

Va'eira

וַאֲרָא

And God spoke
to Moshe and said to him:

"I am the LORD. I appeared to Avraham, to
Yitzchak, and to Ya'kov, as God Almighty,
but by My Name LORD
I was not known to them."

Exodus 6:2-3

"And I appeared"



In this week's Parasha the character of the LORD God Who Redeems was made known to Moshe (Moses) and to the world. God remembered the covenantal promises He had made with Avraham (Abraham), Yitzchak (Isaac) and Ya'kov (Jacob), meaning that the appointed time He had set to act on His promises had come!

God revealed to Moshe that He would now demonstrate His power and authority over His creation through His judgement of evil. When God judges evil He is comforted and extends His grace. It is by the grace of God that the children of Yisra'el (Israel) were redeemed out of bondage in Egypt. God protected the children of Yisra'el from His judgments, rescued them from slavery and redeemed them from death by the appropriate application of the blood of an innocent lamb. After doing all these things, He promised to take them as His people to be their God. He promised to bring them into the land which He swore to give Avraham, Yitzchak and Ya'kov. He promised they would receive the promised land for the establishment of His Kingdom as their inheritance.

The LORD accomplished His work of redemption through His judgment and His grace. He demonstrated His power and authority by sending ten plagues upon Egypt, allowing everyone to know that He alone is God! He extended His grace by providing the only way to escape His judgment.

In this week's Torah Portion we learn about the first seven plagues God sent from His mighty outstretched hand. We also learn that God chose to patiently reveal His power and authority over all false gods, giving every soul the opportunity to trust in Him and be saved. Although many people submitted to God's authority and chose His way of redemption, Pharaoh, the rebellious and evil leader of Egypt, along with his servants who had become one with him, repeatedly refused to agree with and submit to the authority and power of the LORD God.

During God's demonstration of His power He made a distinction between the Yisra'elites and the Egyptians. This distinction documented that nothing can stop God's will and His word. Pharaoh's repeated choice to respond incorrectly to this truth hardened his heart and made it easier for him to ignore God's provision for salvation.

First Pray

Father God,

We are so thankful that You have appeared to us! We can see the work of Your hand in creation, and we can know and understand Your character through Your Word. We praise You because we will not experience Your judgment when You pour out Your wrath on the world. We praise You for making this distinction for the ones You have redeemed by the Blood of Your One and Only Son, Messiah Yeshua.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

Exodus 6:2-9:35


~ Focus Passage of Scripture ~

Exodus 7:8-8:19



In this week's focus passage of Scripture Moshe and Aharon (Aaron) went to Pharaoh and spoke all the words the LORD commanded them to say. Through His word, God sent plagues on Pharaoh and his servants in the land of Egypt. Let's take a closer look at the miraculous sign and the first three plagues God used to demonstrate His authority and power over His creation.

In Exodus 7:8-13 we learn that Pharaoh asked for a miraculous sign from Moshe and Aharon. God instructed Moshe to command Aharon to cast his staff down before Pharaoh and his servants as a sign of His power and authority. When Aharon threw the staff down, it became a serpent! Pharaoh's wise men and sorcerers were also able to turn their staffs into serpents by using their evil enchantments, but God demonstrated His power over all evil as Aharon's staff that had become a serpent swallowed up all the other serpents. Even though Pharaoh witnessed this impressive display of God's power over evil, he did not submit to the authority of God. Denying the truth about God's

power and authority leads a person to rebel against Him. Rebellion, or refusing to submit to God's authority, results in a hardened heart. A hardened heart makes it easy to reject the grace of God and continue to rebel against Him. 



In Exodus 7:14-18 we learn that even though Pharaoh had witnessed this miraculous sign of power, he refused to send the descendants of Ya'kov out of Egypt as commanded by the LORD. For this reason God sent the first plague on Pharaoh and his servants in the land of Egypt. The LORD instructed Moshe and Aharon to go out to the river's bank in the morning to meet Pharaoh and commanded them to say these words to him:

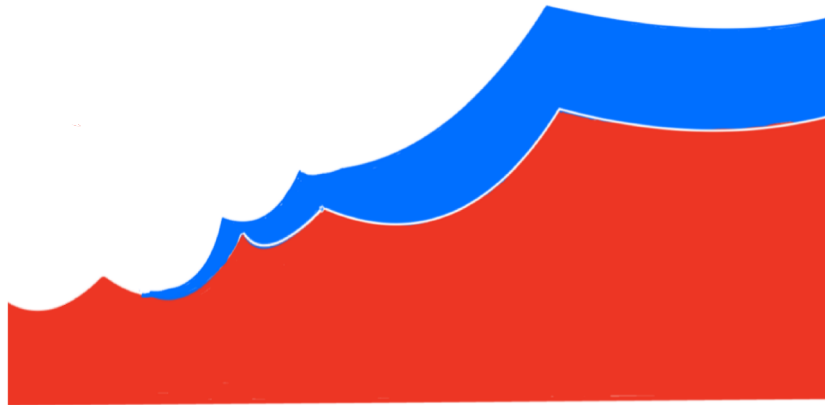
“The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you saying, ‘Send My people forth, that they may serve Me in the wilderness but indeed, until now you would not hear! By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the staff that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. And the fish that are in the river shall die, the river shall stink, and the Egyptians will loathe to drink the water of the river.’” Exodus 7:16-18

In Exodus 7:19-24 we learn that Aharon did as he was commanded by the LORD. He took the staff that had swallowed up the other serpents and stretched his hand over the waters of Egypt in the sight of Pharaoh and his servants. He stretched the staff over the streams, rivers, ponds and pools. All the waters in Egypt turned into blood, making them impure. The impurity of the water caused all the fish in the waters to die. Even the water that was in vessels of wood and stone turned into blood! Water is a blessing from God to produce food and sustain life. Leadership that submits to the authority of God produces spiritual fruit and sustenance. When the water became impure, it resulted in physical death to all the fish that depended upon it to live. Likewise, all those who trust and depend upon impure leadership will die.

The dead fish made the river stink, and the Egyptians did not want to drink the water. Instead, they dug all around the river searching for water to drink. They loathed or rejected the water of the river just as the LORD said. This hardship on the people motivated them to search for a pure source to sustain them instead of continuing to rely upon the source that had been exposed by God as being impure. God's judgment is always for the purpose of revealing Himself to humanity as an extension of His grace to offer a pure source of life and sustenance.

When Pharaoh's magicians were also able to turn water into blood using their evil enchantments, Pharaoh refused to send the Yisra'elites out of Egypt as God commanded. Pharaoh's rebellion against the LORD hardened his heart!

Seven days after the LORD struck the river, He gave Moshe his next assignment. The number seven in the Bible means being set apart for a purpose. This amount of time passing before God sent the next plague teaches us that blood has been set apart for the purposes of God. First, God set blood apart to atone for or cover up the sins of humanity. Finally, He set it apart to redeem or completely erase the sins of man. From creation the life of the flesh is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11). Despite the enemy's efforts to defeat the LORD's purposes and will for His creation, he will not be victorious!



In Exodus 8:1-6 following Pharaoh's refusal to submit to God, the LORD instructed Moshe to go and speak these words to him:

“Send My people forth that they may serve Me. But if you refuse to send them out behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens and into your kneading bowls. And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people and on all your servants.”

Exodus 8:1-3

Aharon stretched his hand out over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs obeyed God's command by coming up out of their natural habitation onto the dry land to live. They covered the land of Egypt in an orderly way and stayed in all the places described by Aharon when he spoke to Pharaoh. Scripture teaches us that frogs are unclean. By these frogs leaving their natural habitat and invading the homes of the Egyptians, God clearly demonstrated that the land of Egypt had become unclean because it had been subjected to impure leadership. This uncleanness affected all the inhabitants of the land in a negative way!

In Exodus 8:7-8 we learn that the magicians of Egypt could also bring frogs out of the river using their evil enchantments. However, the magicians could not make the frogs that had obeyed God's command obey them. They could not make the frogs on dry land return to live in the river. By this we learn that everything unclean is inferior to the supreme, perfect authority of God. All unclean spirits, including evil principalities and authorities, must obey God's commands no matter where they are dwelling. Because Pharaoh was unable to win this battle, he called for Moshe and Aharon and told them if they would call upon the LORD to take away the frogs, he would send the Yisra'elites forth to worship Him.

In Exodus 8:9-11 we learn that Moshe did not want Pharaoh to believe that the plague of frogs ended because the frogs could no longer survive out of water. Therefore, he told Pharaoh to set the time for the plague of frogs to end. Instead of Pharaoh setting an immediate time for the plague to end, he set the time for the following day. Perhaps he thought the frogs would be unable to live on dry land for another day and this would discredit the LORD and Moshe His servant. But Moshe told Pharaoh it would be as he determined. The plague of frogs would not end until the next day, and at that time frogs would stop coming out of the water to live on the dry land. By this Pharaoh would know there is no one like the LORD. The LORD God is the Only One Who has the power to put an end to uncleanness.

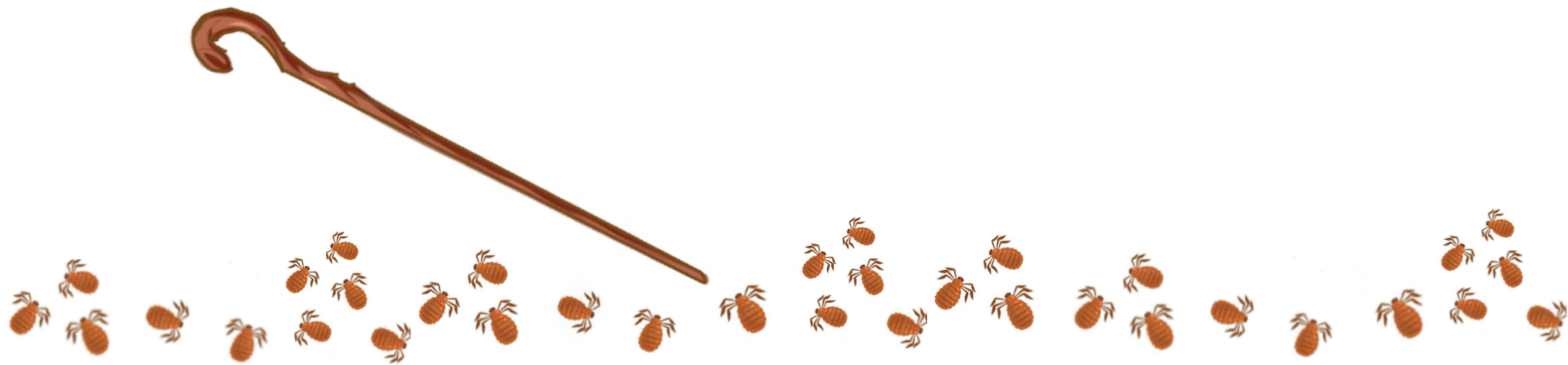
In Exodus 8:12-15 Moshe and Aharon went out from Pharaoh and prayed to the LORD, concerning the plague of frogs. The LORD did according to the request of Moshe. The next day all the frogs living in the houses, courtyards and fields died. The Egyptians gathered them in heaps, and the land stank as they decayed! When Pharaoh saw that the plague of frogs had ended, he hardened his heart again! He did not send the people out of Egypt as God had commanded him, just as the LORD had said. The LORD did not make Pharaoh disobey Him, but rather Pharaoh chose to disobey. This choice hardened his heart, making it easier for him to reject God's grace. The LORD knew before it happened that this would be the outcome because the LORD is omniscient. Omniscient means knowing everything.

The stench from the dead frogs arose throughout the land of Egypt! This demonstrated that the land had become defiled with uncleanness due to the impure leadership of Pharaoh and his servants. When impure leadership refuses to submit to the clear revelation of God's power and authority, the result is uncleanness of the land. All those who live in the land are affected in a negative way by this type of leadership.



In Exodus 8:16-19 we learn that the LORD responded to Pharaoh's rebellion by sending a third plague upon him and his servants. This time He commanded Aharon to stretch out his staff and strike the dust of the land turning it into lice instead of dust throughout all the land of Egypt!

Moshe and Aharon obeyed the LORD's command. Aharon stretched out his hand and struck the dust of the earth, and immediately it became lice on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt.



When the the magicians used their evil enchantments to produce the same result they were not able to turn the dust of the earth into lice, nor were they able to turn the lice back into dust. Their evil power was limited and could not compete with the supreme power of the LORD God. Therefore, the lice remained on man and on beast.

This **revelation** from God through the third plague clearly demonstrated to Pharaoh, his servants and the magicians the power and authority of God. It **tested** them, giving them the opportunity to demonstrate their acknowledgment of this truth in a way that would honor God and bring His grace upon their lives. It is only through the grace of God that one can experience **victory** over sin. Their refusal to submit to God's power and authority caused them to fail the test and clearly **proved** and **documented** the results of a rebellious response to God's revelation. Remember, the number three in Scripture can mean **revealing, testing, proving, documenting** and **victory**.

When the magicians could not compete with God by using their evil enchantments, they spoke to Pharaoh saying: "This is the finger of God." Instead of Pharaoh agreeing with God and submitting to Him, he rebelled against Him with willful disobedience as he arrogantly believed he could have victory over the LORD God.

Due to Pharaoh's arrogant rebellion against God, his heart grew hard! He did not send the Yisra'elites out of Egypt to serve God as he was commanded to do. All these things happened just as the LORD had said. Remember the LORD has perfect knowledge of everything that happens before it happens but He does not use His power to make a man rebel against Him. Instead the LORD gives each person the authority to choose whether they will submit to His power and authority to serve Him or not.

~ Recap Review Fun ~

Fill in the blank using the correct word from the word bank provided below.

1. Whenever a person denies the truth, it leads them to _____ against God.
2. Rebellion or refusing to submit to God results in a _____ heart.
3. A hardened heart makes it easier to reject the _____ of God.
4. All those who depend on impure leadership for life will _____.
5. God's _____ always serves the purpose of His grace being extended.
6. Despite the enemy's efforts to _____ God's purposes and will for His creation, he will not be victorious.
7. When humanity follows impure _____, the land is defiled.
8. All evil principalities and authorities are _____ to God and must obey Him.
9. Only the LORD can put an _____ to uncleanness in the world.
10. The LORD never uses His _____ to make a person rebel against Him.

Word Bank

Power

Hardened

Inferior

Grace

Die

Rebel

Judgment

Leadership

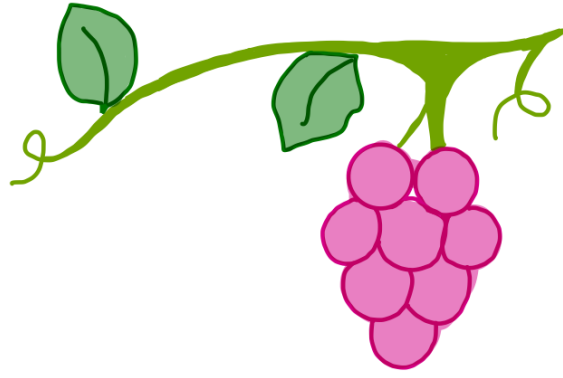
End

Defeat

Haftarah

Ezekial

28:25-29:21



First Pray

Father God,

We thank You for Your Word and for the gift of the Holy Spirit to teach us Your truth. Help us as we study Your Word by revealing Your truth to us. Please help us apply Your truth to our lives.

In Yeshua's Name we pray. Amen

Next Read

Ezekial 28:25-29:21

“Thus says the LORD God: ‘When I have gathered the house of Yisra’el from the peoples among whom they are scattered, and are hallowed in them in the sight of the Gentiles, then they will dwell in their own land which I gave to My servant Ya’kov. And they will dwell safely there, build houses and plant vineyards; yes, they will dwell securely, when I execute judgments on all those around them who despise them. Then they shall know that I am the LORD their God.’” Ezekial 28:25-26

In this week's Haftarah Ezekiel, a prophet of God, spoke words from God concerning His final judgment and establishment of justice over His creation. Ezekiel's name means God strengthens or strengthened by God. Ezekiel prophesied during the time of the Babylonian captivity. The message God gave him in this week's Scripture used current and past events to teach about the future.

In Ezekiel 29:1 we learn this message from God was revealed to Ezekiel in the tenth year, in the tenth month, on the twelfth day of the month. The number ten in Scripture means completion, wholeness or, in a general sense, entirety. The fact that God chose to give Ezekiel this prophecy at this appointed time indicates that it involves events which will happen at the completion of this age. The number twelve in Scripture means people or the people of God. God's choice to reveal this prophecy on the twelfth day indicates it concerns His people.

In Ezekiel 29:2 the prophet was commanded by God to speak against Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, and all of Egypt. As we study this passage of Scripture, it is important to remember that Pharaoh represents impure leadership, and Egypt represents the people of the world who trust and depend upon impure leadership.

In Ezekiel 29:3 we are reminded that God is against impure leadership and describes it as a monster who lies in the midst of his rivers or the impurity he has created. At the end of this age the monster or impure leadership will arrogantly exalt himself above God as if he were the creator instead of one created. His exaltation will lead the people of the world falsely in a direction that leads only to eternal death and separation from God.

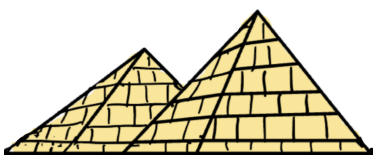
In Ezekiel 29:3-5 God proclaimed that He will put hooks in the monster's jaws and cause the fish of his rivers to stick to his scales; He will bring the monster up out of the midst of his rivers and all the fish in his rivers will stick to his scales. By this proclamation of God we can understand that in the end God will expose and judge impure leadership and all those who have become one with it. God will place them in the wilderness with nothing to save them, and they will perish in the open field. They will become food for the beasts of the field and the birds of the heavens.

In Ezekiel 29:6-7 God proclaims that when He judges impure leadership and all those attached to it, the entire world will know that He is the LORD! God will judge all those who oppose Him and seek to harm His covenant people.

In Ezekiel 29:8-16 we learn that when God exposes this evil through His righteous judgment, the land will become unclean or defiled. This will be similar to what happened when God commanded the frogs to come up out of the river onto dry land but would not let them return. The frogs died and caused the entire land to be unclean. Likewise, when God brings the monster and all those attached to him out of his river or place of habitation, the land of Egypt will become desolate. At that time God will scatter the inhabitants of Egypt among the nations. No one will live in the land, nor will a man or a beast pass through it for forty years! In Scripture the number forty means transition or change. At the end of forty years God will gather the Egyptians from the nations and bring them back to the land where they will be a lowly kingdom. They will be the lowest kingdom of the world, and they will never again exalt themselves as rulers. This new status of Egypt will serve to remind the house of Yisra'el of their sinfulness when they turned to follow them instead of trusting in God. When God causes all these things to happen, the entire house of Yisra'el will be exalted above the nations and will know that He is God!

In Ezekiel 29:17 we learn that God continued His message of judgment through Ezekiel in the twenty-seventh year, in the first month, on the first day of the month. The number two in Scripture means two different opinions, and anytime a number is multiplied by ten it relates to completeness. We have previously discussed that the number seven means being set apart for a purpose. The fact that God continued to reveal His message to Ezekiel in the twenty-seventh year indicates that despite the opinion of His enemies, God will completely set all things apart to fulfill His purposes and will for His creation in the last day. The number one in the Bible means God. The first month or the month of Aviv is the month of redemption. It was in the first month on the fourteenth day that God redeemed His covenant people and all those attached to them from Egypt by the proper application of an innocent lamb's blood. God's perfect will and purpose for humanity is to be one with Him!

In Ezekiel 29:18-21 God used Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon as an example to demonstrate how He will reward those who fight against the enemies of His covenant people in the last days. Nebuchadnezzar had fought against Tyre, an oppressor of Yisra'el, for thirteen years. However, he and his army received no payment or reward for their labor in battle because they did not win. God will reward all those who stand with Yisra'el in the last days!



“Therefore thus says the LORD God: ‘Surely I will give the land of Egypt to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon; he shall take away her wealth, carry off her spoil, and remove her pillage; and that will be the wages for his army. I have given him the land of Egypt for his labor, because they worked for Me,’ says the LORD God.” Ezekiel 29:19-20

New Testament

Romans 9:14-24



In this week's New Testament reading the apostle Paul used questions and answers to teach the church in Rome the significance of Yeshua's birth, death and resurrection as the Only Way of salvation provided by God. To agree with God's only provision for redemption and salvation is the only way to receive His grace and compassion.

In Paul's letter to believers living in Rome, he used Old Testament references to accurately explain the righteousness of the character of God. He emphasized the fact that everything God does is righteous! It is not the believer's responsibility to evaluate the actions of God to determine if they are righteous because it is impossible for God to act unrighteously.

**“ I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy
and I will have compassion
on whomever I will have compassion.”**

Romans 9:15, Exodus 33:19

Experiencing God's mercy or grace and compassion cannot be achieved by a desire to receive it or by efforts to earn it. The Only Way to receive God's mercy or grace and His compassion is through the proper application of the blood of His Only Begotten Son, Messiah Yeshua.

God first revealed His Only Way for redemption to His servant Moshe in the wilderness after Pharaoh was broken and destroyed due to his hardened heart. When Moshe asked God to reveal Who He would send with him to bring the redeemed people of Yisra'el into the Promised Land, God informed him that His Presence would go with him. Moshe responded by asking God not to send them up if His Presence did not go with them. Moshe understood that only by the Presence of God within their midst could they be separate from all the people on the face of the earth. He also understood that God would make a distinction between His people and the inhabitants of the world by preserving them for a future glory.

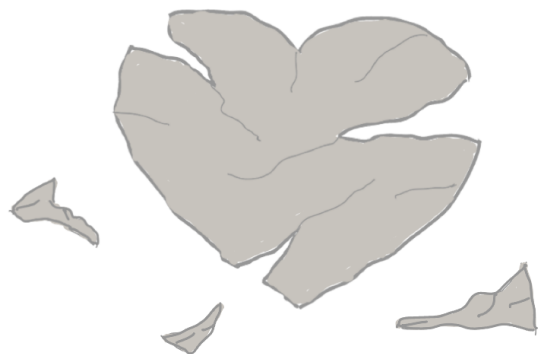
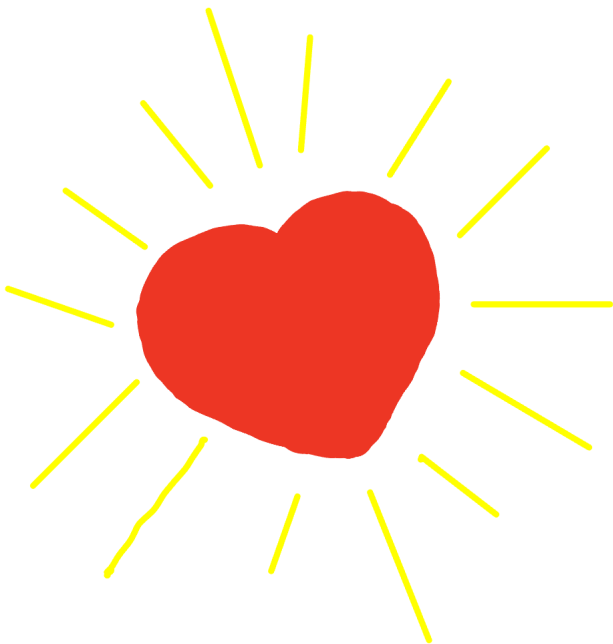
God granted the request of Moshe and stood him on the Rock. God then allowed all His goodness to pass before him. We learn in Exodus 33 that God did not allow Moshe to see His face but only allowed him to see His back. God did this to demonstrate that He would accomplish His will and purposes for His creation by sending the future Redeemer, His One and Only Son Messiah Yeshua, first to offer the Way of redemption and then to judge the world and establish the Kingdom of God on earth.

For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, “Even for this same purpose I have raised you up, that I might show My power in you, and that My name might be declared in all the earth.” Romans 9:17

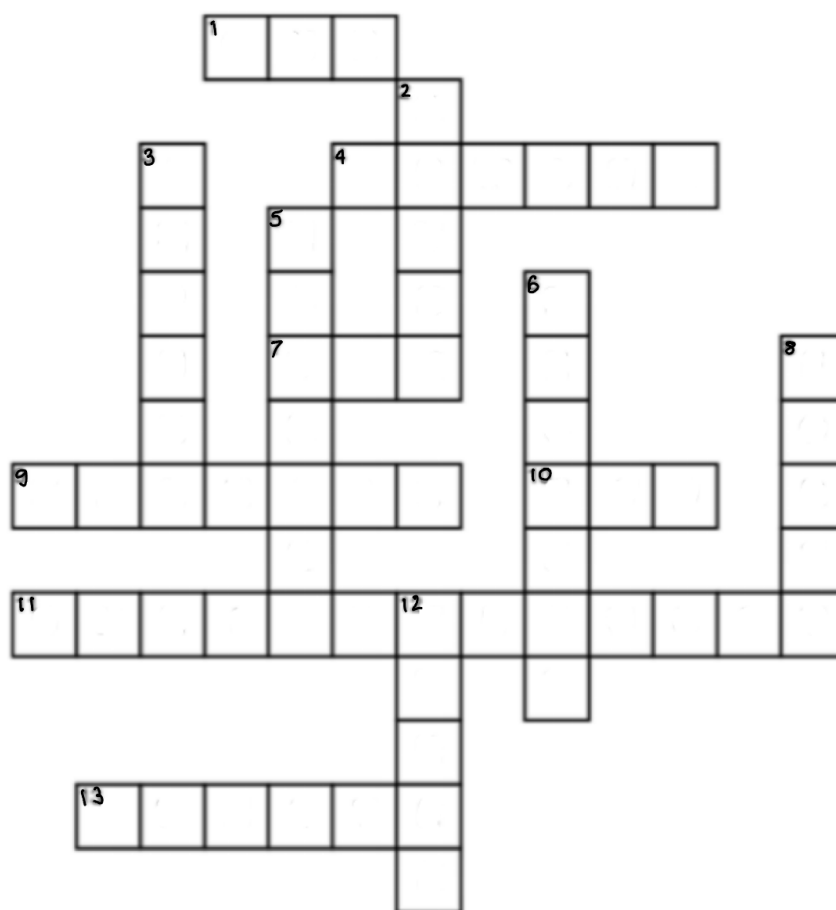
Pharaoh, an enemy of God, was used by God to reveal His power and authority over evil to all the earth! At the appointed time established by God, He chose to demonstrate His power and authority over His creation through Pharaoh. God repeatedly extended His mercy and grace to Pharaoh by revealing Himself to him. This revelation gave Pharaoh the opportunity to agree with God and submit to His authority in order to be blessed by Him. Pharaoh’s refusal to submit to God hardened his heart and resulted in his eternal destruction. God did not need Pharaoh’s cooperation to accomplish His will. Rather, He desired it so that He could bless Pharaoh with His provision of salvation.

It was by his choice that Pharaoh rejected God’s Way of Salvation. In turn God rejected Pharaoh because he refused to agree with the One Who created him. Although God used Pharaoh’s rebellion to achieve His purposes, He did not bless him with eternal life. This is the meaning of Paul’s statement in Romans 9:18, “Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.” In other words, God does not make a person submit to Him. Instead, He gives every person the choice to submit to His perfect righteousness and receive the Only Way for salvation or not.

Nothing stops the will of God! God’s will is righteous and perfect! God is the creator of all things and we must submit to and agree with Him and His Way for salvation to receive His grace and compassion. If we agree with God, He will make us a vessel of His glory by saving us for our intended use. But, if we disagree with God, we become a vessel for His judgment and will be broken and destroyed just as Pharaoh was. Each person is given this choice by God. Each person can choose to harden his heart and be destroyed or they can choose to agree with God and accept His provision for salvation which demonstrates His glory. What choice will you make?



Crossword Review Fun



Across

1. The number in Scripture that means God.
4. God will do this for all who stand with Yisra'el.
7. The number in Scripture that means completion.
9. Name that means strengthened by God.
10. The number in Scripture that means different opinions.
11. It is impossible for God to act this way.
13. The number in Scripture that means the people of God.

Down

2. The number in Scripture that means set apart for a purpose.
3. God will judge this type of leadership.
5. What can stop the will of God?
6. God will do this to all those who oppose Him and seek to harm His covenant people.
8. The number in Scripture that means transition or change.
12. The number in Scripture that means revealing, testing, proving, documenting, or victory.

