

THE CHRISTIAN'S STAND

Exodus 1:17, 19-22

INTRODUCTION: We are witnessing the downfall of America and the world in general. Satan and sin are destroying whoever they can. Christians are to stand up for Jesus and for truth. These two women are a great example of standing up for the things of God.

I. BRAVERY OF THE MIDWIVES

A. KING'S CONTEMPT FOR THE ISRAELITES.

Pharaoh had an intense dislike for the Israelites. He was concerned that Israel would side with Egypt's enemies in case there was a war. (Exodus 1:10) Pharaoh enslaved them and put them under the burden of building cities and roads. The Bible says the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor. (Exodus 1:13-14)

B. KING'S CALL FOR THE MIDWIVES.

The king called for two of the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah. He gave them this order in Exodus 1:16, And he said, "When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live." A very evil and sinful command was given to the midwives. Once they determined the sex of the child, if it was a boy, then they were supposed to kill the child immediately.

Shiphrah and Puah feared God, and they valued life. They understood God is the Almighty Creator. These godly women had the love of God in their hearts. They submitted to God and resisted the king. The Bible says in verse 17, "But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive."

II. BLESSING OF THE MIDWIVES

A. GOD'S MOTIVE IN THE BLESSINGS.

The Bible says God blessed the midwives, Shiphrah and Purah, for two reasons. First, they feared God, and secondly, they refused to obey Pharaoh's command to kill the Hebrew male infants at birth. The Bible tells us of their bravery when they were brought before Pharaoh to explain their actions.

In verses Exodus 1:18-19, the king asked them, "Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?" Their answer was, "Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them."

Their answer to Pharaoh seems to be a lie. In Acts 5:1-10, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit. They claimed they had given so much money to the church. It is plainly stated that Ananias had not lied to men, but to God and the Holy Spirit. God killed them.

People have asked why the midwives got a pass, and Ananias and Sapphira did not. We must remember that God knows the hearts and the motives for the things people do. This husband and wife were lying to God, and the midwives lied to Pharaoh. The midwives were protecting the lives of innocent babies from a wicked and sinful king, Pharaoh, who wanted God's male children to be put to death.

By their actions, these women protected the children of God. They had received God's forgiveness because of their faith in Him, and they were blessed for the mercy they had shown toward the newborn sons of Israel. We know their falsehood was due to their effort to save the lives of the baby boys. The Bible says that Satan had filled the hearts of Ananias and Sapphira to lie to the Holy Spirit. These women were motivated by the fear of God and faith, while Ananias and Sapphira were moved by their own greed and selfishness.

The reason God permitted this to go beyond the understanding of man reaches into the heart of man and to the very nature of the goodness of God. We do not know how many lies have been told, and God showed mercy to the liars. God may have dealt well with these midwives because of the mercy God had for them and the mercy the women had toward the children.

B. GOD'S MANNER OF THE BLESSINGS.

We learn in Exodus 1:21 that God blessed the midwives as well as the manner of His blessing upon them. "And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses."

God rewarded their efforts to save the lives of the Hebrew children by blessing them with their own families and children. These midwives feared God more than man. Their obeying God and His divine Law was more important than obeying the evil intentions of a wicked king.

We observe the Sanctity of Life every year. The bravery of these midwives declares the value God places on human life. These women were willing to risk their lives to protect and preserve life, and we are to value and protect life today. This is in sharp contrast to those Doctors and Nurses in our country and other places of the world who are willing to destroy life up until the time of birth or even after the baby has survived an abortion attempt.

III. BIRTH OF MOSES

A. PARENTS OF MOSES.

We discover from the Bible that Jochebed was the mother of Moses. As a Hebrew mother, she was living in slavery in Egypt with her husband. Jochebed knew of the decree of Pharaoh to have all the Hebrew baby boys killed at birth. She was able to keep Moses hidden for three months in her home. We learn of the faith of Moses' parents in Hebrews 11:23, "By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months by his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment."

They were unafraid to disobey the king's command to kill this child. Finally, Jochebed made the decision to place Moses in a basket among the bulrushes of the Nile River. Jochebed prayed for Moses to be spared. We see the heartbreaking action Jochebed took to preserve Moses' life. By faith, the parents of Moses entrusted Moses' welfare and future to God.

B. PLANS FOR MOSES.

The Bible tells us of the life and plans God had for Moses. The mighty power and grace of God are revealed in the Bible. God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt and later to bring them into the Promised Land. The life and ministry of Moses are filled with miracles glorifying the Lord. God has a plan and a purpose for every life He allows to be born, just like He did for Moses. Moses' life ultimately points us to Jesus, our Savior.

LESSONS FOR LIFE:

1. We learn in these verses of God's love and care for His people.
2. The Bible tells us of the faith and courage of these two women.
3. Christians must be brave in standing up for Jesus and the unborn.

