

Exodus 14:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, that he shall follow after them; and I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host; that the Egyptians may know that I am the LORD. And they did so.

Analysis

God's purpose statement: 'I will be honoured upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host.' The Hebrew 'kaved' (כָּבֵד) means to be heavy, weighty, glorious—God will display His glory through Egypt's defeat. The outcome: 'the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD.' God's judgment serves pedagogical purposes—teaching His identity and character. The prediction 'they did so' confirms Israel's obedient faith despite apparent danger.

Historical Context

This statement reveals God's purpose in the exodus: not merely Israel's freedom but demonstration of YHWH's supremacy to both Israel and the nations. The events at the Red Sea would be remembered for millennia.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does God using your difficulties to display His glory give purpose to trials?
2. What does God desiring even enemies to 'know that I am the LORD' teach about judgment's purpose?

Interlinear Text

וְחִזַּקְתִּי י	אֶת	לֵב	בְּפָרְעָה	וְכִדּוּ	אַחֲרֵיהֶם
And I will harden	H853	heart	Pharaoh's	that he shall follow	after
H2388		H3820	H6547	H7291	H310
וְאֶכְבֹּד ה		בְּפָרְעָה	וּבְכָל	חֵיל ו	וְיָדַע ו
them and I will be honoured		Pharaoh's	H3605	and upon all his host	may know
H3513		H6547		H2428	H3045
מִצְרַיִם	כִּי	אֲנִי	יְהוָה	וַעֲשׂוּ	כֵן:
that the Egyptians	H3588	H589	that I am the LORD	And they did	H3651
H4714			H3068	H6213	

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 7:3 (References Egypt): And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

Exodus 7:5 (References Lord): And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt, and bring out the children of Israel from among them.

Romans 9:17 (Parallel theme): For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.