

For Tuesday, March 24, 2020

From Pastor Elizabeth:

Shiphrah and Puah were midwives among the Israelites who were in Egypt during the period before the Exodus (Exodus 1:15-21). The king of Egypt instructed them to kill the male Hebrew babies as soon as they were born, and to save the female Hebrew newborns alive.

Shiphrah and Puah feared God. They knew in their hearts that it was not pleasing to God to kill babies — whether male or female. They allowed their allegiance to God to guide their actions. In spite of the risk of losing their own lives, they chose to obey God.

The faithfulness of these two women was rewarded by God, who has the ultimate control over all kings. God blessed the midwives with protection, so that they were not punished nor killed by the king of Egypt, although he had the authority to do so. In addition, God gave the midwives favor with the king, so that he accepted their excuse that the Hebrew women were more vigorous than the Egyptian women and gave birth before the midwives could arrive.

The passage says that God dealt well with the midwives, and that God gave them families, because they feared God.

Shiphrah and Puah attributed to God a power and authority that exceeded that of the king of Egypt. They rightfully gave God the position of sovereignty in their hearts and minds, so that their actions reflected their belief that God is to be obeyed above all others. They entrusted their lives to God's goodness, putting everything on the line, believing that God would be faithful also to them.

God was faithful to them, and God will be faithful to us. We can trust in God's goodness and favor when we do what we know is God's will, according to God's word.

We do not live in uncertainty. We believe and trust in God, who knows the end from the beginning. Our hope for the future is in Him alone. God is our exceeding great reward.

Shiphrah and Puah did not fear their circumstances, even when contemplating disobeying the king of Egypt. Instead, they "feared" (honored, obeyed, and trusted) God. Let us do the same.

-Pastor Elizabeth Coleman