



Pharaoh's Heart

Plague	Pharaoh's Heart	לב פרעה
Blood/דם	Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not heed them as YHVH had said. (<i>Shemot</i> 7:22)	...וַיִּחְזֹק לִבְפָרָעָה וְלֹא יִשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבַר יְהֹוָה : (שְׁמוֹת ז': כב)
Frogs/צַדְעָה	He made his heart heavy with stubbornness and did not heed them as YHVH had said. (8:11)	...וַיִּכְבֹּד אֶת־לְבָבוֹ וְלֹא שִׁמְעוּ אֱלֹהִים כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבַר יְהֹוָה : (ח: יא)
Lice/פְּנִיסָּה	Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not heed them as YHVH had said. (9:15)	...וַיִּחְזֹק לִבְפָרָעָה וְלֹא יִשְׁמַע אֱלֹהִים כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבַר יְהֹוָה : (ח: טו)
Swarms/עָרֹב	Pharaoh made his heart heavy with stubbornness this time as well and did not send out the people. (8:28)	...וַיִּכְבֹּד פָּרָעָה אֶת־לְבָבוֹ גַם בְּפֻעַם הַזֹּאת וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־הָעָם : (ח: כח)
Cattle Disease/צַבָּר	Pharaoh's heart became heavy with stubbornness, and he did not send the people. (9:7)	...וַיִּכְבֹּד לִבְפָרָעָה וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־הָעָם : (ט: ז)
Boils/שְׁחִין	YHVH hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not heed them as YHVH had said to Moshe. (9:12)	...וַיִּחְזֹק יְהֹוָה אֶת־לְבָבֵךְ פָּרָעָה וְלֹא שִׁמְעוּ אֱלֹהִים כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבַר יְהֹוָה אֶל־מֹשֶׁה : (ט: יב)
Hail/ברד	Pharaoh saw that the hail and the rain and the thunder had stopped; he continued to transgress. He made his heart heavy with stubbornness, his and his servants. Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not send <i>B'nei Israel</i> as YHVH had said through Moshe. (9:34-35)	וַיַּרְא פָּרָעָה כִּי־קָדֵל הַמִּטְרָה וְהַבָּרֶד וְהַקָּלָת וְיִסְף לְחַטָּאת וַיִּכְבֹּד לְבָבוֹ הַוָּא וְעַבְדֵּיו : וַיִּחְזֹק לִבְפָרָעָה וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר דָּבַר יְהֹוָה בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה : (ט: לד-לה)
Locusts/אַרְבָּה	YHVH hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not send <i>B'nei Israel</i> . (10:20)	וַיִּמְצֹק יְהֹוָה אֶת־לְבָבֵךְ פָּרָעָה וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל : (י: כ)
Darkness/חֹשֶׁךְ	God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not agree to send them. (10:27)	וַיִּמְצֹק יְהֹוָה אֶת־לְבָבֵךְ פָּרָעָה וְלֹא אָבֶה לְשִׁלְחוֹם : (י: כז)
Plague of the First Born/מִפְתַּח בָּכֹורוֹת	—	—

Some questions to consider while reflecting on these verses:

- What do Pharaoh's reactions after the first five plagues have in common?
- What changes after the sixth plague? Why is this potentially problematic?
- Two different ideas are used to describe what happened to Pharaoh's heart, "hardening (קָדֵל)" and "becoming heavy (צַבָּר)". What might be the difference between the two?
- The verses relate that both Pharaoh and God hardened Pharaoh's heart, but that only Pharaoh was responsible for his heart becoming heavy. Why might that be the case?



Stubbornness Sheet

Think about a time that you were stubborn or just refused to give in. Write down your thoughts about the various steps that led to an eventual resolution of the situation.

What Happened	What I Did	Result	What I Could Have Done Differently (If Anything)
Example: My teacher told me to put away my phone before class.	I did not respond, and I continued using my phone.	My teacher took my phone away for the whole day.	I could have explained that I was checking on a sick friend.
Step 1:			
Step 2:			
Step 3:			

How do you think acting differently might have affected the results of your actions?