

## Exodus: Testing & Endurance; Pharaoh & Global Evangelism, Exodus 9:14-16

Often failure causes the believer to develop a guilt complex and assume through emotionalism that God is going to cut him off from his logistics.

This test was brief. God permitted them to enter fear and panic long enough to realize they had no hope and were helpless to defend themselves.

God never tests us beyond our capacity to endure:

**1 Corinthians 10:13** - No testing has overtaken you but such as is common to man, but God is faithful who will not allow you to be tested beyond your endurance but with the testing will provide a way of escape in order that you may be able to endure it.

Oftentimes we believe that the testing has gone past our ability to endure and thus we suffer great mental anguish. But God knows how much we can endure. His goads, discipline, and chastisement go far beyond the reversionist's limit of tolerance but never his endurance.

God keeps the pressure on until the reversionist either cracks and submits, or intensifies his revolt to the point of the sin unto death. But even for the reversionist who commits the sin unto death, he was not driven to endure testing, discipline, or chastisement which was beyond his capacity. God called him home because his mental attitude had gone past the point of no return, as did the Pharaoh's following the sixth plague.

Up through the fifth plague, God's discipline caused Pharaoh's volition to react through continued resistance. At this point, God could have taken Pharaoh out. However, he permitted Pharaoh to continue living so that His divine power could be revealed to the world.

Thus, beginning with the sixth plague, the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart. In other words, his negative volition was locked in and would never have responded to the discipline. But by keeping him alive through the last five plagues, the glory of God's deliverance of the Jews became known far and wide.

**Exodus 14:13a** - But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Do not fear! Stand fast and watch the deliverance of the Lord which He will produce for you this day."

### G. Global Impact of the Lord Hardening Pharaoh's Heart

Throughout the first five plagues, the Bible is consistent in revealing that Pharaoh hardened his own heart. (Exodus 7:22; Exodus 8:15, Exodus 8:19, Exodus 8:32; Exodus 9:7) This hardening was accomplished through facilitation of negative wheel-tracks.

Every time Pharaoh saw a demonstration of divine power and rejected its implications, he facilitated his wheel-tracks of disbelief. The first five rejections of divine power would, under normal circumstances, have caused the Lord to execute Pharaoh under the sin unto death.

Pharaoh's negative volition had taken him to the point of no return. It was extraordinary for God to permit a person to reject divine power as often as Pharaoh did. Since Pharaoh's volition was frozen in negative, the final five plagues resulted in the Lord hardening his heart.

Once reversionism has reached its peak, for God to allow the person to stay alive only results in the automatic facilitation of wheel-tracks of wickedness. This continued facilitation occurred under the phrase, "*the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart*" in Exodus 9:12; Exodus 10:1; Exodus 10:20, Exodus 10:27; Exodus 14:8.

Why did God permit the continuation of this obstinate rejection of His divine power?

The Scripture informs us that it was for the purpose of evangelizing the entire world; from then until now. The Lord informs Pharaoh of why his life has been prolonged in:

**Exodus 9:14** – This time I will send all My plagues on you, your servants, and your people, so that you may know that there is no one like Me in all the earth.

**Exodus 9:15** - For if by now I had put forth My hand and struck you and your people with pestilence, you would then have been cut off from the earth.

**Exodus 9:16** - But indeed, for this cause I have allowed you to remain: in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.