









Joseph the outstanding great-grandson of Abraham saved Egypt from terrible famine because he listened to God's voice speaking through Pharaoh's dream and also because he was a rare blend of business acumen, wisdom, sharp intellect and excellent administrative qualities – everything received from God.

Joseph was lifted to high and honored office in Egypt!

If today you are wondering, 'hey, I am in a hopeless situation', I want you to change your opinion after reading this message, nothing is impossible with this BIG God!'

Joseph brought his family into Egypt and they were totally 70 people during that time, but there was a rapid increase in the growth of the people of God and there reached a stage when the Bible says: "the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them." (Exodus 1:7)

Imagine Egypt being filled with the children of God! When a new king came who did not know Joseph or about the wonderful things done through Jehovah, he got irritated. Now, let us look at this passage from a practical point of view, I imagined this way, when the new king saw a vast majority of people worship differently, talk differently, react differently, look differently and finally live differently from his own clan of Egyptians, he said, 'we need to eliminate these guys.'

For this new King they were just too much and their way of life was just too exuberant for the more docile Egyptian way of life.

The king ordered the midwives, "all the boys should be killed during the belivery." Now, here comes our Shiphrah and Puah! King Pharaoh was not kidding when he gave out those orders, he meant business and if anyone dared to disobey, he would not hesitate to kill them. Friends, in the face of such deadly opposition and sword hanging over their heads, these two women decided to obey God rather than the king. I'm sure a thousand voices would have tried to drown their resolution to stand for God by saying, 'hey don't be stupid, don't risk your life, God would understand.' They both brushed aside these sinister whisperings and dared to obey the Lord.

Shiphrah and Puah did not fear the wicked king but feared God and did what was right because they knew they would be given divine protection. This does not mean that you would not go through struggle and pain for your stand for God; you may have to go through loss and pain, but nevertheless, be firm and committed till the end, because He would take care of you. The best place to hide in times of trouble is under the shadow of His wings!

Midwives and their importance

mid'-wif (meyalledheth): "one who helps to bear" or Woman who is with the mother.

The duties which they had to perform are enumerated in Ezekiel 16:4: division of the cord, washing the infant in water, salting with salt and swathing in swadding clothes.

One Commentator quoted the Talmud (Cotah 2 b) in which it is said that the two midwives had different duties, Shiphrah being the one who dressed the infant, Puah, the one who whispered to it.

Shifra – "beauty" or "fair one" comes from her taking care of the infant.

Puah – "splendid" is Miriam who coos (Puah), speaks, and makes noises to the infant as women do to calm a crying baby.

Midwives watched over the renewal of life, Midwives ushered in new life.

It is not just new lives that midwives bring into the world, but a rebirth, a renewal of a nation.

Note friends that Shifra and Puah were not here giving birth to children, they were ensuring that they had life. They were watchful over the process of birth and were there to ensure that when these babies were born, their lives were secure.

A threat hung over their heads from the king.

They could lose their lives very easily but they were not about to turn their backs on what their true roles were. They were not there as agents of death but as life givers.

They were there to nurture life and stand by for children being born, no matter what the cost.

xodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live. (NET)

BLESSED BY GOD (V. 20-21)

xodus 1:20-21 So God treated the midwives well, and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he made households for them. (NET)

They refused to violate the law of life. God blessed them for doing what is right in His eyes. He blessed them with "households" "families" of their own.

That brings us to a truth for all times: to be a woman of influence:

Truth: Know the difference between right and wrong and choose right. This has been God's desire for us all the way back to the Garden of Eden and all the way forward.

Paul would write to the Romans that God has created us to know Him?

We have been given a conscience and the revelation of His Word to learn what pleases God, what He deems right and wrong. **Know the difference and choose right.**

Amen.

Hymn of Response:

"And Can it be"

BoP # 352

WE BRING OUR PRAYERS AND GIFTS

Prayers Of God's People

Work and Witness of our Church

