

SHIPHRAH & PUAH - Midwives

Exodus 1:17

However, the midwives feared the true God, and they did not do what the king of Egypt told them. Instead, they would keep the male children alive

Exodus 1:20, 21

So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people kept increasing and becoming very mighty. ²¹ And because the midwives had feared the true God, he later gave them families.

AMRAM + JOCHEBED

Hebrews 11:23

By faith Moses was hid by his parents for three months after his birth, because they saw that the young child was beautiful and they did not fear the order of the king.

MIRIAM

Exodus 2:7,8

Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter: "Shall I go and call a nursing woman from the Hebrews to nurse the child for you?" ⁸ Pharaoh's daughter said to her: "Go!" At once the girl went and called the child's mother.

FOR DISCUSSION

In what ways did the midwives and Moses' family show courage?

DIG DEEPER

- 1. What does archaeology reveal as to the accuracy of this account?**
- 2. What supports the Bible's record of a papyrus basket and of Pharaoh's order to kill the Hebrew babies?**
- 3. What do we know about the Hebrew midwives, and how were they blessed?**
- 4. How did Miriam show outstanding faith well into old age?**

REFLECT ON THE LESSONS

What can parents learn from Amram and Jochebed?

What can siblings learn from young Miriam?

How might you imitate the courage of Shiphrah and Puah in your life?

MEDITATE ON THE BIGGER PICTURE

What does this account teach me about Jehovah?

How does the account tie in with Jehovah's purposes?

What would I like to ask the characters in this Bible account when they are resurrected?

FOR DISCUSSION

In what ways did the midwives and Moses' family show courage?

The midwives **Shiphrah** and **Puah** feared **Jehovah** more than the powerful **Pharaoh**. When ordered to kill **Hebrew** baby boys, they refused and protected the infants instead, cleverly concealing their actions. **Amram** and **Jochebed** hid baby **Moses** for three months, risking severe punishment, then placed him in a waterproof papyrus basket among the **Nile** reeds. **Young Miriam** watched bravely and, when **Pharaoh's daughter** found him, boldly offered to find a nurse—bringing her own mother. Their courage, rooted in faith, preserved **Moses'** life.

DIG DEEPER

1. What does archaeology reveal as to the accuracy of this account?

1. Although no direct archaeological evidence of the **Israelites'** stay in **Egypt** has been found, considerable indirect evidence supports the Bible's credibility. **Egyptologist James K. Hoffmeier** notes that archaeological data show **Egypt** attracted **Semitic-speaking peoples** from **western Asia** between about **1800** and **1540 B.C.E.**, especially during droughts.
2. **Tomb paintings** also depict gangs of slaves making mud bricks in explicit detail,

matching the **Bible's** description of **Israelite** oppression.

2. What supports the Bible's record of a papyrus basket and of Pharaoh's order to kill the Hebrew babies?

1. The Bible's description of the papyrus vessel rings true; **Cook's Commentary** notes that Egyptians commonly used papyrus for light, swift boats—still done today.

2. Regarding **Pharaoh's order**, scholar **George Rawlinson** observes that infanticide has been practiced widely at different times and places and regarded as trivial. Such cold-blooded decrees, though disturbing, are historically credible.

3. What do we know about the Hebrew midwives, and how were they blessed?

1. **Shiphrah** and **Puah** were likely heads of the midwife profession, responsible for passing on orders. Summoned by **Pharaoh** to kill newborn **Hebrew** boys, they feared the **true God**, refused, and preserved the children alive. When questioned, they explained that **Hebrew women** were "**lively**" and gave birth before the midwife arrived.

2. **Jehovah** dealt well with them and rewarded their faith by giving them families of their own.

4. How did Miriam show outstanding faith well into old age?

1. About **90 years old** at the **Red Sea**, **Miriam** served as a **prophetess**—the **first woman so called** in the Bible.
2. After **Jehovah's** miraculous deliverance, she led the **Israelite women** in joyful song and dance, singing: *"Sing to Jehovah, for he has become highly exalted."*
3. Though later **disciplined** for speaking against **Moses**, she **accepted correction humbly**, was **restored to favour**, and **continued faithful** until her **death near age 130**.
4. **Jehovah** later **honoured** her faithful service.

REFLECT ON THE LESSONS

What can parents learn from Amram and Jochebed?

1. Parents can learn to put **Jehovah** first even under severe pressure. Despite **Pharaoh's** death decree, they hid **Moses** by faith, refused to fear the king's order, and later taught him about **Jehovah** while nursing him.
2. Their example shows that parents who courageously obey God and instil faith in their children give them the best possible start, trusting **Jehovah** to protect and guide the outcome.

What can siblings learn from young Miriam?

Siblings can learn to protect and support one another with courage and quick thinking. Young Miriam watched over her baby brother at risk to herself, then boldly approached Pharaoh's daughter and arranged for their mother to nurse him. Her loyal, selfless action helped preserve Moses' life and allowed their family to teach him about Jehovah. Faithful siblings today can likewise look out for one another's spiritual welfare.

How might you imitate the courage of Shiphrah and Puah in your life?

We can imitate their courage by fearing Jehovah more than any human authority. When pressured at school, work, or elsewhere to compromise Bible principles, we can firmly yet wisely refuse, trusting that Jehovah notices and rewards those who put him first. Like the midwives, our quiet, determined stand for what is right brings Jehovah's approval and blessing.

MEDITATE ON THE BIGGER PICTURE

What does this account teach me about Jehovah?

It teaches that Jehovah is the Sovereign of the universe who notices and values courageous acts of faith, even by ordinary people. He protects those who fear him more than man, deals well with them, and uses their loyalty to advance his purposes.

Jehovah's care for the midwives, Moses' family, and the infant Moses shows

- 1. his deep interest in individuals**
- 2. and his power to outwit human schemes.**

How does the account tie in with Jehovah's purposes?

- 1. Jehovah's purpose to deliver his people and raise up a faithful leader required preserving Moses' life. By blessing the midwives' courage and guiding the events that placed Moses in Pharaoh's household while still allowing his mother to teach him,**
- 2. Jehovah prepared the future deliverer of Israel. This account shows how Jehovah's purposes move forward despite opposition, using the faith of ordinary people.**

What would I like to ask the characters in this Bible account when they are resurrected?

I would love to ask the midwives how they felt standing before Pharaoh and what gave them the strength to refuse.

I would ask Amram and Jochebed about the emotions of placing Moses in the basket and later receiving him back to nurse.

And I would ask Miriam what it was like watching over her brother and later leading the women in song at the Red Sea.