

Hardening of your Heart

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26th day of the Twelfth month 5845 years after creation

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March 13, 2010

Shabbat Shalom Brethren,

Hardening Your Heart

This is my favorite time of the year. It is pregnant with meaning. Passover, The Exodus, The Passion and Crucifixion. The Ten Commandments. It is just an awesome time for studying the scriptures. It is because this time of year is so full of Hindsight that we can get a glimpse of or come to understand the deeper meaning of the other Holy Days.

I have received a number of favorable comments about the Pride of Ephraim which we spoke of last week. Thank you. Many of you thought I was writing about you last week. This too was a compliment and I am glad to know so many took what I said personally.

We are nearing the time of the Exodus and Passover once again and there are some things we all need to consider.

As we have been fasting for a number of weeks now and humbling ourselves before Yahweh, we should be realizing that we are doing this to repent of our evil ways which are an abomination to Yahweh.

Yes we are doing as Daniel did as he pondered the end of the 70 weeks of captivity on Judah. And we are doing this as we come to the end of the 390 year times 7 curse on Israel. But at the same time we are also to putting out of our lives the leaven which puffs up. This is done symbolically by actually hunting for leaven and removing it from our homes. It is work and it is hard work. This is actually where we get the expression spring cleaning from. We do this to draw closer to Yahweh.

We have done it our way for 2730 years, it is now time to try it Yahweh's way.

Because it is Passover season I want to focus this message on just one point. It is about the Hardness of the heart.

We read in Ex 4:21 And the Yahweh said to Moses, "When you go back to Egypt, see that you do all those wonders before Pharaoh which I have put in your hand. But I will harden his heart, so that he will not let the people go.

You should take a moment and read all of Exodus 7.

We can read how Pharaoh's heart was hardened in Exodus 8:19, 9:7, 9:35, and 14:4 as well.

In each case it was Yahweh that hardened the heart of Pharaoh.

So instead of reading right over something it behooves us to ask 'what is hardening of the Heart? What does this expression really mean to us today?'

Here is what Strong's has to say about it.

Strong's Number: 4456

Original Word Origin

pwrovw apparently from poros (a kind of stone)

Transliterated Word Entry

Poroo 5:1025,816

Phonetic Spelling Parts of Speech po-ro'-

o

Verb

Definition to cover with a thick skin, to harden by covering with a callus metaph.

to make the heart dull

to grow hard, callous, become dull, lose the power of understanding

Strong's Number: 4645

Original Word Origin

sklhruvhw from (4642)

Transliterated Word Entry

Skleruno 5:1030,816

Phonetic Spelling Parts of Speech sklay-roo'-

no

Verb

Definition to make

hard, harden

metaph.

to render obstinate, stubborn to

be hardened to become

obstinate or stubborn Strong's

Number: 4642 Original Word

Origin sklhrov? from the base of

(4628)

Transliterated Word Entry

Skleros 5:1028,816

Phonetic Spelling Parts of Speech sklay-ros'

Adjective Definition hard, harsh, rough, stiff
of men: metaph. harsh, stern, hard of things:
violent, rough, offensive, intolerable

We have another example of Yahweh hardening the heart of Sihon

De 2:30 But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through, for Yahweh your Eloim hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as it is this day.

Here we are told another meaning of the Hard heart. Obstinate. We can read in Isaiah 48: 1 "Hear this, O house of Jacob, Who are called by the name of Israel, And have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; Who swear by the name of Yahweh, And make mention of the El of Israel, But not in truth or in righteousness; 2 For they call themselves after the holy city, And lean on the Eloim of Israel; Yahweh is His name: 3 "I have declared the former things from the beginning; They went forth from My mouth, and I caused them to hear it. Suddenly I did them, and they came to pass. 4 Because I knew that you were obstinate, And your neck was an iron sinew, And your brow bronze,

When we look up stiff necked we get

Strong's Number: 07186

Original Word Origin hXq from
(07185) Transliterated Word
Entry

Qasheh TWOT – 2085a

Phonetic Spelling Parts of Speech
kaw-sheh' Adjective Definition
hard, cruel, severe, obstinate
hard, difficult severe fierce,
intense, vehement stubborn, stiff
of neck, stiff-necked rigorous (of
battle)

Strong's Number: 06203

Original Word Origin

@r[from (06202)

Transliterated Word Entry

`oreph TWOT – 1700a

Phonetic Spelling Parts of Speech
o-ref' Noun Masculine Definition
neck, back of the neck, back of
the neck of fleeing foe of

apostasy (fig.) stiff of neck,
obstinate (fig.)

We read in Psalms about our ancestors who did not change their hearts as a warning to us. Ps 78:8 And may not be like their fathers, A stubborn and rebellious generation, A generation that did not set its heart aright, And whose spirit was not faithful to God.

You should read the whole chapter of psalm 78. It gives the history of us today.

Strong's Number: 05637

Original Word Origin rro a
primitive root Transliterated

Word Entry

Carar TWOT – 1549

Phonetic Spelling Parts of Speech

saw-rar' Verb Definition

to rebel, be stubborn, be rebellious, be refractory

(Qal) to be stubborn,

rebel (subst)

In Job 41:24 When Yahweh asked Job about Leviathan , we are told that this monster has a heart of stone. Stubborn, rebellious, stiff necked, obstinate, difficult, apostolic, violent, rough, offensive, intolerable, cruel and hard. It is also a heart that has become dull, loosing the power of understanding.

This is indeed an extremely serious thing to become hard of heart, to become dull, and loosing the power of understanding. It is the heart of Satan, Leviathan, the serpent. Could this heart be in you? Before you all deny this stop and take a hard look at the way you are. The way things are in your family. Just ask your spouse or your kids, and listen carefully.

When Yahshua says in Mathew 15: 7 Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' ”

What is Yahshua talking about? He is talking about the condition of the Heart. One that is unwilling to OBEY the commandments of Yahweh and would rather keep the traditions of those around them so that they fit in with society and do not stand out.

We are about to celebrate Passover. It is commanded by the torah. From doing this we learn so much about the death of the Messiah and the forgiveness of sin. But the world does not want to keep Passover. They fight it. Instead they keep Easter Sunday and worship a Rabbit that lays eggs. They have developed a hard heart.

Could we develop this hard heart? Could this Hard heart be in us Today?

YES on both accounts!!!

Look at Mark 6 starting verse 30 this is immediately after the execution of John. Yahshua had gathered the disciples to teach them and a crowd had gathered. In verse 34 Yahshua had compassion on the people as it says to do in Deut 15:7 "If there is among you a poor man of your brethren, within any of the gates in your land which Yahweh your Eloim is giving you, you shall not harden your heart nor shut your hand from your poor brother,

He then took five loafs of bread and two fish and fed the five thousand. Right after this They saw Yahshua walking on the water and were afraid. Then in verse 52 it says For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.

What is this? The Apostles hearts were hardened. Why?

Again in Mark 8 we read that Yahshua again fed four thousand from just seven loafs and a few fish. In verse 14 the disciple forgot to bring any food except for one loaf and when Messiah began to warn them of the leaven of the Pharisees, they did not understand.

In verse 17 Yahshua rebukes them Mr 8:17 But Yahshua, being aware of it, said to them, "Why do you reason because you have no bread? Do you not yet perceive nor understand? Is your heart still hardened?"

Do you not yet perceive nor understand?

To get the answer to this you need to read John 5-6. This is another sermon on its own. Verse 63 of John 6 says 63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

The Apostles saw the miracles of feeding the multitudes, not once but at least twice. They saw the sick being made well. The dead brought back to life and yet in all this they were not sure He was the Messiah. Their hearts were still hard.

Listen to the Rebuke of Stephen just before he was murdered. Ac 7:51 "You stiff necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it."

These people resisted the Spirit having received the LAW and did not keep it.

Ephesians 4: 17 This I say, therefore, and testify in Yahweh, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of EI, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling,(in other words whose hearts have been hardened) have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness. 20 But you have not so learned of Messiah, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Yahshua: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be

renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to Yahweh, in true righteousness and holiness.

What is to become of those with this hard heart?

Ro 2:5 But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of Yahweh, If you have a hard heart how do you make it not hard? You should know this. Are your hearts still hard that you do not yet understand what I am saying?

Mr 12:30 And you shall love Yahweh your Eloim with all your heart , with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment.

This is talking about the first four of the Ten commandments.

1 John 2:3 Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments. 4 He who says, "I know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoever keeps His word, truly the love of Yahweh is perfected in him. By this we know that we are in Him. 6 He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.

1 John 3: 4 Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.

1 Ti 1:5 Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith, 6 from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk, 7 desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm. 8 But we know that the law is good if one uses it lawfully, 9 knowing this: that the law is not made for a righteous person, but for the lawless and insubordinate, for the ungodly and for sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, 10 for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine, 11 according to the glorious gospel of the blessed Yahweh which was committed to my trust.

To avoid sin we need to be keeping the law. The ten commandments. This will teach us how to have love from a pure heart. One that is not hard.

Lu 6:45A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

Joh7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

Rivers of living water is the same as rivers of the Holy Spirit.

In Luke 8 starting in verse 4 we read concerning the good seed.

15 But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience

Our Heart is like a plot of garden soil. If it is worked up and planted it will yield a good crop. If it is not worked, that is if you do not read the bible and study various subjects then the ground becomes hard, even stony and no crop will grow.

Hebrew 3: 7 Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you will hear His voice, 8 Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. 10 Therefore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' 11 So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.' " 12 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living El; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Messiah if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." 16 For who, having heard, rebelled? Indeed, was it not all who came out of Egypt, led by Moses? 17 Now with whom was He angry forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose corpses fell in the wilderness? 18 And to whom did He swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who did not obey? 19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

Hebrew 4: 6 Since therefore it remains that some must enter it, and those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, 7 again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts." 8 For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day. 9 There remains therefore a rest for the people of Yahweh. 10 For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as Yahweh did from His. 11 Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest, lest anyone fall according to the same example of disobedience. 12 For the word of Yahweh is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

I leave you with this last word. 2 Pet 2:1 But there also came to be false prophets among the people, as also among you there shall be false teachers, who shall secretly bring in destructive heresies, and deny the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 And many shall follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of, 3 and in greed, with fabricated words, they shall use you for gain. From of old their judgment does not linger, and their destruction does not slumber. 4 For if Elohim did not spare the messengers who sinned, but sent them to Tartaros, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be kept for judgment, 5 and did not spare the world of old, but preserved Noah?, a proclaimer of righteousness, and seven others, bringing in the flood on the world of the wicked, 6 and having reduced to ashes the cities of Sed?om and Amarah condemned them to destruction – having made them an example to those who afterward would live wickedly, 7 and rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed with the indecent behaviour of the lawless 8 (for day after day that righteous man, dwelling among them, tortured his righteous being by seeing and hearing their lawless works), 9 then Yehoach knows how to rescue the reverent ones from

trial and to keep the unrighteous unto the day of judgment, to be punished, 10 and most of all those walking after the flesh in filthy lust and despising authority – bold, headstrong, speaking evil of esteemed ones, 11 whereas messengers who are greater in strength and power do not bring a slanderous accusation against them before the Master. 12 But these, like natural unreasoning beasts, having been born to be caught and destroyed, blaspheme that which they do not know, shall be destroyed in their destruction, 13 being about to receive the wages of unrighteousness, deeming indulgence in the day of pleasure, spots and blemishes, reveling in their own deceptions while they feast with you, 14 having eyes filled with an adulteress, and unable to cease from sin, enticing unstable beings, having a heart trained in greed, children of a curse, 15 having left the right way they went astray, having followed the way of Bilham the son of Be'or, who loved the wages of unrighteousness, 16 but he was rebuked for his transgression: a dumb donkey speaking with the voice of a man restrained the madness of the prophet. 17 These are fountains without water, clouds driven by a storm, to whom the blackest darkness is kept forever. 18 For speaking arrogant nonsense, they entice – through the lusts of the flesh, through indecencies – the ones who have indeed escaped from those living in delusion, 19 promising them freedom, though themselves being slaves of corruption – for one is a slave to whatever overcomes him. 20 For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Master and Saviour Yeshua Messiah, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the first. 21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the set-apart command delivered unto them.

These are very strong words that Peter is writing here. I urge each of you to read it again and to do so slowly. Do not harden your hearts and resist the Holy Spirit that is now flowing in these the very last days.

Fast and pray to Yahweh to soften your heart and to help you to understand the error of your ways and as David said to know even your secret sins. Then repent from doing this again; That is turning 180 degrees and fleeing from the wrong way of life.

OK one more point.

In 1 Samuel we are told in chapter 15:23 For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, And stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of Yahweh, He also has rejected you from being king.”

We are warned in Deuteronomy 18: 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

Do you grasp just how abominable stubbornness and rebellion is to Yahweh? It is equal to the most detestable things on His list. Do not harden your heart and repent of your rebellious and stubborn ways. Do it while you have time.