

# 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

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**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 וּפּוּעָה, Shifrah uFu'ah)—Pharaoh's genocidal escalation targets male infants. **Shiphrah** (שִׁפְרָה, "beauty/splendor") and **Puah** (פּוּעָה, 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

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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

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

## Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

### 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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אֶשֶׁר	הָעִבְרִי	לְמִילְדֹת	מִצְרַיִם	מֶלֶךְ	וַיֹּאמֶר
	to the Hebrew	midwives	of Egypt	And the king	spake
H834	H5680	H3205	H4714	H4428	H559

פִּוּעָה:	הַשֵּׁנִי	וְשֵׁם	שִׁפְרָה	הָאֶחָת	וְשֵׁם
Puah	of the other	and the name	was Shiphrah	of the one	and the name
H6326	H8145	H8034	H8236	H259	H8034

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