

Date: 2 May 2021

Speaker: Rev Clement Chew

Topic: Studies in Exodus: Judicial Hardening

Scripture text: Exodus 7:1-13

1. The LORD will harden the heart of Pharaoh to the point of no return. The LORD is just and doing so because He is the Creator and has the authority to judge sinful men. Pharaoh himself was culpable when he first hardened his heart against the LORD. Instead of repenting, Pharaoh continued to rebel against the LORD. If not for God's grace and mercy, we will harden our hearts against Him and reject Him. Yet God, through His salvation grace, worked in our hearts to receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour.

2. The LORD chooses to harden the hearts of men according to His own will and purpose. The purpose of hardening Pharaoh's heart is for the Egyptians and children of Israel to see the great power of the one true and living God; and to see how hardened their hearts are. The LORD assured that He is the God of the children of Israel by judging Pharaoh with the ten plagues due to his hardness of heart.

3. Pharaoh challenged God's authority and tried to imitate the ten plagues, but he failed. He opposed God and wanted to be like Him, but he was judged by God. God is the Almighty and we must submit to Him and His Word. May the characteristics of a hardened heart not be found in ourselves, and may we be very sensitive to the chastisement of the Lord and repent quickly.