

## TWO MIDWIVES AMONG THE MIDWIVES EX. 1:15-22

**Exodus 1:15** And the king of Egypt spake to **the Hebrew midwives**, of which the name of the one was **Shiphrah**, and the name of the other **Puah**:

**Exodus 1:16** And he said, When ye do the office of a **midwife** to **the Hebrew women**, and see them upon the stools; **if** it be a son, then ye shall kill him: **but if** it be a daughter, then she shall live.

**Exodus 1:17** But **the midwives** feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

**Exodus 1:18** And the king of Egypt called for **the midwives**, and said unto them, Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?

**Exodus 1:19** And **the midwives** said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and **are delivered** ere **the midwives** come in unto them.

**Exodus 1:20** Therefore God dealt well with **the midwives**: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

**Exodus 1:21** And it came to pass, because **the midwives** feared God, that he made them houses.

**Exodus 1:22** And Pharaoh charged all his people, saying, Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river, and every daughter ye shall save alive.

### Hebrews:

- A term used primarily by others / outsiders

Etic – how outsiders describe you

Emic – how you describe you

- A collective term for immigrants
- A term connected to other terms used by the Egyptians for foreigners

Apiru

Habiru

With memories of the Hyksos who had been expelled

- A term used in a derogatory sense for those who wandered around & animal traders

Like the word “gypsy” in Europe

## 1. The midwives **named**

**Exodus 1:15** And the king of Egypt spake to **the Hebrew midwives**, of which the name of the one was **Shiphrah**, and the name of the other **Puah**:

Shiphrah =

Puah =

Both good archaic, Semitic names

### Thoughts:

- Named
- Named when almost no one else was named
- Named but most of the midwives were not!

**Exodus 1:19** And **the midwives** said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and **are delivered** ere **the midwives** come in unto them.

- Named probably as leaders

## 2. The midwives **tested**

**Exodus 1:15** And the king of Egypt spake to **the Hebrew midwives**, of which the name of the one was **Shiphrah**, and the name of the other **Puah**: **Exodus 1:16** And he said, When ye do the office of a **midwife** to **the Hebrew women**, and see them upon the stools; if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter,

then she shall live. **Exodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God**, and did **not** as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

### **Thoughts:**

- **The midwives were tested / tempted**

**James 1:2** My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;

**James 1:12** Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

**James 1:13** Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

- **We are all tested**
- **Tested in real life**
- **Tested in our calling**
- **Tested to compromise**
- **Tested concerning a moral → right & wrong issue**
- **Tested to fear God or fear Pharaoh**

**Exodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God**, and did **not** as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

### **3. The midwives were tested **again!****

**Exodus 1:18** And the king of Egypt called for **the midwives**, and said unto them, **Why have ye done this thing, and have saved the men children alive?**

**Exodus 1:19** And **the midwives** said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and **are delivered** ere **the midwives** come in unto them.

### **What did they say? Options:**

- **A lie**
- **An evasion**
- **The truth**

### **Conclusions concerning this question:**

- **The women were more active than the Egyptian women**
- **More active in labor**
- **Not like royal women Pharaoh would have known**
- **Plus some evasion**

### **4. The midwives were **blessed!****

**Exodus 1:17 But the midwives feared God**, and did **not** as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

**Exodus 1:20 Therefore** God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

**Exodus 1:21** And it came to pass, **because the midwives feared God**, that he made them houses.

### **5. The midwives were tested **even more!****

**Exodus 1:22** And Pharaoh charged **all** his people, saying, **Every** son that is born ye shall cast into the river, **and every** daughter ye shall save alive.