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MINISTRIES

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Parashah Points: Shemot – Standing Up For Life

Welcome to another episode of Parashah Points—short thoughts from the weekly Torah Portion.

This week’s Parashah Point comes from Shemot, which is Hebrew for “names,” and it goes from Exodus 1:1 to Exodus 6:1.

This parashah tells the story of Israel’s affliction in Egypt (Exodus 1).

Then we’re introduced to Moses who was rescued from death as an infant and adopted by the Pharaoh’s daughter. After Moses grows up, he flees to Midian after having murdered an Egyptian who was beating a Hebrew slave (Exodus 2).

After many years living in the land of Midian, God appears to Moses in the form of a burning bush and appoints him to deliver the Israelites from Egypt (Exodus 3).

So Moses returns to Egypt. Then he and his brother Aaron go to Pharaoh and they order him to let the Hebrews go. Pharaoh refuses and instead puts pressure on the Hebrew slaves by making unreasonable demands and having them beaten when they fail to deliver (Exodus 4-5).

The parashah concludes with God assuring Moses that Israel will be delivered from Egypt (Exodus 6:1).

There’s a lot we can talk about in this Torah Portion. Today we’re going to present just a thought on courage and standing up against injustice.

Exodus 1:15-17

[Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, “When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live. But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live.](#)

These two women, who appear for just a short time in the Scriptures, exemplify a very important

characteristic that God demands his people have: courage. Shiphrah and Puah are canonized in the Scriptures and will forever be remembered as the two midwives who saved countless lives by defying an evil decree issued by the Pharaoh of Egypt.

Because these two brave women risked their lives to save the innocent Hebrew babies, God blessed them:

Exodus 1:20-21

So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.

Why did these women defy the Pharaoh, thereby risking their own lives? Quite simply, “the midwives feared God.” Their fear of YHWH gave them the strength to stand up for life and against injustice. In the face of an evil government that was indifferent and even hostile towards the lives of these children, Shiphrah and Puah knew that it was wrong and evil to kill these babies.

Today we face a similar situation. The same satanic, murderous spirit that was within the government of Egypt is still at work, and it continues to demand the lives of innocent children. Instead of being drowned in the Nile River, today these babies are being slaughtered inside their mother’s womb.

While a lot of creative euphemisms have been invented to disguise the reality of what abortion is—such as “women’s health” and “reproductive rights”—the fact is that abortion is the murder. Politicians, Hollywood, and our secular culture are telling us to look the other way as this is going on. But if we really have a fear of YHWH, we are compelled to stand up against this injustice:

Proverbs 31:8-9

Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

If you claim to fear YHWH, you cannot ignore this. God requires you to have the courage to stand up against the forces of murderous evil, just as Shiphrah and Puah stood up against the murderous evil of their time. You are required to speak the truth and expose this darkness. You will face criticism and could be called a “bigot” by the secular culture. But don’t surrender. You just might save someone’s life.

Thank you for joining us for another Parashah Point!

We pray you have been blessed by this teaching. Remember, continue to test everything. Shalom! For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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