

Matthew Schuster – Exercise 3 – 10/2004

(with some editing by mgvh)

εν αρχη ην ο λογος---Word Searches in the book of Exodus

1. Various forms of Hebrew words translated as ‘harden’ appear nineteen times in the book of Exodus. The chapter and verse numbers are as follows:

Exodus 4:21 I have put in your power; but **I will harden** his heart, so
Exodus 7:3 But **I will harden** Pharaoh's heart, and I will multiply my
Exodus 7:13 Still Pharaoh's heart **was hardened**, and he would not listen
Exodus 7:14 Then the LORD said to Moses, "Pharaoh's heart **is hardened**;
Exodus 7:22 arts; so Pharaoh's heart **remained hardened**, and he would
Exodus 8:15 But when Pharaoh saw that there was a respite, **he hardened**
Exodus 8:19 God!" But Pharaoh's heart **was hardened**, and he would not
Exodus 8:32 But **Pharaoh hardened** his heart this time also, and would
Exodus 9:7 **hardened**, and he would not let the people go.
Exodus 9:12 But **the LORD hardened** the heart of Pharaoh, and he would
Exodus 9:34 thunder had ceased, he sinned once more and **hardened** his
Exodus 9:35 So the heart of Pharaoh **was hardened**, and he would not let
Exodus 10:1 **hardened** his heart and the heart of his officials, in order
Exodus 10:20 But **the LORD hardened** Pharaoh's heart, and he would not
Exodus 10:27 But **the LORD hardened** Pharaoh's heart, and he was
unwilling
Exodus 11:10 but **the LORD hardened** Pharaoh's heart, and he did not let
Exodus 14:4 **I will harden Pharaoh's heart**, and he will pursue them,
Exodus 14:8 **The LORD hardened** the heart of Pharaoh king of Egypt and
Exodus 14:17 Then **I will harden** the hearts of the Egyptians so that they

2. Of these instances, different people (or a deity) are doing the ‘hardening’:

A: God hardens the heart of Pharaoh or of the people

4:21; 7:3; 9:12; 10:1, 20, 27; 11:10; 14:4, 8, 17 (the hearts of the Egyptians are here indicated).

B: Pharaoh hardens his own heart

8:15, 32; 9:34;

C: Use of the passive makes unclear who is doing the heart-hardening

7:13, 14, 22; 8:19; 9:7, 35

3. A total of three different Hebrew roots are being translated with some form of 'harden.' Most prevalent is the word '*chazaq*' (Strong's number 2388), appearing a total of twelve times: 4:21; 7:13, 22; 14:4, 7,8; 8:19; 9:12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10. This word has a primary meaning of 'to fasten upon,' 'to seize,' or 'to be strong.' In a figurative sense it can mean 'to be courageous.'

Chazaq can have a causative sense of 'strengthen, cure, help, repair, fortify.' Among its many other meanings are 'obstinate,' 'constrain,' 'encourage,' 'be established,' 'make hard,' and 'harden.'

Next in frequency is '*kabad*,' or '*kabed*' (Strong's number 3513). This word appears four times: 8:15, 32; 9:34; and 10:1. *Kabed* has the negative sense of 'to be heavy, burdensome, dull.' Its positive sense is 'numerous, rich, honorable.' It too means 'harden' and 'be (make) heavy.' Related to this root is *kabed* once again (Strong's number 3515), which appears at 7:14 and 9:7. I think that this may be an adjectival or participial form of the above-mentioned *kabed*, because there are no infinitive forms listed in Strong's for this number. Among its meanings are 'severe, stupid, difficult, great, greivous, laden, slow, sore, thick,' and 'hard(ened).'

Last is '*qashah*,' (Strong's number 7185), appearing only once in Exodus, at 7:3. This word has the sense of, among other things, 'to be dense, tough, or severe'; 'be cruel, fiercer'; 'make greivous'; and 'hard(en)' or 'stiff(en).'

4. The LXX translates '*chazaq*' in 4:21 with 'σκληρυνω,' which Liddell-Scott define as 'to harden,' but which Louw-Nida and the Analytical Lexicon also connote as 'to cause to be stubborn.'

5. As noted previously, '*chazaq*' is used at 4:21; 7:13, 22; 14:4, 7,8; 8:19; 9:12, 35; 10:20, 27; 11:10.

6. The Heb. verb translated as 'urging' is '*chazaq*.'

Exod 12.33: The Egyptians urged the people to hasten their departure from the land, for they said, "We shall all be dead."

Note that this is intending to be something of a word play here. Pharaoh's heart was "chazaq-ed" into letting them go, and now the Egyptians are "chazaq-ing" the Israelites into making them go.

7. 'σκληρυνω' does not appear in this form in the NT. Other forms are shown below.

Acts

19:9 ὡς δέ τινες ἐσκληρύνοντο καὶ ἠπειθουν κακολογοῦντες τὴν ὁδὸν ἐν ὠπιον τοῦ πλήθους, ἀποστάς ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀφόρισεν τοὺς μαθητὰς καθ' ἡμέραν διαλεγόμενος ἐν τῇ σχολῇ Τυράννου.

Acts 19:9 When some stubbornly refused to believe and spoke evil of the Way before the congregation, he left them, taking the disciples with him, and argued daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. NRSV

Romans 9:18 ἄρα οὖν ὃν θέλει ἐλεεῖ, ὃν δὲ θέλει **σκληρύνει**.

Romans 9:18 So then he has mercy on whomever he chooses, and he hardens the heart of whomever he chooses. NRSV

Heb

3:8 μὴ **σκληρύνετε** τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν ὡς ἐν τῷ παραπικρασμῷ κατὰ τὴν ἡμέραν τοῦ πειρασμοῦ ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ,

Heb 3:8 do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, as on the day of testing in the wilderness, NRSV

Heb

3:13 ἀλλὰ παρακαλεῖτε ἑαυτοὺς καθ' ἐκάστην ἡμέραν, ἄχρις οὗ τὸ Σήμερον καλεῖται, ἵνα μὴ **σκληρυνθῇ** τις ἐξ ὑμῶν ἀπᾶτη τῆς ἀμαρτίας-

Heb 3:13 But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called "today," so that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. NRSV

Heb

3:15 ἐν τῷ λέγεσθαι, Σήμερον ἐὰν τῆς φωνῆς αὐτοῦ ἀκούσητε, Μὴ **σκληρύνετε** τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν ὡς ἐν τῷ παραπικρασμῷ.

Heb 3:15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." NRSV

Heb

4:7 πάλιν τινὰ ὀρίζει ἡμέραν, Σήμερον, ἐν Δαυίδ λέγων μετὰ τοσοῦτον χρόνον, καθὼς προεῖρηται, Σήμερον ἐὰν τῆς φωνῆς αὐτοῦ ἀκούσητε, μὴ **σκληρύνετε** τὰς καρδίας ὑμῶν.

Heb 4:7 again he sets a certain day--"today" --saying through David much later, in the words already quoted, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts."

NRSV