

Study Notes and Questions for Exodus 5, 6 and 7

Chapter 5

- Note: **“Thus says the Lord...”** (5:1). This phrase occurs here for the first time in Scripture. It is the hallmark of the prophet. It declares that not only does God reveal His will to people so that they might know and obey Him, but He reveals it through other people. Moses and Aaron are God’s authorized spokesmen to Pharaoh, His messengers, His ambassadors.
- Look carefully at Pharaoh’s response in **verse 2**. What human character traits do you see in his response?
- How do Pharaoh’s questions express the prideful heart of all human beings?
- Why did Pharaoh believe the people needed to be busier in their labors?
- What was the response of the people to these added labors? What was Moses’ response?
- Why did Pharaoh’s edict create a point of crisis for the people?
- How should we view tests of our faith?

Chapter 6

- How many promises does God make in **verses 1-8**?
- What do you think was the point of these promises?
- What does **verse 9** tell you about how hardships and disappointments can affect our receptivity to God's Word?
- It often seems that things have to get worse before they get better. Why do you think this is so?

Chapter 7

- What does God reveal to Moses about the process by which He will liberate Israel (see 7:1–5)?
- Note: **Snake** (7:9). Throughout much of Egypt’s history the pharaoh wore a cobra made of metal on the front of his headdress as a symbol of his sovereignty.” The Hebrew word for “snake” is different in 7:9–10 from the one in 4:3. A related word (translated “monster”) is used in Ezekiel 29:3 for Egypt and its pharaoh.
- The magicians were able to imitate the trick of turning staffs into snakes (see 7:8–12). However, what do you think it signified that Aaron’s staff swallowed theirs?

- What was the first plague that God brought upon Egypt?
- Why do you think Pharaoh was unmoved by the Nile being turned to blood?
- The Bible says that God hardened Pharaoh's heart which speaks of Pharaoh being "given over" to the condition of hardness. Read Romans 1:18–32 and discuss what the Apostle Paul is saying in that passage about being given over (or given up) in sin.