



Study Guide: Exodus – Chapter 7

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This study guide provides an educational overview of Exodus Chapter 7 using a verse-by-verse structure, theological context, and application-oriented insights grounded in Scripture.

Introduction

Exodus Chapter 7 marks the beginning of God’s direct confrontation with Pharaoh through Moses and Aaron. This chapter sets the tone for the escalating conflict that will lead to the liberation of Israel from Egypt. It introduces the divine authority given to Moses and Aaron, the initial signs performed before Pharaoh, and the first plague that challenges Egypt’s gods and power. Readers should watch for how God demonstrates His sovereignty over human rulers and natural elements, and how obedience to God’s commands initiates the unfolding of His redemptive plan.

Context

Exodus 7 follows the commissioning of Moses and Aaron in chapter 6, where God reassures Israel of His promise to deliver them. The chapter is set in the Egyptian royal court, where Pharaoh holds absolute power. The key speakers are God, Moses, Aaron, and Pharaoh. The covenant context is the Abrahamic promise of deliverance and blessing, now moving toward fulfillment. Historically, this chapter introduces the beginning of the ten plagues, a divine judgment against Egypt’s gods and oppression. The narrative emphasizes God’s authority over Pharaoh, who is portrayed as resistant but ultimately subordinate to God’s will.

Outline

The chapter opens with God appointing Moses and Aaron as His representatives before Pharaoh, establishing their divine authority. It then records God’s instructions to Moses about the confrontation with Pharaoh, including the signs they are to perform. The narrative moves to the initial encounter with Pharaoh, where Moses and Aaron perform the first miraculous sign by turning the Nile’s water into blood. The chapter concludes with Pharaoh’s hardened heart, setting the stage for the subsequent plagues. Each section builds tension, highlighting the clash between divine power and human obstinacy.



Verse-by-Verse Study

Verses 1-3: God appoints Moses as a god to Pharaoh and Aaron as his prophet, emphasizing their roles as divine agents. This establishes the authority behind their mission and the seriousness of the confrontation ahead. God warns that Pharaoh's heart will be hardened to display His power and proclaim His name throughout the earth.

Verses 4-7: God instructs Moses and Aaron on what to say and do before Pharaoh. They are commanded to perform signs, but Pharaoh will not listen initially. God's purpose is to multiply His wonders in Egypt, demonstrating His sovereignty over the land and its rulers.

Verses 8-13: Moses and Aaron perform the first sign at Pharaoh's palace. Aaron's staff becomes a serpent, but Pharaoh's magicians replicate the feat with their secret arts. However, Aaron's staff swallows theirs, showing the superiority of God's power. Despite this, Pharaoh's heart remains hardened.

Verses 14-24: God commands Aaron to stretch out his staff over the waters of Egypt, turning the Nile and all water sources into blood. This plague directly attacks Egypt's lifeblood and its gods associated with the Nile. The fish die, and the water becomes undrinkable. Despite this devastating sign, Pharaoh's magicians replicate the plague through their enchantments, and Pharaoh's heart remains unyielding.

Key Themes

One key theme is divine authority and representation. Moses and Aaron act as God's mouthpiece and power before Pharaoh, illustrating God's control over earthly rulers. Another theme is the hardening of Pharaoh's heart, which serves to reveal God's power and purpose rather than mere human obstinacy. The chapter also highlights the conflict between God's power and Egypt's gods, as the plagues challenge the natural order and religious beliefs of Egypt. Lastly, the theme of judgment begins to unfold, showing that God's deliverance involves confrontation and consequence for oppression.

Cross-References

Exodus 4:10-17 provides background on Moses' initial reluctance and God's assurance, which leads into the commissioning in chapter 7. Exodus 9:12 and 10:1-2 revisit the theme of Pharaoh's hardened heart, reinforcing the divine purpose behind it. Psalm 105:26-38 recounts the plagues as acts of God's judgment and deliverance, helping to



understand their theological significance. Romans 9:17–18 reflects on God’s sovereignty in hardening Pharaoh’s heart, offering a New Testament perspective on divine purpose in judgment. These references deepen understanding of God’s control and the unfolding plan of redemption.

Application

Modern disciples can learn from Exodus 7 the importance of trusting God’s authority even when facing opposition or discouragement. Like Moses and Aaron, believers are called to be faithful representatives of God’s truth and power in challenging circumstances. The hardening of Pharaoh’s heart reminds us that God’s purposes may involve allowing resistance to reveal His glory and justice. This chapter encourages perseverance in obedience, knowing that God’s plans are sovereign and ultimately for deliverance. It also challenges believers to recognize and confront false powers and idols in their own contexts with God’s truth.

Summary

Exodus Chapter 7 initiates the dramatic confrontation between God and Pharaoh through Moses and Aaron, establishing their divine authority and setting in motion the plagues that will demonstrate God’s power over Egypt. The chapter reveals God’s sovereign purpose in hardening Pharaoh’s heart to display His glory and judgment. Through the first signs—the serpent staff and the turning of the Nile to blood—God challenges Egypt’s gods and Pharaoh’s resistance, laying the foundation for Israel’s deliverance. This chapter underscores the themes of divine authority, judgment, and the unfolding of God’s redemptive plan through faithful obedience and confrontation with worldly powers.