

# Exodus 1:15

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

## Analysis

**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** (שִׁפְרָה וּפּוּאָה, Shifrah uFu'ah)—Pharaoh's genocidal escalation targets male infants. **Shiphrah** (שִׁפְרָה, "beauty/splendor") and **Puah** (פּוּאָה, possibly "splendid" or related to a birth cry) are named, honoring their courage. Whether these are two individuals supervising many midwives or representing the Hebrew midwifery guild, their names are preserved in Scripture while Pharaoh remains anonymous—a reversal of worldly honor. God remembers the faithful by name (v. 21). This begins the Exodus theme of women as deliverers (Miriam, Jochebed, Pharaoh's daughter, Zipporah).

## Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern midwives were respected professionals. That Pharaoh approaches Hebrew midwives suggests either Egyptian midwives refused the order or that Hebrew women birthed so quickly that only Hebrew midwives attended (v. 19). The personal names indicate historical reminiscence, not fictional narrative.

## Related Passages

**Psalm 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's honoring of Shiphrah and Puah encourage you when faithfulness seems unnoticed by the world?
2. In what ways are you called to resist unjust commands, even at personal risk?

## Interlinear Text

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|              |              |              |              |               |                   |                   |          |        |         |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------|--------|---------|
| אָשָׁר       | קָרְבָּנִי   | תְּלַמֵּידָת | מִצְבָּה     | יְמִין        | לְמִילָּד         | תְּלַמֵּידָת      | מִצְבָּה | יְמִין | וְאָמַר |
| spake        | And the king | of Egypt     | midwives     | to the Hebrew |                   |                   |          |        | H834    |
| H559         | H4428        | H4714        | H3205        | H5680         |                   |                   |          |        |         |
| וְשָׁם       | קָרְבָּנִת   | שָׁפֵךְ      | וְשָׁם       | פָּעָה:       | בָּשָׁתְּ יְהִתְּ | בָּשָׁתְּ יְהִתְּ |          |        |         |
| and the name | of the one   | was Shiphrah | and the name | of the other  | Puah              |                   |          |        |         |
| H8034        | H259         | H8236        | H8034        | H8145         | H6326             |                   |          |        |         |

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