

Family Bloodlines

Long Beach Alliance Church • October 17th, 2010 • Pastor Chris Lankford

So the people believed; and when they heard that the LORD was concerned about the sons of Israel and that He had seen their affliction, then they bowed low and worshiped.

~Exodus 4:31 (NASB)

1) God Is Deadly Serious About His Chosen Children

- A) With the “staff of God” in hand, Moses and his family (Exodus 4:20) head out to Egypt in response to God. God gives Moses a powerful statement of foreshadowing of what he will encounter in Egypt with the hard heart of Pharaoh* and the horrible outcomes which come to those who stand against God and His people (4:21-23).
- B) It should expand our view of God to see his supreme reign extended even to the heart of kings. Further, our view of God should be further expanded when we see God judge those who stand against Him. God is deadly serious about His glory, His people, and His authority over His creation.

2) The Sharp Edge Of Belonging To God

- A) In an odd passage (to the modern reader), God seeks to kill Moses for an apparent refusal to circumcise his son (4:24). Zipporah circumcises the boy though, and in an enigmatic statement, pledges loyalty to God and Moses (4:25-26).

3) Arriving In Egypt

- A) Moses and Aaron, united in purpose and effort (4:27-28) arrive in Egypt and gather Israel’s leaders together (4:29). As Aaron speaks and Moses reveals the miracles of God (4:30), the leaders and people of Israel worship God because they are relieved at the message of redemption from their affliction (4:31).

* “I will harden his heart.” The heart refers to the whole of the intellect, will, and emotions from which a person acts. The various Hebrew verbs used to describe the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart all refer to a desire to act contrary to the Lord rather than in accord with him (see chart). The hardening of Pharaoh’s heart is referred to throughout chs. 4–14 with the implication that Pharaoh is answerable for his own actions (e.g., 8:15). However, the Lord states here that it is his sovereign hand that ultimately governs the events. This is also indicated by the recurring “as the LORD had said” (see 7:13; 8:15, 18; 9:12, 35). Though one might conclude that, if God hardens someone’s heart, the latter is not answerable for his actions, this is not the biblical view, and certainly here the narrative is also careful to point out that Pharaoh also hardened his own heart (8:15, 32; 9:34). The sinner remains responsible for his sin. Cf. Rom. 9:16–18. ESV Study Bible ©2008, Good News Publishers, Crossway Bibles.

The Hardenings Of Pharaoh's Heart

Declarations	Hardenings		
I [Yahweh] will harden Pharaoh's heart.	Yahweh hardened the heart of Pharaoh.	Pharaoh's heart was hardened.	Pharaoh hardened his heart.
4:21			
7:3			
		7:13	
		7:14	
		7:22	
			8:15
		8:19	
			8:32
		9:7	
	9:12		
			9:34
		9:35	
	10:1		
	10:20		
	10:27		
	11:10		
14:4			
		14:5	
	14:8		