

The Beginnings of the Exodus

Exodus 1:1-22

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Retreat to Egypt – Exodus 1:1-7 (NKJV)

¹ Now these *are* the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob:

² Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; ³ Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; ⁴ Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher.

⁵ All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt *already*). ⁶ And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. ⁷ But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

Inevitable Slavery in Egypt – Exodus 1:8-14 (NKJV)

⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we; ¹⁰ come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and *so* go up out of the land.”

¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. ¹³ So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. ¹⁴ And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve *was* with rigor.

Why Hardship?

1. To create a desire for freedom
2. To display the mighty hand of God
3. To develop leaders



Pharaoh's Frustration – Exodus 1:15-18



¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one *was* Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah;
¹⁶ and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* on the birthstools, if it *is* a son, then you shall kill him; but if it *is* a daughter, then she shall live.” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?”


Shiprah and Puah



A Higher Purpose

Shiprah (שִׁפְרָה) – dawn, fair

Puah (פוּעָה) – young, fragrant, splendid

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- A soft, painterly illustration of two women in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. One woman, with dark hair tied back, is leaning over and holding a baby wrapped in a white cloth. The other woman, with long dark hair, stands beside her, looking down at the baby. The scene is bathed in a warm, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The background is a hazy, light blue sky.
1. In their hands were life and death
 2. In their hearts were love and courage
 3. In their homes were God's blessings

Birthstools,
literally birth stones

אֶבֶן or הַאֲבָנִים or stones



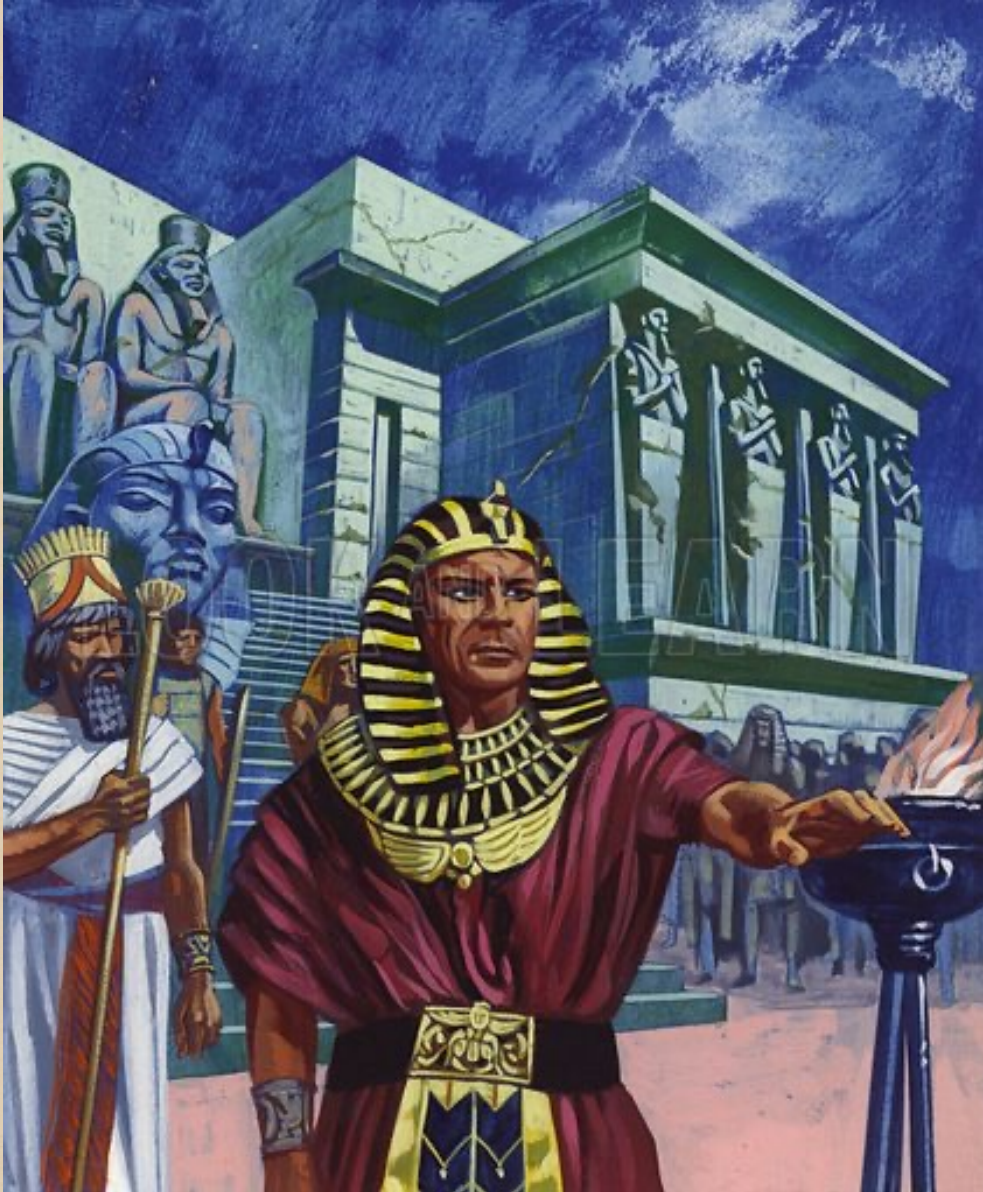
Midwives Answer Truthfully – Exodus 1:19-21



¹⁹ And the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women *are* not like the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.”

²⁰ Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. ²¹ And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

Pharaoh's Fury and the Birth of Moses – Exodus 1:22



²² So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.”