

### 1. Review - Why Ten Plagues?

- That God's Glory (Heb. – *KVD*) would be revealed to the world.
- Power and authority extend to all nations.
- Plagues increase in scope:
  - Initially – Pharaoh's magicians could duplicate the plague.
  - **Time** – time elements are introduced to show God is outside of and in control of time.
  - **Geography** – aspects of geography are presented to show God transcends space.
  - God can **discriminate** between people, animals, and places.
    - The plague of Livestock only affects the Egyptian animals.
    - Pharaoh is only concerned to see if any of the Hebrew animals died (Ex. 9:7).

### 2. Pharaoh's Heart:

- Did God “harden” Pharaoh's heart and, therefore, remove his free will?
- Three items:
  - Who acts on Pharaoh's heart? Is it only God?
  - What Hebrew words underly the English “hard” or “harden?”
  - Do we interpret this to mean that God takes away Pharaoh's free will?

### 3. Ten Plagues and Pharaoh's Heart:

Plague	Verse	Who is the acting agent on the heart?		
		Description of Heart	Pharaoh	God
Staff/Snake	(7:13)	Ambiguous – Heart ( <i>CHZQ</i> )		
1. Blood	(7:22)	Ambiguous – Heart ( <i>CHZQ</i> )		
2. Frogs	(8:15)		Pharaoh ( <i>KVD</i> )	
3. Lice	(8:19)	Ambiguous – Heart ( <i>CHZQ</i> )		
4. Flies	(8:32)		Pharaoh ( <i>KVD</i> )	
5. Livestock	(9:7)	Ambiguous – Heart ( <i>KVD</i> )		
6. Boils	(9:12)			God ( <i>CHZQ</i> )
7. Hail	(9:34)		Pharaoh – ( <i>KVD</i> )	
8. Locust	(10:20)			God ( <i>CHZQ</i> )
9. Darkness	(10:27)			God ( <i>CHZQ</i> )
10. First-Born	(11:10)			God ( <i>CHZQ</i> )
Pursuit	Ch. 14			God ( <i>CHZQ</i> )

4. English Hard/Harden:

- English Hard/Harden shows up **17x** within (Ex. 4:21 – Ex. 14:17)
- There are **THREE** different Hebrew words. Each with its own distinct meaning.

5. Hebrew Words:

Hebrew	Times Used	Root Meaning
<i>Kasha</i> (קשה)	1x	- to make hard, difficult, stubborn, - stiff, stiff-necked - see Psalm 95:8
<i>Chazaq</i> (חזק)	12x	- strong, strengthen, to make strong, encourage - does not denote emotional insensitivity.
<i>Kvd</i> (כבד)	6x	- heavy, to make heavy, Glory - Pharaoh “heavies” his heart - used in this context when Pharaoh sins

7. Authors don't accidentally change words and assume the same meaning –

“The difference between the right word and the almost right word  
 is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug.

Mark Twain

8. Pierre Gilbert, “Human Free Will and Divine Determinism: Pharaoh, a Case Study.”<sup>1</sup>

“There are no compelling reasons to translate *hzq* by the verb ‘to harden.’ Since the usage of this verb in the Exodus narrative is unambiguously set in the context of a military conflict, it is preferable to retain its usual meaning, i.e., ‘to make strong,’ ‘to strengthen,’ ‘to fortify,’ or ‘to resist.’ If this translation is correct, it would imply that the author does not wish to communicate that Pharaoh ‘hardened’ his heart after each of the first five plagues, but that he remained firm in the face of Yahweh’s threats and actions. Pharaoh takes courage! He remains strong in the face of this formidable enemy”

<sup>1</sup> <https://directionjournal.org/30/1/human-free-will-and-divine-determinism.html>