

Exodus 14:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and he pursued after the children of Israel: and the children of Israel went out with an high hand.

Analysis

The phrase 'the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh' reiterates divine sovereignty over the enemy's will. Egypt pursues 'the children of Israel' because 'the children of Israel went out with an high hand.' The expression 'ramah yad' (רָמָה יָד—high hand) means boldly, defiantly, openly. Israel's confident departure provoked Egypt's pride. God uses their bold freedom to bait the trap that will destroy Egypt's army.

Historical Context

Israel's confident departure, organized as 'armies' (Exodus 12:51), contrasted with fleeing refugees. This boldness, given by God, provoked Pharaoh's pursuit—which God orchestrated for His purposes.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does bold Christian confidence sometimes provoke opposition that God uses for His purposes?
2. What does God hardening Pharaoh's heart teach about sovereignty even over enemy decisions?

Interlinear Text

וַיִּחַזֶּק	יְהוָה	אֶת	לֵב	פַּרְעֹה	מֶלֶךְ	מִצְרַיִם
hardened	And the LORD	H853	the heart	of Pharaoh	king	of Egypt
H2388	H3068		H3820	H6547	H4428	H4714
וַיִּרְדֹּף	אַחֲרָיו	וּבְנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	וּבְנֵי	יִשְׂרָאֵל	יִשְׂרָאֵל
and he pursued	after	and the children	of Israel	and the children	of Israel	of Israel
H7291	H310	H1121	H3478	H1121		H3478
וַיֵּצֵא	בְּיָד	כְּמָה:				
went out	hand	with an high				
H3318	H3027	H7311				

Additional Cross-References

Acts 13:17 (References Israel): The God of this people of Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an high arm brought he them out of it.

Numbers 33:3 (References Israel): And they departed from Rameses in the first month, on the fifteenth day of the first month; on the morrow after the passover the children of Israel went out with an high hand in the sight of all the Egyptians.

Exodus 6:1 (References Lord): Then the LORD said unto Moses, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

Exodus 14:4 (References Lord): 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.

Exodus 13:16 (References Lord): And it shall be for a token upon thine hand, and for frontlets between thine eyes: for by strength of hand the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 26:8 (References Lord): And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:

Psalms 86:13 (Parallel theme): For great is thy mercy toward me: and thou hast delivered my soul from the lowest hell.

Exodus 13:18 (References Israel): But God led the people about, through the way of the wilderness of the Red sea: and the children of Israel went up harnessed out of the land of Egypt.

Exodus 13:9 (References Lord): And it shall be for a sign unto thee upon thine hand, and for a memorial between thine eyes, that the LORD'S law may be in thy mouth: for with a strong hand hath the LORD brought thee out of Egypt.

Deuteronomy 32:27 (References Lord): Were it not that I feared the wrath of the enemy, lest their adversaries should behave themselves strangely, and lest they should say, Our hand is high, and the LORD hath not done all this.