



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. (Shemot 7:22)	...וַיִּחְזַק לִב־פְּרַעֲהוּ וְלֹא־שָׁמַע אֶל־הֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְיָ: (שמות ז: כב)
Frogs/צְפַרְדֵּי	He made his heart heavy with stubbornness and did not heed them as YHVH had said. (8:11)	...וַהֲכִבֵּד אֶת־לְבוֹ וְלֹא־שָׁמַע אֶל־הֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְיָ: (ח: יא)
Lice/כְּנִים	Pharaoh's heart hardened, and he did not heed them as YHVH had said. (9:15)	...וַיִּחְזַק לִב־פְּרַעֲהוּ וְלֹא־שָׁמַע אֶל־הֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְיָ: (ח"טו)
Swarms/עֲרֹב	Pharaoh made his heart heavy with stubbornness this time as well and did not send out the people. (8:28)	...וַיִּכְבֵּד פְּרַעֲהוּ אֶת־לְבוֹ גַם בַּפַּעַם הַזֹּאת וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־הָעָם: (ח: כח)
Cattle Disease/דָּבָר	Pharaoh's heart became heavy with stubbornness, and he did not send the people. (9:7)	...וַיִּכְבֵּד לִב פְּרַעֲהוּ וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־הָעָם: (ט: ז)
Boils/שַׁחִין	YHVH hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not heed them as YHVH had said to Moshe. (9:12)	...וַיִּחְזַק יְיָ אֶת־לֵב פְּרַעֲהוּ וְלֹא שָׁמַע אֶל־הֶם כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְיָ אֶל־מֹשֶׁה: (ט: יב)
Hail/בָּרָד	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 Yisrael</i> as YHVH had said through Moshe. (9:34-35)	וַיֵּרָא פְּרַעֲהוּ כִּי־חָדַל הַמָּטָר וְהַבָּרָד וְהַקִּלְתַּת וַיִּסֹּף לַחֲטֹא וַיִּכְבֵּד לְבוֹ הוּא וַעֲבָדָיו: וַיִּחְזַק לֵב פְּרַעֲהוּ וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל כַּאֲשֶׁר דִּבֶּר יְיָ בְּיַד־מֹשֶׁה: (ט: לד-לה)
Locusts/אַרְבֵּה	YHVH hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he did not send <i>B'nei Yisrael</i> . (10:20)	וַיִּחְזַק יְיָ אֶת־לֵב פְּרַעֲהוּ וְלֹא שָׁלַח אֶת־ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל: (י: כ)
Darkness/חֹשֶׁךְ	God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and he would not agree to send them. (10:27)	וַיִּחְזַק יְיָ אֶת־לֵב פְּרַעֲהוּ וְלֹא אָבָה לְשַׁלְּחָם: (י: כז)
Plague of the First Born/מַכַּת בְּכוֹרוֹת	—	—

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 (ק-ז-ח)" and "becoming heavy (ז-ב-ד)." 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?