
Exodus 6–8

Chuck Smith Teaching Summary

1. Discouragement Often Comes Before Deliverance

- Moses obeyed God's command, yet circumstances became worse before they became better.
- Israel blamed Moses, and Moses questioned God.
- Chuck emphasizes that this is often true in ministry and Christian service:
 - Obedience is frequently followed by testing.
 - Satan attempts to discourage believers early in their calling.
 - Faith is strengthened through perseverance.

Key Lesson:

Don't judge God's calling by your immediate circumstances.

2. "I Am the LORD"

God's answer to Moses was not another explanation—it was a revelation of Himself.

God reminds Moses:

"I AM the LORD."

Chuck explains that we often forget:

- God is in control.
- God sees the entire picture.
- Our problems seem enormous only because our view of God has become too small.

The greatness of God always shrinks the size of our problems.

3. Knowing God Personally

Chuck explains the difference between:

- **El Shaddai** – Almighty God
- **Jehovah (YHWH)** – the covenant God who desires intimate relationship

God was revealing Himself in a deeper way than previous generations had experienced.

Through Christ we know Him as:

- Father
- Provider
- Redeemer
- Shepherd
- Friend

Christianity is about relationship—not merely knowing facts about God.

4. God's Seven "I Will" Promises

God repeatedly declares:

- I will bring you out.
- I will free you.
- I will redeem you.
- I will take you as My people.
- I will be your God.
- I will bring you into the land.
- I will give it to you.

Chuck applies these promises to every believer:

God still delivers...

God still redeems...

God still brings His people into spiritual victory.

5. Pharaoh's Hardened Heart

Chuck spends considerable time explaining the Hebrew wording.

Important distinction:

- Pharaoh first hardened his own heart.
- God later strengthened Pharaoh in the position he had already chosen.

God did not force Pharaoh into unbelief.

Instead:

God confirmed the decision Pharaoh freely made.

This illustrates both:

- God's sovereignty
 - Human responsibility
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6. God's Foreknowledge

God knew Pharaoh would reject Him.

Chuck compares this to someone who already knows the winning horse before the race.

God acts with perfect foreknowledge—not because He causes every decision, but because He already knows every decision.

7. Counterfeit Miracles

Pharaoh's magicians duplicated several signs.

Chuck stresses:

- Satan possesses counterfeit power.
- Counterfeits never prove the genuine is false.
- A counterfeit only exists because something genuine exists.

Believers should not reject God's supernatural work simply because Satan imitates it.

8. God's Fatherly Character

Chuck encourages believers not to fear receiving counterfeit spiritual gifts.

Jesus promised:

The Father gives good gifts to His children.

God is trustworthy.

A believer sincerely seeking God need not fear deception by the Father.

9. The First Plagues

The first plagues directly confronted Egypt's false gods.

Examples:

- Nile turned to blood → judgment upon the Nile god.
- Frogs → judgment upon Egyptian frog worship.
- Serpents → judgment upon Egypt's serpent symbolism.

The plagues were not random disasters.

They were demonstrations that:

The God of Israel alone is Lord.

Things Most People Don't Know

✦ **The first battle wasn't against Pharaoh—it was against Moses' discouragement.**

Before God defeated Egypt, He strengthened His servant.

✦ **"I AM" is the central message of Exodus 6.**

God answers fear with His identity—not with detailed explanations.

✦ **The seven "I Will" statements form one of the great covenant promises of the Old Testament.**

Chuck presents them as a beautiful picture of God's complete work of redemption.

✦ **Pharaoh hardened his own heart before God strengthened that decision.**

Chuck emphasizes the Hebrew distinction to show God's justice.

✦ **Every plague attacked a specific Egyptian belief system.**

God wasn't merely displaying power—He was exposing the helplessness of Egypt's gods.

✦ **Satan can imitate miracles.**

The Egyptian magicians reproduced several signs, reminding believers that miraculous events alone do not prove divine authority.

✦ **Aaron's serpent swallowing the magicians' serpents was a quiet but powerful declaration.**

God's authority completely overpowered Egypt's counterfeit power.

✦ **God's first response to Moses was not "Here's My plan."**

It was:

"I am the LORD."

Knowing **who** God is always comes before understanding **what** He is doing.