

Exodus 1–5

Chuck Smith Teaching Summary

Concise Bible Study Notes

Theme: God prepares His deliverer and begins the process of Israel's redemption. God's timing is perfect, His calling requires dependence, and His purposes cannot be stopped. Based on the uploaded transcript.

Chapter 1 – Israel Multiplies Under Oppression

Key Points

- Exodus is a direct continuation of Genesis.
- Israel grows from **70 people into a massive nation** while living in Egypt.
- A new Pharaoh, who did not know Joseph, fears Israel's strength.
- Israel is forced into slavery and harsh labor.
- Pharaoh orders Hebrew baby boys killed.

Chuck Smith Insight

One of God's surprising principles is that **adversity often strengthens God's people while prosperity often weakens them.**

Just as Israel multiplied under persecution, the early church experienced its greatest growth during persecution.

Principle

God often uses hardship to strengthen His people rather than destroy them.

Chapter 2 – Moses' Birth and Early Failure

God's Providence

- Moses is hidden by his mother.
- Pharaoh's daughter rescues him.
- Moses' own mother is paid to raise him.
- God preserves the future deliverer while Pharaoh unknowingly finances his upbringing.

The Importance of Early Training

Chuck spends significant time emphasizing:

- Parents shape children during their earliest years.
- Moses never forgot his Hebrew identity despite Egyptian education.
- Proverbs' instruction to train a child early is powerfully illustrated.

Moses' First Mistake

Knowing God's calling...

Moses attempts God's work through **human effort** by killing the Egyptian.

Instead of becoming Israel's deliverer...

he becomes a fugitive.

Principle

Knowing God's will...

is not the same as

being ready in God's timing.

Chapter 3 – The Burning Bush

Forty years later...

God calls Moses.

God's Character

God declares:

- I have seen.
- I have heard.
- I know.
- I have come down to deliver.

Chuck emphasizes that God is never unaware of our suffering.

He sees.

He hears.

He knows.

And He acts.

"I AM"

When Moses asks God's name...

God replies:

"I AM THAT I AM."

Chuck beautifully explains this as:

God becomes **whatever His people need.**

- I am your strength.
- I am your peace.
- I am your righteousness.
- I am your provider.
- I am your salvation.

God is the eternal "Becoming One."

Chapter 4 – God Equips the Called

Moses offers excuse after excuse:

- Who am I?
- They won't believe me.
- I can't speak.
- Please send someone else.

God answers every objection.

Chuck's Main Lesson

God never calls someone...

without providing what they need.

Our weakness becomes the stage upon which God displays His strength.

Aaron

God permits Aaron to become Moses' spokesman.

Chuck points out:

This was **God's permissive will**, not His perfect will.

Aaron later becomes involved in making the Golden Calf.

Principle

Sometimes God allows our compromise...

but we often lose His very best.

Chapter 5 – Opposition Begins

Moses obeys God.

Things immediately get worse.

Pharaoh:

- refuses Israel's request
- increases their labor
- removes straw while keeping production quotas

Israel blames Moses.

Lesson

Obedience does not always produce immediate success.

Sometimes following God makes circumstances appear worse before His deliverance begins.

Faith trusts God's process.

Major Themes

- God's promises never fail.
- God prepares leaders through hidden years.
- God's timing is better than human ambition.
- God equips those He calls.

- Weakness invites dependence upon God.
 - God sees every injustice.
 - Obedience may initially increase opposition.
 - God's deliverance often begins long before we recognize it.
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What Most People Miss

Moses Needed Two Educations

Forty years in Egypt...

to learn how to be somebody.

Forty years in the wilderness...

to learn he was nobody.

Then God could use him to deliver a nation.

The Burning Bush Wasn't the Miracle

Bushes catching fire in the desert were uncommon but possible.

The miracle was:

The bush was never consumed.

Many scholars see this as a picture of Israel—

persecuted for centuries,

yet never destroyed.

God's Fourfold Declaration

God says:

- I have seen

- **I have heard**
- **I know**
- **I have come down**

God is never indifferent to human suffering.

He moves from awareness...

to action.

Moses Got Ahead of God

Moses knew God's calling...

but not God's timing.

Forty years earlier he tried delivering one Hebrew by killing one Egyptian.

Forty years later...

God would deliver an entire nation without Moses lifting a sword.

"I AM" Never Ends the Sentence

"I AM" is intentionally open-ended.

God continually becomes whatever His children need.

This same title is echoed by Jesus in statements like:

- "I am the Bread of Life."
- "I am the Light of the World."
- "I am the Good Shepherd."

Exodus begins revealing the name that reaches its fullest expression in Christ.

One-Sentence Takeaway

God often spends more time preparing His servant than accomplishing the task, because His work is done through dependence on Him rather than confidence in ourselves.
