

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASS
FEBRUARY 21, 2024
EXODUS 1.15-22

INTRODUCTION:

1. In keeping with His promise, “*the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them*” (Ex. 1.7).

a) To stunt their growth, the Egyptians first “*afflicted them with burdens,*” but Israel “*multiplied and grew*” (Ex. 1.11,12).

b) Second, the Egyptians “*made the children of Israel serve with rigor*” and “*made their lives bitter with hard bondage*” (Ex. 1.13,14). But they continued to grow.

2. The next section records Pharaoh’s third attempt to thin out the Hebrews who have saturated the Egyptian culture.

I. THE REQUIREMENT OF PHARAOH

A. **EXODUS 1.15:** “*Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives*”

1. Pharaoh gave the midwives two directives.

a) **EXODUS 1.16:** “*if it is a son, then you shall kill him*”

b) **EXODUS 1.16:** “*if it is a daughter, then she shall live*”

2. When the midwives refused to obey the commands of Pharaoh, he issued a general command to “*all his people.*” (Ex. 1.22).

B. The brutality of Pharaoh is shocking.

1. Consider the use of the words, “*son*” and “*daughter*” (Ex. 1.16,22).

2. This is not the only time you read about infanticide. (Matt. 2.16-18)

3. Today, pro-abortionists often dehumanize infants. (cf. Ps. 139.13-16)

II. THE RESPECT OF THE MIDWIVES

A. Who are the Hebrew midwives?

1. **EXODUS 1.15:** “*Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah*” Two midwives who presumably the head of the midwives.

2. **EXODUS 1.16:** “*When you do the duties of a midwife*”

a) Midwife (yalad): Literally, “*to give birth, have a child*” [Mounce]

b) What are the duties of the midwives? (Gen. 35.17; 38.28)

B. **EXODUS 1.17:** “*But the midwives feared God*”

1. Fear (yare): “*To be afraid, be frightened, revere, respect*” [Mounce] (Ps. 89.7; 119.9)

2. The influence of the Hebrew nation spread throughout their generations.

a) Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph feared God. (Gen. 22.12; 26.23-25; 42.18)

b) The fear of God is to be taught to our children. (Deut. 4.9,10; Eph. 6.4)

3. The midwives feared God more than the king. (Ex. 1.17-19; cf. Acts 4.19; 5.29)

III. THE REWARD OF GOD

A. **EXODUS 1.20:** “*Therefore God dealt well with the midwives*”

1. “*Dealt well*” Literally, what is pleasing. (cf. Gen. 4.7). God made their lives pleasing.

2. **EXODUS 1.21:** “*He provided households for them.*” (cf. Ruth 4.11)

B. Did God justify lying?

1. The midwives were deceptive. (Ex. 1.19; cf. Josh. 2.4-6; James 2.25)

2. The blessing of God was not from lying, but from their fear of Him.