

Exodus 1 Pharaoh and the Midwives

Review:

Genesis tells the story of the creation of the world.
Exodus tells the story of the creation of a nation.
In Genesis, we learn how God's people got into Egypt.
In Exodus, we learn how God's people got out of Egypt.
In Genesis, God promises to build a nation out of one family.
In Exodus, God delivers that nation from bondage.

Before God can deliver, He moves to protect and provide for His people. We find in Exodus 1 that the existence of the Jewish race as well as the lineage of the Messiah is being threatened.

God has an amazing ability to do His work on the world stage and in the lives of individuals at the same time. There's also a third dimension involved here. Our pathetic little enemy the devil is warring against God. This is clearly evident with the total disregard for human life. Not only is God able to be at work in the lives of individuals and nations at the same time; He is also able to outmaneuver the schemes of satan at the same time.

On an individual level, the conflict is between Pharaoh and the midwives.
On the national level, the conflict is between Egypt and Israel.
On the cosmic stage, the conflict is between God and our pathetic little enemy, the devil.

The difference between Pharaoh and the midwives is where they placed their fear.
They both had fear. To some extent, we all have fear.

The midwives, we are told, feared God.
Pharaoh's fear is not directly mentioned in this Scripture, but it is described in this Scripture.
Pharaoh was afraid of people and losing power.
Pharaoh's fear is self-centered. The midwives fear is God-centered.

To fear God does not mean to be afraid of Him at every single turn but to recognize His lofty, powerful position and His unapproachable holiness. God is fearsome in His holiness because we are not holy. In this situation, the midwives are afraid of the consequences of disobeying God more than the consequences of disobeying Pharaoh.

Toward the development of a healthy fear of God, Scripture memory can be very helpful. We all need to remember that God sees all and knows all.

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Hebrews 4:13

In contrast to how they were treated, God had a totally different standard for His people. They were told to adhere to a Biblical standard.

The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:34