

Exodus 14:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For Pharaoh will say of the children of Israel, They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.

Analysis

God predicts Pharaoh's interpretation: 'They are entangled in the land, the wilderness hath shut them in.' The verb 'entangled' (Hebrew 'buk,' בוך—confused, perplexed) pictures Israel as lost wanderers. God orchestrates circumstances to appear as vulnerable foolishness, baiting the enemy into overconfidence. The phrase 'I will harden Pharaoh's heart' shows God controlling even the enemy's response to accomplish redemptive purposes.

Historical Context

Israel's apparent strategic blunder would have emboldened Pharaoh. After releasing them under duress, this seemed an opportunity to recapture his workforce and restore honor.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. How does God sometimes allowing you to appear weak or foolish serve His greater purposes?

2. What does God hardening Pharaoh's heart teach about divine sovereignty over enemy actions?

Interlinear Text

וְאָמַר	פַּרְעֹה	לְבָנֵי יִ	יִשְׂרָאֵל	נִבְכָּדִים	הֵם
will say	For Pharaoh	of the children	of Israel	They are entangled	H1992
H559	H6547	H1121	H3478	H943	
בְּאֶרֶץ	סָגַר	עֲלֵיהֶם	הַמִּדְבָּר:		
in the land	hath shut them in	H5921	the wilderness		
H776	H5462		H4057		

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