

Name:

Date:

Period:

Why Did God Harden Pharaoh's Heart?

Directions: Use the article to answer the questions below in the space provided.

1. Why does the author consider the ninth plague as an example of how the plague narratives were directed against the gods of the Egyptian pantheon?
2. Briefly explain the Egyptian belief in the divinity of the Pharaoh. How did this influence Egyptian belief regarding the Pharaoh's afterlife?
3. What is the significance of the formulaic phrases in the Bible and in Egyptian literature beginning with "Thus sayeth..."?
4. What was the serpent a symbol of in Egyptian mythology, and how is this relevant to the story of Moses'/Aaron's confrontation with the Pharaoh?
5. What are the three Hebrew terms used to describe Pharaoh's heart, and what do they mean?

6. Since the terms are used interchangeably, what does the author think would be the best translation for all three?

7. Briefly explain the significance of the human heart in Egyptian mythology. What role does the heart play in a person's afterlife- specifically, in how they are judged?

8. What role did dung beetles play in Egyptian beliefs about the fate of the dead in the afterlife?

9. How does the author's explanation of the confrontation between Yahweh and Pharaoh resolve the problems Jews and Christians have had with Yahweh's role in the violent elements of this story?