

January 26th – When Disobedience is Obedience

*“But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive.”  
(Exo. 1:17)*

When you think of the Book of Exodus, you can't help but think of Moses. He was the primary figure who emerged to deliver Israel from their bondage in Egypt. But before Moses, there were two little-known midwives named Shiphrah and Puah. In their day, Pharaoh grew very concerned about the sheer number of the Jews, so he concocted a plan to start eliminating them. He commanded the midwives to kill all the male children born to the Hebrew women, but to spare the females.

The midwives chose the path of civil disobedience – “the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children.” Maybe you've always heard it said that Christians should obey the law of the land, and that's true. Romans 13 says “let every soul be subject to the governing authorities... whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves” (Rom. 13:1-2).

When is it acceptable to “break the law” or to disregard appointed rulers? When the governing authorities command you to do anything that requires you to disobey the Lord, then you must object. Why? As the apostle said, “We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). Disobedience to civil authorities might cost you a great deal. Many believers have lost their lives because they refused to deny the Lord and His Word. But at the end of time, obedience to God is all that will really matter.