

Exodus 1:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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

Analysis

Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty (וַיַּעֲבֹר אֱלֹהִים לְמִילְדוֹת) — **God dealt well** is divine approval and blessing on their civil disobedience rooted in the fear of God. The verb (יטב, *yatav*, "do good/treat favorably") contrasts with Pharaoh's evil treatment. The result: **the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty** — the exact opposite of Pharaoh's intention (1:10). This demonstrates a consistent biblical principle: God blesses those who honor Him over human authority. The midwives' faith produced national blessing, as individual righteousness often does (Genesis 18:26-32).

Historical Context

Divine blessing often manifests in tangible ways—prosperity, protection, and multiplication. The connection between the midwives' obedience and Israel's continued growth emphasizes that national survival depended on individual faithfulness. God's "dealing well" with them inspired continued resistance and preserved the generation that would experience the Exodus.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How does God's blessing on the midwives encourage you to choose faithfulness over compliance with unjust demands?
2. In what ways have you seen individual righteousness produce broader community blessing?

Interlinear Text

יעצם 1	בָּעֵם	וַיַּעֲשֵׂב	לְמִילֵּדָת	אֱלֹהִים	וַיַּעֲשֵׂב
dealt well	Therefore God	with the midwives	multiplied	and the people	mighty
H3190	H430	H3205	H7235	H5971	H6105

מָאֵת
and waxed very

Additional Cross-References

Ecclesiastes 8:12 (References God): Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

Isaiah 3:10 (Parallel theme): Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him; for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Proverbs 11:18 (Parallel theme): The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.

Hebrews 6:10 (References God): For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.

Psalms 111:5 (Parallel theme): He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

Psalms 103:11 (Parallel theme): For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

Psalms 145:19 (Parallel theme): He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Psalms 61:5 (References God): For thou, O God, hast heard my vows: thou hast given me the heritage of those that fear thy name.

Psalms 85:9 (Parallel theme): Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Proverbs 19:17 (Parallel theme): He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.