



# Standing for righteousness

June 10, 2019

**EXODUS 1:15-18 NKJV** – (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?”

You may remember that during the time of Joseph, the Israelites enjoyed favor before Pharaoh and his court. After he died, however, another pharaoh took his place. As the Israelites' population increased, the Egyptians felt increasingly threatened and feared the Israelites would take over the nation. To limit their population growth, the king of Egypt gave the midwives a chilling order:

"When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live" (**Exodus 1:16**).

But Shiphrah and Puah feared God. They refused to do what the king of Egypt ordered. Deliberately disobeying their leader's command, they delivered each tiny newborn with all the skill and ability they possessed. Before long, their disobedience came to the attention of the king, and he summoned them to stand before him. “*Why have you done this?*” he asked. “*Why have you let the boys live?*” (**verse 18**).

This is where Shiphrah and Puah shine on the pages of biblical history: Not only were they God-fearing, they were also wise. While they recognized their responsibility to obey their leaders, they also understood that God's law supersedes man's law. They knew they could not sin against God by killing the Hebrew babies. “‘Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women,’ they said to Pharaoh. ‘They are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.’”

Scripture tells us God smiled on their courage and commitment to ***do what was right***. He “was kind to the midwives... and because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own” (**verses 20-21**). Shiphrah and Puah are powerful, though obscure, examples of doing what's right no matter what the cost.

**SCRIPTURE READING: PROVERBS 11:30**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** When you allow God to lead you through a trial, you get to see Him for yourself.