

Morning Sermon March 7, 2021

“The Midwives’ Reward” – Exodus 1:15-22

I. Children / families are a blessing from God, even in difficult times –

²⁰ Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. ²¹ And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. Exodus 1:20–21 (NKJV)

1. We are commanded to be fruitful and multiply, and yet the command is also a blessing –

²⁸ Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Genesis 1:28

A. This command is one of the great dividers of the faithful from the fearful, those who are faithful always see children as blessings –

The Bible, and Rebekah’s family considered it a blessing when they sent her off to marry Isaac –

⁵⁹ So they sent away Rebekah their sister and her nurse, and Abraham’s servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her: “Our sister, may you become The mother of thousands of ten thousands; And may your descendants possess The gates of those who hate them.” Genesis 24:59–60 (NKJV)

B. Long after Genesis a big family is still considered a blessing from God –

³ Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. ⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. ⁵ Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. Psalm 127:3–5 (NKJV)

2. Here we have God’s people multiplying in the midst of persecution –

A. This was NOT Pharaoh’s intention –

⁹ And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; ¹⁰ come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, ... Exodus 1:9–10 (NKJV)

Two things to note about Pharaoh’s intention: (1) He considers his dealing cruelly “SHREWD” is it? Shrewd definition – “having or showing sharp powers of judgment; astute.”

Was this really shrewd, sharp judgment on the King of Egypt’s part? He thought he was going to curtail their multiplication, but it did NOT WORK - ¹² But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. Exodus 1:12 (NKJV)

No, it was not “shrewd” and it was (2) a failure -

“The irony is that this was exactly the opposite of what Pharaoh intended to happen. In verse 10 Pharaoh says *pen-yirbe*, which means “lest they multiply”; but in verse 12 God says *ken-yirbe*—“the more they shall multiply.” Phillip Graham Ryken

II. The destruction of children, especially the youngest, is the greatest of crimes –

¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; ¹⁶ and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.” Exodus 1:15–16 (NKJV)

1. Even the King of Egypt (Pharaoh) knew this is wrong, how do I know this? The king of Egypt speaks to the Hebrew midwives, this shows:

A. He is asking those who normally do not kill to kill. Would not a soldier or an assassin do this better? Skill with swords, used to shedding blood?

B. Midwives though have the advantage of SEEMING HEALTHCARE, they would (if they would have listened to the king) have been coming to a house to deliver a healthy baby, that was their regular job, calling ... but they would make sure the baby DIED... they could pretend to an accident!

C. He wants someone else to do his “dirty work.”

Arnold Brevick

2. *When they do not do the job for him, he makes the murder of children LAW –*

²² So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.” Exodus 1:22 (NKJV)

“One would not think it possible that ever men should be so barbarous and blood-thirsty as the persecutors of God’s people have been, Rev. 17:6. 2. Even confessed innocence is no defence against the old enmity. What blood so guiltless as that of a child new-born? Yet that is prodigally shed like water, and sucked with delight like milk or honey. Pharaoh and Herod sufficiently proved themselves agents for that *great red dragon, who stood to devour the man-child as soon as it was born*, Rev. 12:3, 4.” Matthew Henry

3. *The Application today is to the legalization of abortion, this I believe is God’s judgment upon our nation for rejecting the knowledge of God –*

A. *An ostrich is said to be deprived of wisdom, because she does not care for her eggs – Job 39:17.*

B. *Yet, in the USA we not only neglect our unborn we intentionally seek to kill them, and we are successful in doing this, I believe this is because God has given us up to a depraved mind –*

²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; Romans 1:28 (NKJV)

III. *The midwives were right and blessed going against this tyrant –*

²⁰ Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. ²¹ And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. Exodus 1:20–21 (NKJV)

1. *The question most asked about this passage, concerns verses :18-19 -*

¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?” ¹⁹ And the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.” Exodus 1:18–19 (NKJV)

Were the midwives right to lie to the king? Does this mean lying is okay? Or okay in certain circumstances?

A. *Answer number one, no lying is not okay –*

¹⁶ These six *things* the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: ¹⁷ A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, ¹⁸ A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil, ¹⁹ A false witness *who* speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren. Proverbs 6:16–19 (NKJV)

Six different things are mentioned, but lying is mentioned twice, It is WRONG!

B. *Yet so is murder, and the midwives had a choice of lying to the king or lying to women when they killed their baby boys!*

2. *It was said midwives “feared God” this is important to note, because:*

A. *The king had a fearful position of power over them and the women they served did not!*

B. *Their fear of God, more than Pharaoh, is tested and seen it what may seem a controversial action, disobeying and lying to the king –*

¹³ Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. Romans 13:1–3 (NKJV)

C. *Yet what the king ask was against God’s law and wrong -*

²⁹ But Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29 (NKJV)

Arnold Brewick