

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS

APRIL 24, 2024

EXODUS 4:21-23

INTRODUCTION:

1. Disobedience comes with harsh consequences. Whether by ignorance or by choice, disobeying the commandments of God stirs up the anger of God.
 - a) **EXODUS 4.14:** *“So the anger of the LORD was kindled against Moses”*
 - b) **HEBREWS 3.10:** *“Therefore I was angry with that generation...”*
 - c) **MATTHEW 22.7:** *“But when the king heard about it, he was furious.”* (cf. Matt. 23.37-39)
2. Moses was to perform all the miracles that God gave him *“before Pharaoh”* (Ex. 14.21).

I. THE HARDNESS OF PHARAOH’S HEART

- A. Though Moses and Aaron performed wonders, *“he will not let the people go”* (Ex. 4.21).
 1. What does it mean to have a hard heart?
 2. Hard [Heb: (hazaq); Grk (skleryno)]: *“to make strong...stubborn”* (Ex. 13.15)
 3. As the seat of the intellect, emotions, and volition, a hard heart does not allow reason and feelings to penetrate it. (cf. 1 Sam. 6.6; 1 John 3.17)
- B. God hardened the heart of Pharaoh.
 1. Ten times in the book of Exodus we are told that God hardened the heart of Pharaoh. (Ex. 4.21; 7.3; 9.12; 10.1,20,27; 11.10; 14.4,8,17)
 2. Did God override Pharaoh’s free will? (Ex. 8.15,32; 9.34)
 - a) To remove the free will of man is a Calvinistic doctrine. (cf. Acts 13.46)
 - b) God hardened Pharaoh’s heart through agency. (Acts 16.14; 2 Cor. 2.14-16)
 - c) Pharaoh’s heart was hardened by the magicians. (Ex. 7.11,22; 8.7,18,19)
 3. God chose a man He knew would reject Him. Why?
 - a) The miracles of God caused His name to be glorified. (Ex. 14.4,17; Rom. 9.17)
 - b) Our purpose is singular. (Isa. 43.7; 1 Cor. 10.31)

II. THE HARSHNESS OF GOD’S JUDGMENT

- A. Israel was the people of God.
 1. **EXODUS 4.22:** *“Israel is My son, My firstborn.”*
 - a) Repeatedly, God refers to Israel as *“My People”* (cf. Ex. 3.7,10; 5.1)
 - b) Why did God choose Israel above all others? (Deut. 7.6-8; Gen. 12.1-4)
 2. Consider the magnitude of having God as your Father?
 - a) Our Father is the one and only God. (Deut. 4.34,35)
 - b) Pharaoh needed to know that Israel did not belong to him. (Ex. 5.4; Gen. 20.3)
 3. The people of God are an exclusive group. (Deut. 14.6; 1 Pet. 2.9,10)
- B. God promises to punish Pharaoh if he refuses to obey.
 1. **EXODUS 4.23:** *“So I say to you, let My son go that he may serve Me. But if you refuse to let him go, indeed I will kill your son, your firstborn.”*
 2. In keeping with His promise, God takes the life of Pharaoh’s firstborn along with every firstborn in Egypt. (Ex. 12.27,28)
 - a) Pharaoh finally let Israel go and asked Moses to *“bless me also”* (Ex. 12.32)
 - b) All the Egyptians rushed the people out of Egypt. (Ex. 12.33)
 3. David also came to know the harshness of God’s judgment. (2 Sam. 12.10-15)
 4. The punishment of God will be eternally harsh against the disobedient. (Matt. 25.41)