

"For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, -Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath He mercy on whom He will have mercy, and whom He will, He hardeneth. Romans 9:17-18 KJV



God knows all from eternity past to eternity future. Foreknowledge enabled Him to love you before He created a single atom. He knows who will come and who will not. He knows decisions and the reasons for them before they are made. God knew Pharaoh would rebel and harden his heart before He ever raised him up and could have elected to leave him uncreated, but used him to manifest His divine omnipotence to unbelieving Egyptians. God does not coerce choice, but has predetermined the outcome of every choice with Divine Law. We think of gravity as a law of physics, but in reality all physical laws are divine. They simply control the physical or natural realm. If you jump out of an airplane in flight without a parachute, you will die. God has recorded the spiritual laws that affect our eternal destiny in His written Word. He did not have to do so. To enumerate a few; *“The soul that sinneth, it shall die. Sin is transgression of the law (God’s Word). Thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.”* God does not control your choices, but His law controls the spiritual and natural universes. Foreknowledge enables Him to exalt the wicked to the pinnacle of wealth and power to show how powerless they really are. Pharaoh was ruthless with God’s people. God allowed it, but now they are discovering Pharaoh’s chariot wheels at the bottom of the Red Sea. God finally hardened Pharaoh’s heart to show His wrath and power. He knew that Pharaoh would pridefully reject Him. If God had done nothing, Pharaoh would still have been wicked! God exalted Pharaoh to the pinnacle of power and instead of being thankful, he was proud. He was not without the knowledge of God, because his predecessor was none other than Joseph. Ignorance of Truth is never an excuse, because *“The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, night unto night showeth knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”* So the hypothesis of the man on a deserted island goes right out the window! God wants your love and obedience to come from your heart of your own will. Love is not love if coerced. Or, did God raise you up as an example, like Pharaoh? God commands love but never coerces it, because loving Him guarantees eternal life which He desires for all mankind! *“God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”* When God’s goodness is fully appreciated, one cannot help but love Him. His commands are His blessings which lead us to His waiting provision. *“Now the end of the commandment is faith unfeigned. That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.”* Believers are the eternal trophies of God’s Grace!

Oh love the Lord with all your heart,
And promise never to depart,
His Grace will keep you till the end,
And you’ll not find a truer Friend. -CGP

Do not fret because the wicked seem to go unpunished and your burdens under them get heavier and heavier. When it’s time, God will utterly deliver you, and you will leave the wicked behind in utter desolation. God’s timing is always perfect, just watch and wait.

"Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it." Psalm 37:34 KJV