

Romans 9:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up—Paul quotes Exodus 9:16. The verb exēgeira (ἐξήγειρα) means 'raised up/appointed.' God orchestrated Pharaoh's position in history for divine purposes: **that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.** God's sovereignty extends even to reprobate vessels—they serve his glory.

This doesn't mean God authored Pharaoh's sin (James 1:13), but that he ordained the circumstances in which Pharaoh freely hardened his heart. God then judicially hardened it further (Exodus 9:12). Pharaoh's rebellion served to display God's power in deliverance (Exodus 14:17-18) and proclaim his name globally. Even the wicked are made for the day of evil (Proverbs 16:4). God's sovereignty in reprobation is asymmetrical to election: he actively saves (mercy); he passes over in judgment (justice). Both glorify him.

Historical Context

Exodus 5-14 records Pharaoh's hardening. Exodus 8:15, 32; 9:34 say Pharaoh hardened his heart. Exodus 9:12; 10:20, 27; 11:10 say God hardened it. Both are true: God's sovereign hardening occurred through Pharaoh's free rebellion. This

became the classic example of divine sovereignty and human responsibility coexisting.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. How can God be sovereign over Pharaoh's hardening without being the author of his sin?
2. What does 'for this purpose I raised thee up' teach about God's control over human history?
3. How does Pharaoh's hardening serve God's glory in displaying both power and mercy?

Interlinear Text

λέγει	γὰρ	ἡ	γραφὴ	τῷ	Φαραὼ	ὅτι	Εἰς	
saith	For	G3588	the scripture	G3588	unto Pharaoh	Even for	G1519	
G3004	G1063		G1124		G5328	G3754		
αὐτὸ	τοῦτο	ἐξήγειρά	σε	ὅπως	ἐνδείξωμαι	ἐν	σοὶ	
same purpose	this	have I raised	thee	that	I might shew	in	thee	
G846	G5124	G1825	G4571	G3704	G1731	G1722	G4671	
τὴν	δύναμίν	μου	καὶ	ὅπως	διαγγελῆ	τὸ	ὄνομά	μου
G3588	power	my	and	that	might be declared	G3588	name	my
	G1411	G3450	G2532	G3704	G1229		G3686	G3450
ἐν	πάσῃ	τῇ	γῇ					
in	all	G3588	the earth					
G1722	G3956		G1093					

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 9:16 (Resurrection): And in very deed for this cause have I raised thee up, for to shew in thee my power; and that my name may be declared throughout all the earth.

Proverbs 16:4 (Parallel theme): The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

John 17:26 (Parallel theme): And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

Joshua 9:9 (Parallel theme): And they said unto him, From a very far country thy servants are come because of the name of the LORD thy God: for we have heard the fame of him, and all that he did in Egypt,

Esther 4:14 (Resurrection): For if thou altogether holdest thy peace at this time, then shall there enlargement and deliverance arise to the Jews from another place; but thou and thy father's house shall be destroyed: and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Isaiah 37:20 (Parallel theme): Now therefore, O LORD our God, save us from his hand, that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that thou art the LORD, even thou only.

Galatians 3:22 (Word): But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

1 Samuel 4:8 (Parallel theme): Woe unto us! who shall deliver us out of the hand of these mighty Gods? these are the Gods that smote the Egyptians with all the plagues in the wilderness.

Romans 11:4 (Parallel theme): But what saith the answer of God unto him? I have reserved to myself seven thousand men, who have not bowed the knee to the image of Baal.

Galatians 4:30 (Word): Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

