

# For Discussion

7:2-3

Theme	First Panel 1:1-4:18	Second Panel 4:19-40:38
Entering Egypt	1:1-7, Eleven tribes go to Egypt & multiply	4:19-31, Moses returns to Egypt with his family
Oppression	1:8-22, Pharaoh oppresses Israel	5:1-6:1, Oppression increases
Leaders raised up	2:1-4, Moses born	6:2-27, Moses & Aaron appointed
Moses & Pharaoh	2:5-10, Moses as a son	6:28-13:16, Moses as a deliverer
Travel to Horeb	2:11-15, Moses flees to Midian	13:17-17:7, Israel from Egypt to Sinai
Conflict	2:16-17, Moses overcomes shepherds	17:8-16, Moses overcomes Amalek
Moses and Jethro	2:18-22, Moses' Midianite family	18:1-27, Moses' Midianite family
Encounter with God at Horeb	2:23-4:18, Moses to "serve God upon this mountain," 3:12	19:1-40:38, At Horeb, Israel enters covenant with God

- What is the significance of the pronouns in 7:2-3?
- What three different word families are translated "harden [the heart] in Exodus?
- Is "harden" the best translation for all three words?
- What is the background of the two most common words for "harden"?
- Would Pharaoh be insulted by God's offer to do these two things to him?
- Why does Moses include the least common word for "harden" in Exodus 3-14?
- How does the Egyptian concept of the human heart differ from the Biblical concept?
- What progression is there in the sequence of events that leads to God's "hardening" Pharaoh's heart?
- What two actions of God does Paul discuss in Rom 9:14-18?
- What events in Exodus illustrate them?
- How are they related to Exod 34:6-7?

# Verbs in English and Hebrew

Person	English	Hebrew
I	speak	<b>e</b> dabber
You (singular)	speak	<b>t</b> idabber
He, she, it	speaks	<b>y</b> idabber
We	speak	<b>n</b> idabber
You (plural, y'all)	speak	<b>t</b> idabber <b>u</b>
They	speak	<b>y</b> idabber <b>u</b>

When Hebrew repeats the pronoun:

7:2a, **As for you**, you shall speak all that I command you.

7:2b, **As for Aaron**, he shall speak to Pharaoh.

7:3, **As for me**, I will

- harden Pharaoh's heart
- multiply my signs and wonders

## Western business:

- What matters are the **results**.
- The **means** are negotiable.

## God's economy:

- We are responsible for the **means**.
- God is responsible for the **results**.

1Co 3:4 For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? 5 Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even **as the Lord gave** to every man? 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but **God gave the increase**. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but **God that giveth the increase**.

# God's Plan in 7:3-5

<b>Mental state</b>	7:3 And I will <b>harden Pharaoh's heart,</b>	4 But Pharaoh <b>shall not hearken</b> unto you,	5 And the Egyptians <b>shall know</b> that I am the LORD,
<b>Judgments</b>	and <b>multiply my signs and my wonders</b> in the land of Egypt.	<del>that I may</del> and I will <b>lay my hand upon Egypt,</b> ... by great judgments.	when I <b>stretch forth mine hand upon Egypt,</b>
<b>Deliverance</b>		and <b>bring forth</b> mine armies, and my people the children of Israel, out of the land of Egypt	and <b>bring out</b> the children of Israel from among them.

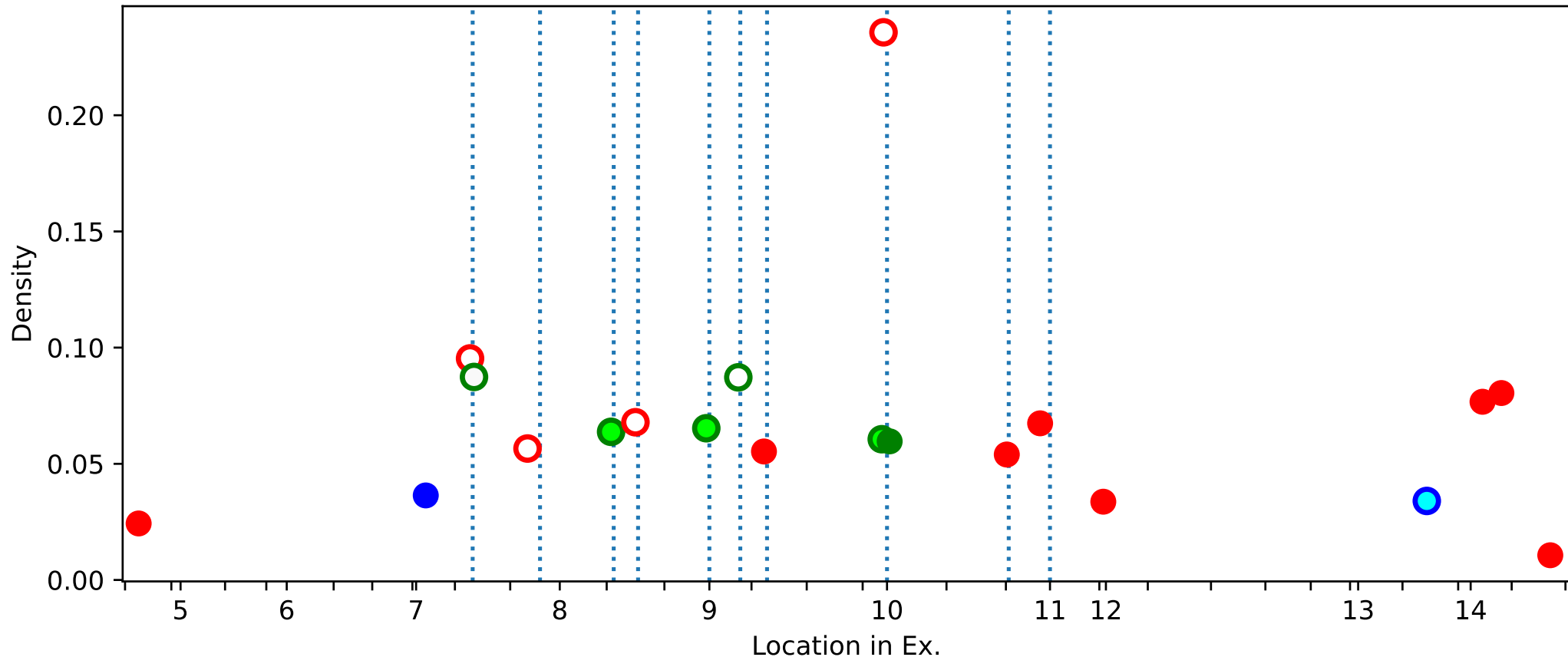


Exodus 4:21

21 And the Lord said unto Moses, When thou goest to return into Egypt, see that thou do all those wonders before Pharaoh, which I have put in thine hand: but I will harden his heart, that he shall not let the people go.

What was God going to do to Pharaoh?

# Hardening of the Heart in Exodus



Dotted line: start of each plague  
 Border color shows verb

- **Blue**: קשה *hifil, qashah* H7185
- **Red**: חזק *chazaq* H2388
- **Green**: כבד *kabad* H3513

Center color shows subject of the clause:

- Solid, same color: the Lord
- Contrasting center: Pharaoh
- Hollow: Pharaoh's heart

NB: Location is in Hebrew text. In ch. 8, English starts 4 vv later, so Hebrew 8:11, 15, 28 are English 15, 19, 32

**Blue:** קשה hifil, *qashah* H7185  
“make hard”(2x)

7:3 I will harden Pharaoh’s heart

13:15 And it came to pass, when Pharaoh would hardly let us go [Pharaoh hardened against sending us out], that the LORD slew all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, ...

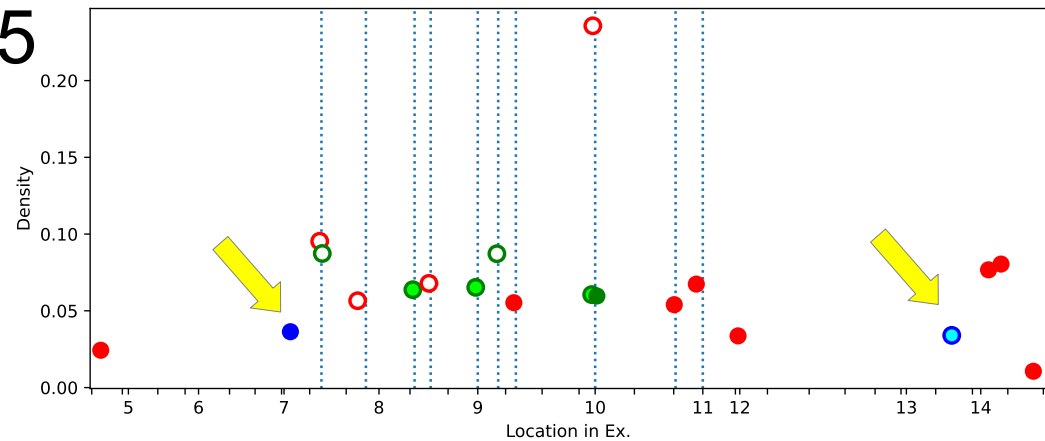
### Israel, after the Golden Calf

Ex. 32:9 And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a **stiffnecked** people:

Ex. 33:3 ... I will not go up in the midst of thee; for thou art a **stiffnecked** people: lest I consume thee in the way.

Ex. 33:5 For the LORD had said unto Moses, Say unto the children of Israel, Ye are a **stiffnecked** people: ...

Ex. 34:9 And he said, If now I have found grace in thy sight, O Lord, let my Lord, I pray thee, go among us; for it is a **stiffnecked** people; ...

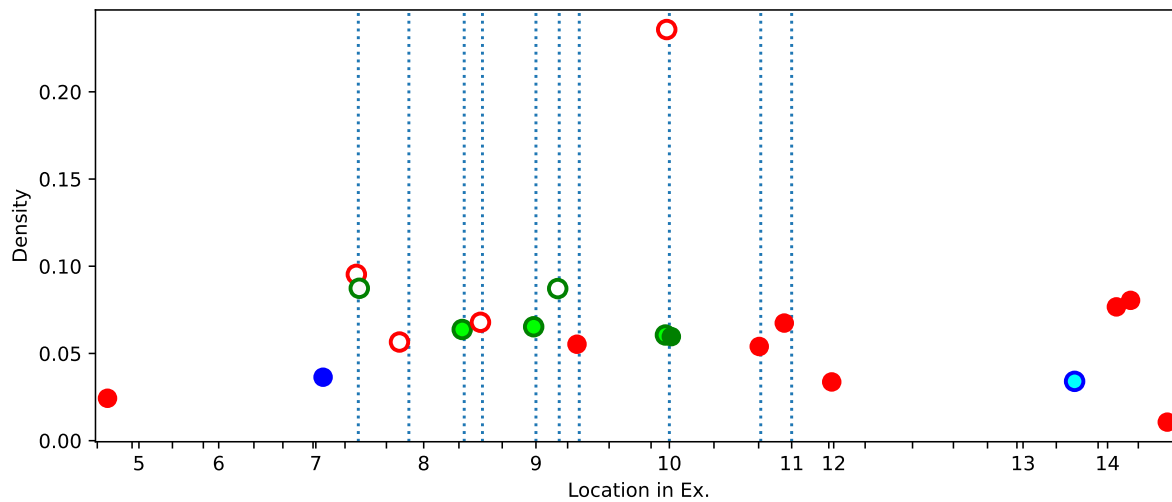


2Chr. 36:13 And he [Zedekiah] also rebelled against king Nebuchadnezzar, who had made him swear by God: but he stiffened his neck, and **hardened his heart** from turning unto the LORD God of Israel.

Ezek. 3:7 But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and **hardhearted**.

Psa. 95:8 **Harden not your heart**, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness: [Num 14]

Prov. 28:14 Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that **hardeneth his heart** shall fall into mischief.



**Green:** כבד kabad H3513  
 “be heavy” (1x Lord, 2x heart, 3x Pharaoh)

1Sam. 6:6 Wherefore then do ye harden your hearts, as the Egyptians and Pharaoh **hardened their hearts?** ...

**Red:** חזק chazaq H2388  
 “be strong” (8x Lord, 4x heart)

Josh. 11:20 For it was of the LORD to **harden their hearts**, that they should come against Israel in battle, that he might destroy them utterly, and that they might have no favour, but that he might destroy them, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Ezek. 2:3 And he said unto me, Son of man, I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me: they and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day. 4 For they are impudent children and **stiffhearted**.

“Be Strong, Be Heavy”: common in Exodus, rare elsewhere

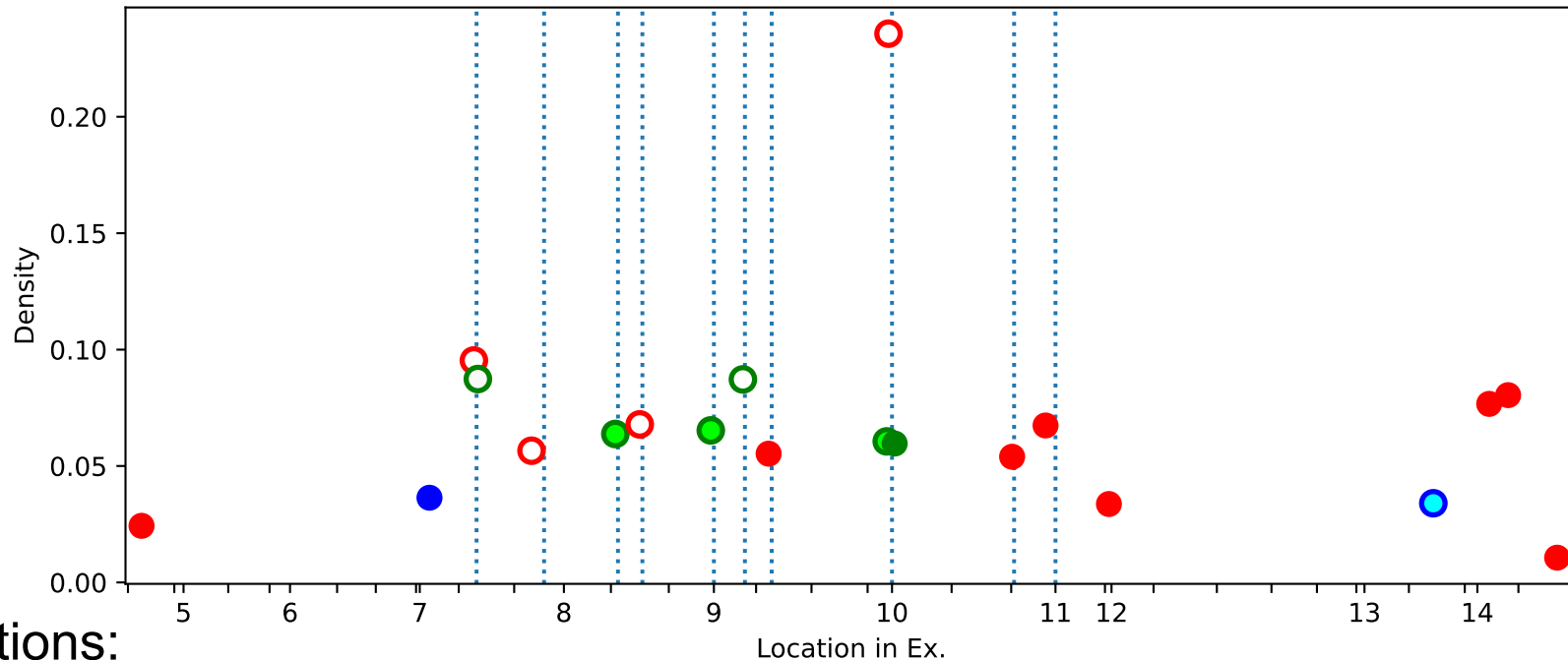
- Virtues in Egyptian literature
- God confirms Pharaoh’s desire

“Be Hard”: rare in Exodus, common elsewhere: a Hebrew vice

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that **every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually**.

Jer 17:9 **The heart is deceitful** above all things, and desperately **wicked**: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, ...

# Intensification



## Predictions:

3:19 And I am sure that the king of Egypt **will not let you go**, no, not by a mighty hand.

4:21 ... **I will harden strengthen his heart**, that and he shall not let the people go

## Actions:

5:2 And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.

## Prediction:

7:1 **I will harden Pharaoh's heart**

## Actions:

7:13, 14, 22; 8:11, 15, 28; 9:7 Pharaoh's heart, then Pharaoh

9:12, the LORD **strengthened** the heart of Pharaoh (for the first time!)

# Romans 9 and Exodus

## Rom 9:14-18 Paul's Analysis of Pharaoh's Hardening

14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.

### 15-17 OT Examples

15 For he saith to Moses [**Exod 33:19**], I will **have mercy** on whom I will **have mercy**, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh [**Exod 9:16**], 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.

### 18 Summary

18 Therefore **hath he mercy** on whom he will **have mercy**,

and whom he will he **hardeneth**.

## Exod 34:6-7 God's Name

### Mercy:

6 The LORD, The LORD God, **merciful** and **gracious**, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, ...

### Reconciliation:

7b forgiving bearing iniquity and transgression and sin, ...

### Judgment:

7c and that will by no means clear the guilty; **visiting the iniquity** of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation.