

The Return to Egypt



EXODUS 4:18-37

The Hardening Statements



God = Active Subject	Pharaoh or Heart = Subject
4:24 [ḥzq] “I will harden his heart”	7:13 [ḥzq] “as ...”
7:3 [qšh]	7:14 [kbd]
9:12 [ḥzq] “just as ...”	7:22 [ḥzq] “as ...”
10:1 [kbd]	8:15 [Heb. 8:11 (kbd)] “as ...”
10:20 [ḥzq]	8:19 [Heb. 8:15 (ḥzq)] “as ...”
10:27 [ḥzq]	8:32 [Heb. 8:28 (kbd)]
11:10 [ḥzq]	9:7 [kbd]
14:4 [ḥzq]	9:34 [kbd]
14:8 [ḥzq]	9:35 [ḥzq] “just as ...”
14:17 [ḥzq]	13:15 [qšh]

Three Hebrew verbs are used: kbd (6x) “to make heavy”; qšh (2x) “to make stiff or stubborn”; ḥzq (12x) “to make hard, severe.” The first two are word plays with “hard labors.”

The Confrontation at the Inn, Exodus 4:24-26



- The circumcision of Zipporah's son
- Eliezer? Cf. Exodus 2: 21-22; 4:20 and 18:3-4.
- The seriousness of God's mission for Moses. Cf. Gen 17:10. Place in the narrative, following 4:22-23.
- The comparison with Gen 32:22-32—arising, leaving with wives, encounter with the Lord in near death experience.
- Comparison with Balaam (Numbers 22:20-22, 34-35)
- Best comparison is the instruction given to Joshua in Joshua 5:2-7.
- Moses who is now the deliverer of the covenant people, needs to follow covenant requirements.

Moses' and Aaron's Arrival in Egypt, 4:27-31



- The meeting of Moses and Aaron
- The assembly with the elders of Israel
- The response