

Pharaoh's Hardened Heart Or Ours?

Consequences in Natural Law

By Ariel Bar Tzadok

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“Go to Pharaoh for I have hardened his heart and his servant's hearts, so that I may place these signs of Mine amongst them” (Exodus 10:1).

There is an ancient legend recorded that in the End of Days, prior to the coming of Mashiah, G-d would punish the world in the same way He punished ancient Egypt. The legend states that the final redemption will follow the same course as did the first. Therefore, prior to our modern exodus to freedom from our present oppression under modern governmental and societal slavery, there must first come major calamities to the system that oppresses us.

The ten plagues that struck ancient Egypt are destined to manifest in our days in more modern and applicable forms. There are many who view current world events as being a fulfillment of this age-old warning.

With regards to Divine warnings, long ago the prophet Jeremiah (5:20-23) spoke saying, *“Announce to the House of Jacob and proclaim it in Judah! Hear this you foolish and senseless people, who have eyes but do not see and who have ears but do not hear. Shouldn't you fear Me says G-d. Shouldn't you tremble before Me? ... But this people's heart is wayward and rebellious. They have turned aside and gone away.”* The people then ignored the Divine warnings and paid the price for their stubbornness with suffering and death when Jerusalem and the Holy Temple were destroyed.

King Solomon's wisdom (Ecclesiastes 1:9) cries true, *“What has been is what will be, and what has been done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun.”* Today, like in ancient times, the majority of people are so busy leading their insignificant lives, filled with equally insignificant distractions that they pay no attention to what is actually going on around them. The world is in crises with every part of our society is in trouble, and still the vast majority do not want to be bothered or distracted from their mindless obsessions.

Divine judgment is no myth. Divine judgment is nothing supernatural. Divine judgment is the natural outcome of natural events that do not take into account proper societal balance and justice. Divine judgment is often not recognized as such simply because no one wants to pay attention to the actual Presence and Movement of G-d amongst us. Therefore the majority, even in the religious camps, *“have eyes but do not see and have ears but do not hear.”*



One very interesting point about the plagues that struck Egypt was that G-d actively intervened and “hardened” Pharaoh's heart making him incapable of acting in an alternative disposition. We may ask, was this right, for Heaven to take away from Pharaoh his right to choose between doing good and evil? The answer is that G-d did no such thing. Scripture records earlier that Pharaoh hardened his heart and denied G-d's activity long before G-d Himself hardened Pharaoh's heart. On the contrary, Pharaoh's hardened heart led G-d to punish Pharaoh with exactly that which Pharaoh chose for himself. Pharaoh chose to harden his heart, G-d only reinforced Pharaoh's own choice. Pharaoh chose this, not G-d and Pharaoh got exactly what he wanted, what he deserved. As it was with ancient Pharaoh, so too is it with us today.

The way that Heaven either blesses us or punishes us is simply to reinforce us on the path that we have already chosen and are walking on. Therefore, if we are doing good, then Heaven blesses us with the opportunity to do more good. If, on the other hand, we have chosen a bad course then Heaven reinforces this and the opportunities that we see before us will usually lead us down an ever-worse course.

The only way out of such a downward spiral is for one to stop in mid-course and to make a complete change of direction. One must essentially return to where one started from and then walk the right path from then on. This is why the Hebrew word for repentance is Teshuva, which actually translates as return. One must return to the place in one's life or decision making prior to embarking on a wrong and evil course in order to start properly on the right path. Pharaoh chose a bad course, G-d reinforced his decision, and Pharaoh brought himself, his government and his entire country down into ruin because of this. As it was with ancient Pharaoh, so too will it be with us today.

All one has to do is to read the Biblical prophets to discover that G-d's primary desire for humanity is for us to establish stable, moral and righteous governments and societies. When we do these things, we are blessed by Heaven with all types of abundance, tranquility and prosperity. On the contrary, when we fail to operate proper government and we equally fail to maintain a moral society, then in turn we start down a dark path that has no end other than darkness, despair and destruction. Human history is replete with all types of examples that prove this true in every circumstance when a society compromises its morals and its government become repressive.

G-d does not need to intervene supernaturally to judge and punish evil-doers. Eventually, their own evil deeds catch up with them and nature takes its natural course. Indeed, the natural course of societal collapse can be as devastating and destructive as any imagined supernatural Divine punishment descending upon us from Heaven.

When we, as a society and civilization, corrupt our moral compass and allow society as a whole to go awry, G-d's ordained natural law comes into play and our own disturbance of nature eventually turns on us and wipes out the infecting infestation in similar fashion to how the human body fights an invading organism that causes illness.

Indeed, we can learn a lot about the relationship of humanity to the natural world by biologically observing our human bodies, as the verse in Job (19:26) says, “*from my flesh will I gaze upon G-d.*” When we human beings act in harmony with G-d's ordained natural laws then we exist in harmony with our planet and with Heaven. When, however, we turn against the natural order we are also turning against Heaven. Then the natural order and Heaven join together to remove from humanity the troubling ailment that is causing collective humanity to create such imbalance. This is when we have natural disasters and even worse social upheavals.

Learn a lesson from the plagues in Egypt, natural disasters and social upheavals coincide with one another. They are in a relationship of synchronicity. The imbalance inside us psychologically expresses itself in the imbalances in the external world in the chaotic disturbances in natural law. When we provoke the world, the world responds. Like I said above, as it was in the days of Pharaoh so too will be in the days before the coming of Mashiah. And those days are these days. That time is now!

What we see happening around the world, with all the social and natural upheavals are all the signs of the times. These significance disturbances, which are only going to get worse are the ten plagues of Egypt being visited upon us today, here and now, in modern form, and those with eyes cannot see it, and those with ears cannot hear this. And we wonder why bad times and greater calamity are coming our way.

I have found that most people today bury their heads in the proverbial sand. Secular people turn to all types of distractions such as entertainment, drugs and other stimulants and any thing else that can keep their minds away from seeing life's true problems. Sports today has become such big business because it serves as one of these greatest distractions, that keep the minds and hearts of people away from the issues that truly matter in life.

The religious are no better. Modern religious interests revolve around the stimulation of the intellect. Essentially religious learning today for the most part is also all about entertainment. The religious public want to be entertained with stimulating, academic and dramatic religious philosophy and discussion. Every one loves a nice religious sermon or lecture, as long as it does not address real and serious issues but instead simply discusses or argues a philosophical point.

This type of religion is no religion at all. This approach to religion keeps the religious distracted, focused on words, but not deeds. The intellectual path stimulates the minds, but does not serve to bring the people closer to G-d. The intellectual path emasculates its listeners and strips them of the necessary passion to become involved with political and social affairs to influence and bring about that which religion was given to us for in the first place, to establish and maintain proper government and a society built upon mercy, justice and righteousness (Jeremiah 9:23).

All in all most people today, religious and secular alike allow themselves to be intentionally distracted by whatever means they embrace that serves to keep their minds and hearts full of nonsense and thus empty of the Presence of the Living G-d. This is unnatural and this is very dangerous. As such all these distracted souls are essentially slaves to the modern Egypt. And as Egypt goes down, the slaves must chose to either embrace freedom with the responsibilities it demands or to go down in flames along with the country/master that has enslaved them.

The choice is always ours. As it was in ancient Egypt so too will it be with us today. And remember this, legend teaches us that during the plague of darkness the majority of the slaves in Egypt, who refused to embrace the message of the freedom to come, died during the darkness. They were not worthy of redemption and therefore did not share in it when the time came. As it was then, so too will it be with us today.

G-d brought forth His people from Egypt. As it was in ancient times, so too will it be today. G-d's people are those who choose freedom and are ready, willing and able to fight for freedom (Exodus 13:18). As for all others, religious or secular, who choose instead to remain in slavery, a modern plague of darkness is coming and will soon descend upon us all. The free men and women who follow G-d will have light within them to guide them through this and every other darkness. Those

who continue to embrace modern society of slavery, with all its distractions, malls, restaurants, movies, sports, stimulants and everything else will remain in modern-day Egypt and go down in flames when our modern day Egypt collapses as natural law and Heaven both demand.

Remember, slavery is both an attitude and a choice of behavior. Modern society does not have to be bad. There is nothing inherently wrong with malls, restaurants, movies or sports. However, when we use these things and others as distractions that keep us occupied and thus away from political and social involvement to influence our society back to stable Biblical foundations, then we have succumbed to slavery. And unless we rebel against our tyrannical masters and demand our freedom, then we will die as slaves in slavery. This does not have to be. But, like Moses, we all must approach the modern-day Pharaoh's and scream with G-d-like indignation, "let my people go!"

Never forget, Moses was a G-d fearing, G-d centered political activist, who stood against an evil regime demanding freedom for his people. G-d and nature backed him up. As it was then, so too is it today. All the Biblical prophets were equally political and social activists who stood against the tyranny and socialism of their day. As it was then, so too must it be today.

If we walk the right path, G-d will bless our paths and reward us with continuing success. If however we choose to be like Pharaoh and harden our hearts, G-d will allow us to continue to walk in our stubbornness and denials until nature itself responds by wiping out the infestation of human evil that is presently disturbing natural balance. As always, the choice is ours and Heaven is watching us and waiting for each one of us to choose our path. www.KosherTorah.com

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