

EXODUS 4-14 - REFERENCE GUIDE

Twenty Hardening Statements in Order

A compact timeline showing when Pharaoh hardens his heart, when the LORD hardens it, and why the order matters.

HOW TO USE THIS CHART

Read down the list before drawing a conclusion from any single verse. The announcements come first. Pharaoh then refuses repeatedly. The LORD's first explicit hardening action in the unfolding narrative appears at Exodus 9:12.

Legend

PHARAOH HARDENS - human refusal and responsibility. THE LORD HARDENS - divine judgment and purpose. ANNOUNCEMENT - God tells Moses what will happen before the signs begin.

STATEMENTS 1-5

The sequence

01	Exodus 4:21 THE LORD ANNOUNCES BEFORE EGYPT	God prepares Moses for Pharaoh's refusal.
02	Exodus 7:3 THE LORD ANNOUNCES BEFORE THE SIGNS	The warning is repeated before the confrontation.
03	Exodus 7:13 PHARAOH HARDENS STAFF AND SERPENT	The first refusal in the narrative.
04	Exodus 7:14 PHARAOH HARDENS BEFORE PLAGUE 1	God names Pharaoh's condition and refusal.
05	Exodus 7:22 PHARAOH HARDENS PLAGUE 1 - BLOOD	Imitation by the magicians becomes another excuse.

STATEMENTS 6-10

The sequence

06	Exodus 8:15 PHARAOH HARDENS PLAGUE 2 - FROGS	Relief arrives; Pharaoh hardens again.
07	Exodus 8:19 PHARAOH HARDENS PLAGUE 3 - GNATS	Even his magicians recognize the finger of God.
08	Exodus 8:32 PHARAOH HARDENS PLAGUE 4 - FLIES	He hardens himself and refuses release.
09	Exodus 9:7 PHARAOH HARDENS PLAGUE 5 - LIVESTOCK	He investigates the evidence and still refuses.
10	Exodus 9:12 THE LORD HARDENS PLAGUE 6 - BOILS	The first explicit divine hardening in the unfolding narrative.

THE HAND CHANGES HERE

Exodus 9:12 is the first place in the unfolding plague narrative that explicitly says the LORD hardened Pharaoh. Refusal remains present after the pivot; Exodus 9:34 again says Pharaoh hardened his own heart.

STATEMENTS 11-15

The sequence

11	Exodus 9:34 PHARAOH HARDENS PLAGUE 7 - HAIL	After confession and relief, he sins and hardens again.
12	Exodus 9:35 PHARAOH HARDENS PLAGUE 7 - HAIL	The refusal is stated again after the storm.
13	Exodus 10:1-2 THE LORD HARDENS BEFORE PLAGUE 8	God states a purpose: signs remembered across generations.
14	Exodus 10:20 THE LORD HARDENS PLAGUE 8 - LOCUSTS	Pharaoh does not let Israel go.
15	Exodus 10:27 THE LORD HARDENS PLAGUE 9 - DARKNESS	Pharaoh still refuses release.

STATEMENTS 16-20

The sequence

16	Exodus 11:10 THE LORD HARDENS BEFORE PLAGUE 10	A summary on the edge of final judgment.
17	Exodus 13:15 PHARAOH HARDENS ISRAEL LOOKS BACK	Israel remembers Pharaoh's stubborn refusal.
18	Exodus 14:4 THE LORD HARDENS AT THE SEA	God will reveal His glory over Pharaoh.
19	Exodus 14:8 THE LORD HARDENS AT THE SEA	Pharaoh pursues Israel into the consequence of his rebellion.
20	Exodus 14:17 THE LORD HARDENS AT THE SEA	The hardening widens to the Egyptian army.

WHAT THE ORDER REVEALS

Four observations

1. **Announcement is not the same as action.** God tells Moses what will happen before Moses reaches Egypt.
2. **Pharaoh's character predates the plagues.** Exodus 1 and 5 show oppression and defiance before the hardening sequence unfolds.
3. **The narrative preserves responsibility.** Pharaoh refuses, investigates, confesses, bargains, and refuses again.
4. **God's judgment serves a revealed purpose.** Egypt will know the LORD, His name will be proclaimed, and Israel will teach the story to its children.

Questions for observation

What words repeat? Where does relief lead to renewed refusal? What reasons does God give for His actions? What does Pharaoh know by each stage?
