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and talk of thy power.”* Again in Exodus 9:15 & 16 it says, *“For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth. 16 And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”*

In the context of these verses there has already been 6 plagues on Egypt:

1. Water turned into blood.
2. The frogs.
3. The lice
4. The flies.
5. The murrain on the cattle.
6. The boils on man and beast.

There were going to be 4 more plagues on Egypt:

7. Hail and thunder.
8. The Locusts.
9. The 3 days of intense darkness.
10. The death of all the firstborn male.

Now in-between the 6th and 7th plague God through Moses says powerfully to Pharaoh in verse 15 of Exodus 9, *“For now I will stretch out my hand, that I may smite thee and thy people with pestilence; and thou shalt be cut off from the earth.”* God is basically saying to Pharaoh, Pharaoh you know that by now I could have stretched forth my hand and basically struck you with a plague that would have wiped you off the earth. God is conveying to Pharaoh, I am in control and you’re not, it is nothing short of my SOVEREIGN OMNIPOTENT POWER that keeps you alive and the only reason I have kept you alive is for my GLORY, that is; that MY POWER not yours, that MY POWER and MY NAME would be proclaimed in all the earth.

Verse 16 says again, *“And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”* It is very clear from the phrase and in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, means that God spared him, God cause him to survive to; that is God has cause him to live to this point so that GOD would

display His POWER in Pharaoh, by bringing 4 more horrendous plagues that will utterly destroy Egypt and of course the final destruction of Pharaoh and Egypt in Exodus 14 at the Red Sea. The fact that God did fulfil His purpose of displaying His power is clear that this story of Exodus is often told in the remainder of the Bible even as we have seen in Romans 9. The storyline in this book of Exodus clearly proves that what God did in Egypt has no doubt made a deep and sober impression upon the minds of all those who have heard and read this story. Even Hollywood made a movie on this and a new one is coming out, of course they always get it wrong and miss on the essence of the GLORY and NAME of the TRUE and LIVING GOD and just make it a sentimental mushy story instead of that which GLORIFIES GOD, nonetheless, there has been an impression left in the MINDS and HEARTS of people throughout the world and throughout time that the HEBREW God, Jehovah/Yahweh has been declared and proclaimed! *“And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.”* Yes, Yes and AMEN!!!

In other words when the story of the 10 plagues are told or read, whose name is proclaimed or declared, God’s or Pharaoh’s? Is it not GOD and GOD’S NAME alone that is DECLARED with such POWER and GLORY!

The whole aspect of Pharaoh’s heart being hardened is for the GLORY of God being proclaimed and declared!

So what will you do with this truth, bow to God acknowledging HIS SOVEREIGNTY or will you continue to suppress the truth to your own impending doom? Will you continue to harden your heart against God or will you submit to His REVEAL WILL in HIS WORD, do not, my dear ones, do not be like those in Romans 1:16-25 again:

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: 21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

We have seen that this clearly is applied to Pharaoh. We know what is said about Pharaoh, but what about you this morning, where do you stand before God? Where is God in your life this morning, yes; where is God presently in your life?

Paul in Romans gives us the awful pattern in man which we've have seen applies so clearly to Pharaoh where he and all lost men in their vain imaginations exchange the truth for a lie. What man tries to do is bring God down to their level as they seek to deify themselves and humanized God which is the awful results of this willful and obstinate rebellion: The end result we read again in verses 24 & 25, "*Wherefore God also **gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 **Who changed the truth of God into a lie**, and **worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen."*

What about you this morning, are you suppressing the 3-fold witness that God has given you in the Bible, your conscience and creation? If you continue in this pattern, the end result is an eternity without God. Call upon God this morning, even now! I admonish you come to Christ this morning, do not wait, do not hesitate, this very moment, right now, come in repentance towards God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

What will you do with this man CALL JESUS? Oh to God that He pricks and shows your heart that you might flee to Christ for salvation. Call upon Him even not for salvation. Will you bow the knee to Christ and own Him as your Lord and Savior? May God be pleased to open your eyes to behold the LORDS of LORDS and KING of KINGS with the eye of faith in trusting, believing and being fully and whole heartily persuaded regarding the only SAVIOR of sinners! This is what every saved sinner has done, that is, in repentance laying hold of God by faith, in believing and trusting by BEING FULLY PERSUADED that God was able to save their souls, that is; believing "...without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Heb.11:6.

Or you will wind up like Pharaoh who knowing the judgment of God yet continued in his sins. Then Romans 2:1 hits the essence of our responsibility to God, "*Therefore thou art inexcusable, O man...*" Paul continues in Romans 2:4-6, "*Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? 5 But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; 6 Who will render to every man according to his deeds.*"

What about you this morning, has God shown you your sins, will you be willing this day to turn from your sins and serve the Living and True GOD? Or will you say, I WILL NOT LET MY SINS GO!

May our Great God be pleased to TAKE YOU, SHAKE YOU, BREAK YOU and MAKE YOU a NEW CREATURE IN CHRIST! Call out to God this morning God is in the business of forgiving and pardoning of SINS, as a MATTER of FACT HE DELIGHT IN PARDONING and says COMPASSIONATELY: THUS SAITH the LORD: "...Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord GOD: wherefore turn

yourselves, and live ye.”

Oh to God that this morning God has spoken to your soul, please do not leave here this morning with effects of:

- An unhearing HEART! That is; YOU WILL NOT HEAR!
- An unbelieving HEART! That is: YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE!
- An unrepentant HEART! That is: YOU WILL LEAVE THIS PLACE AND WILL YET SIN MORE!

Oh I implore you, I beg you come to Christ this morning! Come in repentance towards GOD and in FAITH Towards the LORD JESUS CHRIST!

ISA.45:22: “Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.” LOOK and LIVE this morning: Let’s PRAY!

Isaiah 55:6 & 7, “Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.”

Romans 10:9-13, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. 11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. 12 For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. 13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

LET’S PRAY: