

The Hardening of a King's Heart

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References: Exodus 7-9, Exodus 2:3-5; John 2:7-9; Romans 9:17-18

So, Lord, we just pray today that You would help us. We thank You for every person who has come. We come before You in our weakness and our lack of knowledge. We pray that You would come and help us, teach us, and give us the wisdom to understand Your Word. We ask these things and offer our thanks in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

所以主啊，我们就祷告祢今天帮助我们，感谢每一位来的人。事实上我们来到祢这里，都是带着我们的软弱和缺乏知识。我们祈祷：求您来帮助我们，教导我们，给我们这样的智慧去理解您的话。我们祈求这些，向您献上感恩，奉主耶稣基督的名！阿们。

The King and the Boss

The story we are looking at today is really the story of this man, Pharaoh, who was king. Because he was king, he figured he was **boss**. But it doesn't matter who the man is; God is still the **Boss** over all men.

我们今天所看的故事，是关于法老这个人的故事，他是当时的王。因为他是王，他觉得自己就是老板。但不论那个人是谁，神始终是所有人之上的主宰。

For many people, it is very hard to believe this because they have had so many achievements in life; they think they are invincible. It is often easier for a man or woman to believe in God if they have failed

in life. For those who are very successful, it is hard to believe because they feel they don't need anything. Pharaoh essentially said, "I don't need You, I don't know You, and I don't care about You. If I were to get to know You, it might cost me too much."

对人来说，很难去相信这一点，因为他们在人生里有太多的成就，所以他们认为自己是无敌的。对一个男的或者女的说，如果他生活中很失败，就更容易去相信神；而对那些在生活中非常成功的人，他很难相信，因为他觉得他什么都不需要。法老基本上是说：“我不需要你，我也不认识你，我也不管你。如果我认识了神，可能要花掉我很大的代价。”

The First Plague: Blood

In Exodus 7:14, the Lord tells Moses that Pharaoh's heart is hard and he refuses to let the people go. He tells Moses to meet Pharaoh in the morning by the river's bank.

出埃及记 7:14 说道：耶和华告诉摩西，法老的心是硬的，他拒绝让百姓离开。祂告诉摩西，要在早晨当法老下水的时候，去河边迎接他。

[Exodus 7:14-25 NKJV]

¹⁴ So the LORD said to Moses: "Pharaoh's heart is hard; he refuses to let the people go. ¹⁵ Go to Pharaoh in the morning, when he goes out to the water, and you shall stand by the river's bank to meet him; and the rod which was turned to a serpent you shall take in your hand. ¹⁶ And you shall say to him,

"The LORD God of the Hebrews has sent me to you, saying, "Let My people go, that they may serve Me in the wilderness"; but indeed, until now you would not hear! ¹⁷ Thus says the LORD: "By this you shall know that I am the LORD. Behold, I will strike the waters which are in the river with the rod that is in my hand, and they shall be turned to blood. ¹⁸ 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."

¹⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, "Take your rod and stretch out your hand over the waters of Egypt, over their streams, over their rivers, over their ponds, and over all their pools of water, that they may become blood. And there shall be

blood throughout all the land of Egypt, both in buckets of wood and pitchers of stone."²⁰ And Moses and Aaron did so, just as the LORD commanded. So he lifted up the rod and struck the waters that were in the river, in the sight of Pharaoh and in the sight of his servants. And all the waters that were in the river were turned to blood.²¹ The fish that were in the river died, the river stank, and the Egyptians could not drink the water of the river. So there was blood throughout all the land of Egypt.²² Then the magicians of Egypt did so with their enchantments; and Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, as the LORD had said.²³ And Pharaoh turned and went into his house. Neither was his heart moved by this.²⁴ So all the Egyptians dug all around the river for water to drink, because they could not drink the water of the river.²⁵ And seven days passed after the LORD had struck the river.

This was the message Moses was to deliver to Pharaoh by the river. In that era, and even today, the river is the center of life in Egypt. It is the center of agriculture, the source of irrigation, and the center of transportation. Essentially, the river is the center of their existence.

这就是摩西在河边碰到法老时要传达的信息。在那个年代，直到今天的埃及，这条河在他们的人生中都是非常重要的。它是农业的中心，灌溉整个土地，也是运输的中心。基本上，这条河就是他们生活的中心。

Moses was instructed to meet Pharaoh at the river. I am not certain, but I suspect Pharaoh went down to the river every morning, perhaps to wash or to swim. Regardless, he knew the value of the river, and God had to teach him that **He** is the Sovereign Lord. Pharaoh was very slow to believe. When God starts speaking to you, what should you do? Some people say, "This is good; whatever You want, Lord, I will do." Others say, "No, I will do it myself. I don't need God." That is exactly what Pharaoh did.

摩西被指导要到河边去遇见法老。我不确定，但我认为法老每天早上都下到河边去，他可能去洗浴或游泳。不论如何，他知道河的价值，而神必须教导他，神才是主宰。法老对于相信神反应非常迟钝。当神开始跟你讲话的时候，你应该怎么做？有些人说：“这非常好，神您想要什么，我就去做。”其他人说：“不，我自己做，我不需要神。”这就是法老所做的事。

In most people's lives, things often go from bad to worse. When things go from bad to worse, what should you do? You should turn to God and ask for His help. But Pharaoh said, "I don't care."

在大多数人的人生里，事情往往是从糟糕变得更糟。当事情从糟糕变得更糟的时候，你应该怎么做？你应该转向神，说：“主啊，我想要您的帮助。”但法老说他并不在乎。

Memories and Miracles

What else happened in the morning by the river in the story of Moses? There are two things to mention. First, Moses himself was put into the river one morning as a baby. It wasn't Pharaoh who came down then, but Pharaoh's daughter. In a miraculous way, she adopted Moses as her son, and he grew up in the palace.

在这个故事中，关于早晨在河边还有什么别的事吗？这里有两件事要提。第一件是，摩西小时候曾被放在河里，当时下来的不是法老，而是法老的女儿。以一个神奇的方式，法老的女儿收养了摩西作为她的儿子，使他在宫殿里长大。

I wonder if Moses, standing by the river eighty years later waiting for Pharaoh, thought about that. He might have been amazed, thinking, "When I was three months old, I was in this river, and today God has brought me back to the same place." Pharaoh's daughter had shown mercy, but this Pharaoh remained hard-hearted and rejected God. It is amazing how God constantly returns to our lives to see what we are doing.

我想，当摩西八十年后站在河边等待法老时，他或许在想：八十年前，当我只有三个月大时，我曾在这条河里，而今天神把我带回了同样的地方。法老的女儿曾存怜悯，但这位法老却心硬拒绝了神。我感到非常惊奇，神通常会不断回到我们的人生里，看看到底我们在做什么。

Years later, there was another miracle worker, Christ, who turned water into wine. He turned water into the joy of wine. The Lord Jesus Christ does not want to turn the water of your life into blood and misery; He wants to turn your life into wine and joy.

多年以后，有另外一位行神迹者，就是基督，祂将水变成了酒。祂希望让它成为酒的喜乐。主耶稣基督在您的人生中，并不会把水变成血和痛苦，祂会把您的人生变成酒和喜乐。

In Exodus 7:22, we see that the magicians of Egypt also turned water into blood. It is interesting that the devil has great power, but he typically uses it to turn good things into bad things. He can even make bad things worse. If you ask the devil to turn a bad thing into a good thing, he cannot do it. Only God can do that.

出埃及记 7:22 提到，埃及行法术的也用他们的邪术照样而行。非常有意思，魔鬼也有很大的能力，但他通常是把好事变成坏事。他甚至能把坏事变得更坏。如果你试着让魔鬼把坏事变成好事，他却做不到。只有神可以。

Pharaoh did not care about God, and he did not seem to care about his own people. If you are a king and a plague strikes, you should be issuing instructions on how to help your subjects. But Pharaoh just went home. The Egyptians had to dig wells in their backyards to find water. It was a time of great suffering. Seven days passed with no clean water to drink or to wash with. Often, God's warnings last for a relatively short time. People often misjudge this, thinking that because the punishment is brief, they can endure it and continue in sin. But Pharaoh was wrong; after the warning comes the judgment.

法老并不关心神，他似乎也不关心他的人民。如果你是个王，你应该发出指令告诉子民怎样去避灾。但法老只是回家了。埃及人必须在后院挖井才能得水，这确实是极大的苦难。七天没有洁净的水喝或洗用。神给人的警告通常有一个相对短暂的时间，很多人因此搞错了，觉得惩罚只是短暂的，所以可以忍受。但法老错了，警告之后紧接着就是审判。

The Second Plague: Frogs

Pharaoh refused to learn his lesson, so in Exodus 8:1, the Lord tells Moses to go to Pharaoh again.

法老不愿学好教训，所以在第八章第一节，耶和华对摩西说：你进去见法老。

[Exodus 8:1-15 NKJV]

¹ And the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go to Pharaoh and say to him, "Thus says the LORD:

"Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ² But if you refuse to let them go, behold, I will smite all your territory with frogs. ³ So the river shall bring forth frogs abundantly, which shall go up and come into your house, into your bedroom, on your bed, into the houses of your servants, on your people, into your ovens, and into your kneading bowls. ⁴ And the frogs shall come up on you, on your people, and on all your servants."

⁵ Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Say to Aaron, "Stretch out your hand with your rod over the streams, over the rivers, and over the ponds, and cause frogs to come up on the land of Egypt." ⁶ So Aaron stretched out his hand over the waters of Egypt, and the frogs came up and covered the land of Egypt. ⁷ And the magicians did so with their enchantments, and brought up frogs on the land of Egypt. ⁸ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Entreat the LORD that He may take away the frogs from me and from my people; and I will let the people go, that they may sacrifice to the LORD." ⁹ And Moses said to Pharaoh, "Accept the honor of saying when I shall intercede for you, for your servants, and for your people, to destroy the frogs from you and your houses, that they may remain in the river only." ¹⁰ So he said, "Tomorrow." And he said, "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the LORD our God. ¹¹ And the frogs shall depart from you, from your houses, from your servants, and from your people. They shall remain in the river only." ¹² Then Moses and Aaron went out from Pharaoh. And Moses cried out to the LORD concerning the frogs which He had brought against Pharaoh. ¹³ So the LORD did according to the word of Moses. And the frogs died out of the houses, out of the courtyards, and out of the fields. ¹⁴ They gathered them together in heaps, and the land stank. ¹⁵ But when Pharaoh saw that there was relief, he hardened his heart and did not heed them, as the LORD had said.

That doesn't sound terribly good, does it? Imagine walking into the kitchen to make bread, and there are a dozen frogs in your kneading

bowl. I went to Florida once, and one reason I didn't want to stay was the frogs. At a motel, there were six or eight frogs right by the screen door. I thought, "What am I doing here? I want to go back to Vancouver." If I found frogs in my teakettle, I'd give the keys back and drive away!

这听起来并不怎么好，是不是？想象一下你进到厨房想做点饼，却发现面粉盆里有一堆青蛙。我去过佛罗里达一次，我不愿再去的一个原因就是青蛙。当时在汽车旅馆门口就有六到八只青蛙。我自问：“我在佛罗里达干什么？我想回温哥华。”如果你进到厨房，看见烧水壶里有六只青蛙，你会怎么做？我会把钥匙还给他们，然后开车离开。

Negotiating with God

On this occasion, Pharaoh didn't just go home; he called for Moses and Aaron. He asked them to entreat the Lord to take the frogs away, promising to let the people go. Now, would you believe Pharaoh? The answer is no. This is something you should learn in life: **don't believe a liar**. If a man says, "I am a liar," and you say, "I don't believe you," you are learning.

这一次，法老没直接回家，他召来了摩西和亚伦。他请求他们求耶和华使青蛙离开，并许诺容百姓去。你会相信法老吗？答案是不会。这是你应该在人生中学到的东西：不要相信说谎的人。一个人说：“我就是说谎的，”你说：“我不相信你，”那你就学到了。

I remember going to buy a used car that supposedly only had 15,000 miles on it. The price was great. But when I looked at the brake pedal, the rubber was worn thin. I asked the man, "If this car only has 15,000 miles, why is the rubber on the brake pedal gone?" He asked if I was calling him a liar. I said, "I think you are. Goodbye." Don't trust Pharaoh.

我记得以前去买一辆很不错的旧车，只有一万五千英里的里程，价格也很好。但我看了一下刹车板，上面的橡胶已经磨得很薄了。我对那个人说：“如果这车只有一万五千英里，为什么刹车板上的橡胶没了呢？”那人问我是不是在指责他撒谎。我说：“我认为是，再见。”所以，不要信任法老。

Moses asked Pharaoh when he wanted the frogs removed, and Pharaoh said, "Tomorrow." Why wait? The plague of blood lasted seven days; perhaps he thought he could endure the frogs for a while too. But Moses agreed, saying it would be done so that Pharaoh would know there is no one like the Lord our God.

摩西问法老何时除灭青蛙，法老说：“明天。”为什么要等呢？之前的血灾持续了七天，也许他觉得自己也能再忍受一下。但摩西说，可以照你的话行，好叫你知道没有像耶和华我们神的。

When the disaster happened, Pharaoh went home, but Moses went to prayer. He had promised Pharaoh that God would solve the problem, and even though God had already said He would do it, Moses still prayed. Devout people understand this: sometimes we pray because we don't know what will happen, and other times we pray because we **know** what God has promised and we ask Him to fulfill it. God honored Moses' word, and the frogs died—piled into stinking heaps across the land. But when Pharaoh saw relief, he hardened his heart again.

灾祸发生时，法老选择回家，摩西却去祷告。他已经向法老承诺神会解决问题。虽然神已经说了祂要怎么做，摩西仍然去祷告。敬虔的人了解这一点：有时我们祷告是因为不知道会发生什么；有时我们祷告是因为知道神的应许，求祂去成全。神照着摩西的话行，青蛙都死了，遍地堆积，腥臭熏天。但当法老看到灾祸缓解，他再次硬着心。

The Third and Fourth Plagues: Lice and Flies

In Exodus 8:16, the Lord tells Moses to strike the dust of the land so it becomes lice.

出埃及记 8:16 说道，耶和华告诉摩西，要击打地上的尘土，使尘土在埃及遍地成为虱子。

[Exodus 8:16-19 NKJV]

¹⁶ So the LORD said to Moses, "Say to Aaron, "Stretch out your rod, and strike the dust of the land, so that it may become lice

throughout all the land of Egypt."¹⁷ And they did so. For Aaron stretched out his hand with his rod and struck the dust of the earth, and it became lice on man and beast. All the dust of the land became lice throughout all the land of Egypt.¹⁸ Now the magicians so worked with their enchantments to bring forth lice, but they could not. So there were lice on man and beast.¹⁹ Then the magicians said to Pharaoh, "This is the finger of God." But Pharaoh's heart grew hard, and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had said.

Even when the magicians admitted, "This is the finger of God," Pharaoh would not listen. If God starts doing something and a person refuses to listen, God will do something else. Sooner or later, He will make it clear that **He** is speaking. In this story, would you rather be Pharaoh or Moses? I would rather stand with Moses.

即便行法术的人都承认“这是神的指头”，法老还是不听。如果神开始做事而人不听，神就会做另外一件事。迟早祂会让你知道，是神在说话。在这个故事中，你宁愿是谁？法老还是摩西？我的答案是，我宁愿站在摩西这边。

Next came the swarms.

接下来是成群的灾害。

[Exodus 8:20-32 NKJV]

²⁰ And the LORD said to Moses, "Rise early in the morning and stand before Pharaoh as he comes out to the water. Then say to him, "Thus says the LORD:

"Let My people go, that they may serve Me.²¹ Or else, if you will not let My people go, behold, I will send swarms of flies on you and your servants, on your people and into your houses. The houses of the Egyptians shall be full of swarms of flies, and also the ground on which they stand.²² And in that day I will set apart the land of Goshen, in which My people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there, in order that you may know that I am the LORD in the midst of the land.²³ I will make a difference between My people and your people. Tomorrow this sign shall be."

²⁴ And the LORD did so. Thick swarms of flies came into the house of Pharaoh, into his servants' houses, and into all the land of Egypt. The land was corrupted because of the swarms of flies.

²⁵ Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron, and said, "Go, sacrifice to your God in the land." ²⁶ And Moses said, "It is not right to do so, for we would be sacrificing the abomination of the Egyptians to the LORD our God. If we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, then will they not stone us? ²⁷ We will go three days' journey into the wilderness and sacrifice to the LORD our God as He will command us." ²⁸ So Pharaoh said, "I will let you go, that you may sacrifice to the LORD your God in the wilderness; only you shall not go very far away. Intercede for me." ²⁹ Then Moses said, "Indeed I am going out from you, and I will entreat the LORD, that the swarms of flies may depart tomorrow from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. But let Pharaoh not deal deceitfully anymore in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the LORD." ³⁰ So Moses went out from Pharaoh and entreated the LORD. ³¹ And the LORD did according to the word of Moses; He removed the swarms of flies from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people. Not one remained. ³² But Pharaoh hardened his heart at this time also; neither would he let the people go.

Notice that the word "flies" is often in italics in some Bibles because the original Hebrew just says "swarms." We don't know exactly what they were—maybe ants, maybe mosquitoes, maybe flies. Whatever they were, no one wanted them. But the Lord made a distinction; He set apart the land of Goshen. No swarms would be there.

请注意，“苍蝇”这个词在某些圣经里是斜体，因为原文字义只是“成群”。我们不确定到底是什么，可能是蚂蚁、蚊子或苍蝇。但无论是什么，没人想要这些东西。主在这里做了一个分别：祂把歌珊地分别出来，那里没有成群的灾害。

Have you noticed that the Lord often makes a difference between His people and others? When I was young, I prayed, "Lord, I want You to treat me like Your own people; I don't want You to treat me like the others." In this plague, God was showing that the Egyptians were the ones in the wrong. Pharaoh tried to negotiate, telling them to sacrifice "in the land." But Moses refused to compromise. God is a

God who does not compromise. In real estate, people say, "This is my final offer," but then they compromise. With God, when He makes a "final offer," it is truly final. Do not try negotiating with Him.

你有没有注意到，神通常把祂的子民和其他人分别出来？当我年轻时，我祷告说：“主啊，我要祢对待我像对待祢自己的百姓一样，我不想要祢对待我像对待其他人一样。”在这场灾祸中，神表明埃及人才是过错的一方。法老试图谈判，让他们“在这地”献祭，但摩西拒绝妥协。神是不妥协的神。在房地产交易中，人会说“这是我最后的出价”，然后又妥协；但在神那里，祂的最后出价就是最后的，不要试图跟祂谈判。

Pharaoh asked for prayer again, and Moses entreaty the Lord. The swarms were removed—not one remained. But Pharaoh lied again and hardened his heart.

法老再次请求代求，摩西便求告耶和华。成群的灾害被移除了，一个也没留下。但法老再次说谎，又硬着心。

Foxhole Christians

We sometimes talk about "foxhole Christians." In a war, when bullets are flying over your head, you dig a deep hole—a foxhole—and you stay down. While the bombs are exploding, you might say, "I think I want to be a Christian. Lord, if You get me out of here alive, I'll believe in You!" Then the bullets stop, your own troops arrive, and you jump out and say, "Yippee! I'm free! I don't care about God anymore." Their prayers weren't from the heart and didn't change their lives. Pharaoh was like that. Even swarms of flies couldn't make him truly believe.

我们有时谈论“狐狸洞基督徒”。在战争中，当子弹从你头上飞过，你会挖一个深坑——狐狸洞——躲在里面。当炸弹爆炸时，你可能会说：“我想成为基督徒。主啊，如果祢让我活着离开这里，我就信祢！”然后子弹停了，援军到了，你跳出来：“太好了！我自由了！我不再在乎神了。”他们的祷告并非发自内心，也没有改变生命。法老就是这样，即便成群的苍蝇也无法让他真正相信。

The Fifth and Sixth Plagues: Livestock and Boils

In Exodus 9:1-4, God strikes at Pharaoh's "pocketbook."

在出埃及记 9:1-4, 神开始攻击法老的“钱包”。

[Exodus 9:1-7 NKJV]

¹ Then the LORD said to Moses, "Go in to Pharaoh and tell him, "Thus says the LORD God of the Hebrews:

"Let My people go, that they may serve Me. ² For if you refuse to let them go, and still hold them, ³ behold, the hand of the LORD will be on your cattle in the field, on the horses, on the donkeys, on the camels, on the oxen, and on the sheep--a very severe pestilence. ⁴ And the LORD will make a difference between the livestock of Israel and the livestock of Egypt. So nothing shall die of all that belongs to the children of Israel."

⁵ Then the LORD appointed a set time, saying, "Tomorrow the LORD will do this thing in the land." ⁶ So the LORD did this thing on the next day, and all the livestock of Egypt died; but of the livestock of the children of Israel, not one died. ⁷ Then Pharaoh sent, and indeed, not even one of the livestock of the Israelites was dead. But the heart of Pharaoh became hard, and he did not let the people go.

The previous plagues were inconvenient, but now God was taking away their wealth. Think of the value of every horse, donkey, camel, ox, and sheep. This was the wealth of the land. God again made a distinction—not one animal belonging to Israel died. This was an obvious sign, yet Pharaoh remained hard.

前面的那些灾难只是让人生活不便, 现在神说要拿走你的钱财。想想每一匹马、驴、骆驼、牛和羊值多少钱。这是那地真正的财富。神再次做了分别——以色列人的牲畜一个也没死。这已经变得非常明显了, 但法老的心还是刚硬。

I once had a friend who said he didn't believe in the Lord because "things haven't gotten bad enough yet." Don't you think God can

make your life worse to get your attention? A few months later, things did get worse, and he believed. Don't be so foolish as to wait for that.

我以前有个朋友说他不信主，因为“事情还没糟到那个份儿上”。你不认为神可以把你的生命变得更糟来引起你的注意吗？几个月后，事情真的变糟了，他也信主了。不要如此愚蠢地等着那一刻。

Then came the boils.

接下来是疮灾。

[Exodus 9:8-12 NKJV]

⁸ So the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Take for yourselves handfuls of ashes from a furnace, and let Moses scatter it toward the heavens in the sight of Pharaoh. ⁹ And it will become fine dust in all the land of Egypt, and it will cause boils that break out in sores on man and beast throughout all the land of Egypt." ¹⁰ Then they took ashes from the furnace and stood before Pharaoh, and Moses scattered them toward heaven. And they caused boils that break out in sores on man and beast. ¹¹ And the magicians could not stand before Moses because of the boils, for the boils were on the magicians and on all the Egyptians. ¹² But the LORD hardened the heart of Pharaoh; and he did not heed them, just as the LORD had spoken to Moses.

It is one thing for your livestock to be sick; it is another for **you** to be sick. The magicians couldn't even show up for the meeting because they were too ill. Yet, the Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart.

你的牲畜出问题是一回事，你自己生病是另外一回事。行法术的人甚至无法来开会，因为他们病得太重了。然而，耶和华使法老的心刚硬。

Vessels of Wrath and Mercy

What was happening between God and Pharaoh? Romans 9 gives us insight.

神和法老之间到底发生了什么？罗马书第九章给了我们启示。

[Romans 9:17-18 NKJV]

¹⁷ For the Scripture says to the Pharaoh,

"For this very purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth."

¹⁸ Therefore He has mercy on whom He wills, and whom He wills He hardens.

God chooses to make examples of people. Some people recognize they are unworthy and turn to God for mercy. God lifts them up so everyone can see His goodness and follow Him. They are "vessels of mercy." Look at the Apostle Peter; he did many foolish things, but God's mercy raised him up.

神选择时时做一些榜样。有些人觉得他们不配得，于是转向神求怜悯。神就把他们升高，让每个人都能看见神的恩慈并跟随祂。他们是“蒙怜悯的器皿”。看看使徒彼得，他做了很多愚蠢无知的事，但神的怜悯在他身上，使他大大的升高。

Then there are others. Pharaoh chose to reject God over and over. Finally, God said, "Alright, I will use you as an example of what happens to a fool who resists Me. I am going to harden your heart so you won't do what is reasonable. I will lift you up high so that when I knock you down, the whole world will see how foolish you were."

还有另一种人。法老选择一次又一次地拒绝神。最后神说：“好，我要利用你做一个榜样，让全世界看着你，看抵挡神是多么愚蠢。”神说：“我要让你心硬，让你不再讲理，也不做正确的事。我要让你一直往上升，这样当我把你打倒时，大家都会看清你是个多么大的傻瓜。”

There are two kinds of people. One says, "Lord, I need Your help, have mercy on me." The other says, "I don't need the Lord; I'll do my own thing." God looks for examples of both. One becomes a vessel of honor and mercy; the other becomes a vessel of wrath. Which one would you rather be? I say to the Lord, "Even though I am unworthy, use me as an example of Your great mercy so that others will see and believe."

这世上有两种人。一种人说：“主啊，我需要祢帮助，求祢对我大施怜悯。”另一种人说：“我不需要主，我要做自己的事。”神在寻找这两类的榜样。一个成为荣耀和怜悯的器皿，另一个成为愤怒的器皿。你想成为哪一个？我对主说：“主啊，尽管我不配，求祢在我身上施展怜悯，把我也当作一个榜样，让其他人看见信靠主的人会如何。”

Whose fault was it? It was Pharaoh's fault. He hardened his own heart many times before God finally hardened it for him. Don't blame God and say He is unfair. God didn't choose Pharaoh to be a bad man; He chose a man who was already bad to be a **pattern** of what happens to those who oppose Him.

这是谁的错？是法老的错。在他自己多次硬着心之后，神才让他心硬。不要责怪神说祂不公平。神并不是选择法老去做个坏人，而是选择了一个已经是坏人的人，作为反对神之人的榜样。

Conclusion

This story of the plagues teaches us one simple thing: God is Sovereign. Do not oppose Him. It is foolish to fight against God. You cannot **sin and win**. It never works.

这些灾病的故事教导我们一件简单的事：神是主宰。不要去反对神，反对神是多么愚蠢。你不可能既犯罪又得胜，这从来行不通。

Lord, we thank You for this story. It makes complex things very simple. Even a man as powerful as Pharaoh could not sin and win. Help us with two things: let us hear this and apply it to our own lives, and help us teach those we love so they do not end up like Pharaoh. We ask for Your blessing in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

主啊，我们感谢这个故事。它把复杂的事情变得非常简单。即便像法老那样有权势的人，也不能既犯罪又得胜。求主帮助我们两件事：第一，让我们听进去并运用到人生中；第二，帮助我们去教导我们所爱的人，让他们不要像法老那样成为傻子。我们奉主耶稣基督的名感恩祷告。阿们。