

DOES GOD HARDEN A HEART SO SOMEONE CAN'T BE SAVED?

Looking at some Scriptures makes someone wonder about the subject of whether God just hardens someone's heart so that those people He does that to will not be able to be saved; yet, there are other Scriptures that can be cited to the contrary! WHAT IS THE TRUTH ABOUT THIS?! See these verses for context:

Romans 9:14-24

- (14) What shall we say then? *Is there unrighteousness with God?* God forbid.
- (15) 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.
- (16) So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy.
- (17) For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show 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.
- (19) 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?
- (21) Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor?
- (22) What if God, willing to show *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?

Then, contrariwise:

2Peter 3:9

- (9) The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

and:

Psalms 69:13,15-18

- (13) But as for me, my prayer is unto thee, O LORD, in an acceptable time: O God, in the multitude of thy mercy hear me, in the truth of thy salvation.
- ...
- (15) Let not the waterflood overflow me, neither let the deep swallow me up, and let not the pit shut her mouth upon me.
- (16) Hear me, O LORD; for thy lovingkindness is good; turn unto me according to the multitude of thy tender mercies.
- (17) And hide not thy face from thy servant; for I am in trouble: hear me speedily.
- (18) Draw nigh unto my soul, and redeem it: deliver me because of mine enemies.

So then, there are many more verses that can be considered, but these citations are enough to see that there are two juxtaposed positions in the Scriptures that stand to contradict themselves... unless, of course, there's more to be understood so as to reconcile these seeming contradictions!

I will present to you the fullness of the argument, as I had explained to a Pastor friend of mine by Email after he preached about how God hardened Pharaoh's heart AFTER Pharaoh hardened his own heart – which was a correct doctrinal stance.

However, I intended to reveal by Scripture exactly how this was so, and I sent the evidence of that to the Pastor for his seeing more clearly what the Scriptures teach about that issue more fully. The following is what I'd written him in two separate Emails:

Pharaoh had his heart hardened by God - this IS true... but why?

...

Here's the answer SCRIPTURALLY:

Exodus 7:1-5

(1) And the LORD said unto Moses, See, >>>**I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.**<<<

[edit: **GOD'S WITNESS OF HIMSELF TO PHARAOH WAS BY MOSES & AARON, THEREFORE**]

(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.**<<<

Here's that same text as it is found without anything added by me, except arrows for emphasis:

Exodus 7:1-5

- (1) 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.

Same Scripture, without anything added but arrows for emphasis:

Exodus 7:1-5

- (1) 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.<<<

Now, here is what preempted that:

Exodus 4:21-23

- (21) And >>>the LORD said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh,<<< which I have put in thine hand: >>>but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.<<<

[Seems like God is doing the hardening on purpose to Pharaoh, and that Pharaoh has no free choice to NOT harden his heart, right?! WELL, READ ON:]

- (22) >>>And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD,<<<
>>>Israel is my son,<<< even my firstborn:
- (23) And I say unto thee, >>>Let my son go, that he may serve me:<<<
and >>>>>>>if thou refuse<<<<<<<<
>>>to let him go,<<< behold,
>>>I will slay thy son,<<< even thy firstborn.

So, let's see what made God choose that course of action:

Exodus 3:6-10

(6) Moreover he said, >>>**I am the God of thy father**,<<< the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And **Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.**

(7) And >>>**the LORD said**,<<<

>>>**I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;**<<<

(8) >>>**And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land**<<<

and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

[AND ESPECIALLY THIS:]

(9) >>>**Now therefore**,<<< behold,

>>>>>>**the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me:**<<<<<<<

>>>>>>**and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.**<<<<<<<

(10) Come now >>>>>>**therefore**,<<<<<<<

and >>>**I will send thee unto Pharaoh**,<<<

>>>**that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.**<<<

That Scripture reads like this, without the arrows:

Exodus 3:6-10

(6) Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God.

(7) And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows;

(8) And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

(9) Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them.

(10) Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.

THIS SAME is affirmed elsewhere in Scripture, in the New Testament, referring to Exodus 3:7-8, by Stephen the martyr, in the book of Acts:

Acts 6:8-15

(8) And >>>**Stephen**,<<< full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.

(9) Then there arose certain of the synagogue, which is called the synagogue of the Libertines, and Cyrenians, and Alexandrians, and of them of Cilicia and of Asia, disputing with Stephen.

(10) And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake.

(11) Then they suborned men, which said, We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses, and against God.

(12) And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council,

(13) And >>>**set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place, and the law:**<<<

(14) For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered us.

(15) >>>**And all that sat in the council, looking steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel.**<<<

STILL STEPHEN SPEAKING:

Acts 7:1-7

(1) *Then said the high priest, Are these things so?*

(2) **And he [edit: STEPHEN] said**, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; >>>**The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham**,<<< when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Haran,

(3) >>>**And said unto him**,<<< Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall show thee.

(4) Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans, and dwelt in Haran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

(5) And he gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on: yet he promised that he would give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child.

(6) >>>**And God spake on this wise**,<<<

>>>>>>**That his seed should sojourn in a strange land; and that they should bring them into bondage, and entreat them evil four hundred years.**

(7) **And the nation to whom they shall be in bondage will I judge, said God: and after that shall they come forth, and serve me in this place.**<<<<<<<

SO, IT WAS TO ABRAHAM THAT GOD MADE THIS PROMISE - APPEARING TO ABRAHAM IN PERSON - TO FORETELL WHAT HE, GOD THE LORD, WOULD DO TO THE NATION TO WHOM HIS PEOPLE WOULD BE IN BONDAGE!!!

**MOVING ON IN STEPHEN'S DISCOURSE, THERE IS THIS
STATED BY HIM:**

Acts 7:17-19

(17) But >>>>when the time of the promise drew nigh, which God had sworn to Abraham,<<<<

>>>>the people grew and multiplied in Egypt,<<<<

(18) >>>>>>>Till another king arose, which knew not Joseph.

(19) The same dealt subtly with our kindred, and evil entreated our fathers,<<<<<<<<

>>>>>>>so that they cast out their young children, to the end they might not live.<<<<<<<<<

**[SO, NOW WE KNOW WHY GOD SAID HE WOULD KILL
PHARAOH'S FIRSTBORN SON, AND WHY HE CALLED ISRAEL
GOD'S FIRSTBORN SON!!!]**

CONTINUING STEPHEN'S DISCOURSE:

Acts 7:30-36

(30) And >>>>when forty years were expired,<<<<

>>>>>>>there appeared to him in the wilderness of mount Sinai an angel of the Lord in a flame of fire in a bush.<<<<<<<<

(31) >>>>When Moses saw it,<<<< he wondered at the sight: and as he drew near to behold it, >>>>>>>the voice of the Lord came unto him,<<<<<<<<

(32) >>>>>>>Saying, I am the God of thy fathers,<<<<<<<<

the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. >>>>Then Moses trembled, and durst not behold.<<<<

(33) >>>>>>>Then said the Lord to him,<<<<<<<<

Put off thy shoes from thy feet: for the place where thou standest is holy ground.

(34) >>>>>>>I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning, and am come down to deliver them.<<<<<<<<

>>>>>>>And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.<<<<<<<

(35) >>>>This Moses whom they refused, saying, Who made thee a ruler and a judge? the same did God send to be a ruler and a deliverer by the hand of the angel which appeared to him in the bush.<<<

(36) >>>>He brought them out,<<< >>>>after that he had showed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea,<<<

[AND HE CONTINUED TO "BRING THEM OUT" OF THEIR MINDSET AND BONDAGE, SO AS TO GET EGYPT OUT OF THEM, THROUGHOUT 40 YEARS IN THE WILDERNESS!!! SEE HERE:]

>>>>and in the wilderness forty years.<<<

SO, the final point is this:

God FORESAW the oppression the Egyptians, led by that Pharaoh, AHEAD OF TIME - BY OVER 400 YEARS - AND TELLING ABRAHAM THAT HE WOULD DELIVER HIS PEOPLE FROM THIS RULER KILLING HIS CHILDREN AND OPPRESSING ABRAHAM'S DESCENDANTS AFTER HIM, WHICH GOD CALLED (referring to the progenitors of Abraham - BY ISAAC, SON OF THE PROMISE, WHO BORE JACOB, WHO WAS CALLED ISRAEL BY GOD) HIS FIRSTBORN SON!!!

STEPHEN WAS TELLING ALL OF US THAT GOD FORETOLD ABRAHAM THAT HE WOULD SEND MOSES TO DELIVER GOD'S OWN FIRSTBORN SON, THE SON OF THE PROMISES, FROM THE HAND OF THAT VERY SAME PHARAOH... SOME 400+ YEARS LATER... BECAUSE HE FORESAW THAT HE WOULD REFUSE TO LET HIS PEOPLE GO AND WOULD KILL OFF HIS PEOPLE, GOD'S CHILDREN, AND WOULD MIGHTILY OPPRESS THEM AND KEEP THEM IN CRUEL BONDAGE!!!

>>>>>>>THEREFORE<<<<<<<
GOD HARDENED PHARAOH'S HEART!!!

(AND NOW YOU KNOW THE REST OF THE STORY!!!)

:)

Blessings2u!!
~Roger Funk, II

PS: Here are ... some references about mercy that ... refer to ...
Romans 9:15-18:

Matthew 5:7

(7) Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

AND, CONTRARIWISE:

James 2:12-13

(12) So speak ye, and >>>so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.<<<

[edit: AND HERE IS "THE LAW OF LIBERTY":]

(13) >>>>>>For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy;<<<<<<<

and

>>>>>>mercy rejoiceth against judgment.<<<<<<<

I REALLY LOVE THE KING JAMES VERSION FOR MOST ALL MY
SCRIPTURAL CITATIONS, BUT, FOR JAMES 2:12-13, I TRULY PREFER THE
WAY THE NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION STATES IT:

James 2:12-13, NIV:

(12) *Speak and act as those who are going to be judged by the law that gives freedom,*

(11) because judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful. MERCY TRIUMPHS OVER JUDGMENT.

SO THEN, HERE ARE SOME LESSONS TO BE LEARNED
FROM ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED:

The lessons to be learned from that last Email's content are thusly:

(1) GOD WILL FIGHT FOR THE OPPRESSED - BUT IT MAY BE LONG AFTER THEY ARE GONE TO BE WITH HIM THAT THEY REALIZE IT IN ACTUALITY!

(2) GOD'S HEART IS FOR HIS PEOPLE, AND REGARDS US ALL AS HIS OWN SONS AND DAUGHTERS!!!

**(3) GOD REGARDS ISRAEL THE SAME WAY!!!!!!
(So much for "Replacement Theology!")**

(4) GOD IS ABLE TO FURTHER HARDEN THE HEART OF WHOEVER CHOOSES TO REFUSE HIM AND HIS MERCY THEMSELVES!!!

(5) GOD IS ABLE TO SHOW MERCY TO THOUSANDS THAT LOVE HIM AND KEEP HIS COMMANDS (Exodus 20:6 and Deuteronomy 5:10)!

(6) GOD WOULD RATHER SHOW MERCY TO SOMEONE THAN TO JUDGE THEM IN HIS ANGER, OR TO HARDEN THEIR HEART EVEN FURTHER!!!

(7) GOD IS FULLY ABLE TO KEEP HIS PROMISES - EVEN AFTER 400-PLUS YEARS (Hebrews 10:23)!!!

Hebrews 10:23

**(23) Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering;
*(for he is faithful that promised;)***

(8) LET US DO WHAT HEBREWS 10:24-25 says, too:

Hebrews 10:24-25

(24) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

(25) Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

"The assembling of ourselves together" does NOT mean "ALWAYS IN CHURCH GATHERINGS," BUT RATHER, "ONE WITH ANOTHER" IN FELLOWSHIP, ALSO!!! (See Romans 12:5 - KJV)

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Blessings2u!!

~Roger Funk, II

Additional thoughts of Scriptural references:

Hebrews 12:25

- (25) See that ye refuse not him that speaketh. For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven:

AND:

John 12:47-48

- (47) And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: *for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.*
- (48) He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: *the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.*