

Shiphrah and Puah-
Courage!

Shiphrah and Puah's story is a lesson for us in what we need to understand about God and what God values, so that we can be courageous in scary situations.

Exodus 1:8-21

Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. "Look," he said to his people, "the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country." So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites and worked them ruthlessly. They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly.

- Exodus 1:8-21

¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?” The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

- Exodus 1:8-21

Fear is never a good basis
for making decisions.

To God, the identity of this Pharoah
is unimportant.

God made sure the names Shiphrah and Puah,
the Hebrew/Egyptian midwives, are still
remembered by the world.

Do you choose fear of this king and the political power he holds? Or do you choose courage, courage to do the right thing?

God was the ultimate power over life and death
(not their king) and they chose
to disobey the king.

This is not a “what might happen if...” sort of fear,
this is a total respect for, honor of,
deep worship of God.

*Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous;
be strong. Do everything in love.*

- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Fear based decision making leads us to make bad choices, leads us to act on the “what ifs” in a defensive, destructive way. Fear based thinking causes us to blame other people for the way we are feeling.

Are we allowing love, as it says in 1 Corinthians,
to be the guiding Godly force in our lives?

Courage is not the absence of fear.
It is choosing to do right in spite of your fear.

May we have the courage and the faith to trust that God is at work in us and through us to bring the life and love of God to the world around us; and may that free us from our fears which would distort and destroy the work that God is doing to bring redeeming salvation to this world.