

Exodus 003
Fear of the Lord
Exodus 1:15-22
June 1, 2025
Dr. Andy Woods

Let us take our Bibles this morning and open them to Exodus 1:15. We are seeking to cover Exodus 1:15 to the end of the chapter this morning. The title of our message is "The Fear of the Lord." We are now inching our way in our verse-by-verse teaching into the Book of Exodus.

Exodus Structure/Outline
<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Redemption (1–18)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Redemption (1:1–12:30)◆ Liberation (12:31–15:21)◆ Preservation (15:22–18:27)■ Mosaic Covenant (19–40)<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Law (19–24)◆ Tabernacle instructions (25–31)◆ Apostasy (32–34)◆ Tabernacle building (35–40)

The first major section in the Book of Exodus is redemption (Exodus 1-18). Redemption is described very specifically in Exodus 1:1-12:30. That whole subject does not make sense unless it is first understood why the Nation of Israel needed to be redeemed. Their need for redemption is given to us there in Exodus 1, which is what we are studying.

The Nation of Israel comes under oppression. The reason for the oppression is given in Exodus 1:1-10. They started to multiply, and that struck fear into a pharaoh that did not know Joseph. What is described in Exodus 1:11-22 is the results of that oppression.

What Pharaoh did, which we covered last time, was he enslaved the Nation of Israel (Exodus 1:11-14). Of course, all of this is a type leading to Christ: the Passover lamb being a type, if you will, of Jesus. We too, as the human race, are enslaved, we just do

not know it. It is a slavery to the bondage of sin, the bondage of Satan. Jesus shed His blood to redeem us, to purchase us from that slavery.

- II. Results of the Oppression (Exodus 1:11-12)
 - A. Pharaoh's building decree (11-14)
 - B. Pharaoh's bloody decree (15-22)
 - 1. His order to the midwives (15-21)
 - 2. His order to the masses (22)

The Nation of Israel is enslaved (Exodus 1:11-14) as the Pharaoh that did not know Joseph gives a building decree. Then picking it up there in Exodus 1:15-22, it gets worse. Now he gives a bloody decree. Notice, if you will, Exodus 1:15 says,

"Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah the other was named Puah;"

Who were midwives? These are women that assist in the birthing process. In this case, they are Hebrews. They are Jews, as we would call them, physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It says there in Exodus 1:15, *"Hebrew midwives."* Most scholars would agree that these two names that they are given are Hebrew names.

Now what you see is the Pharaoh that did not know Joseph gives a decree to these Hebrew midwives in Exodus 1:16:

"and he said, 'When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.'"

Now the decree comes down, that we would describe as male infanticide. The pharaoh that did not know Joseph had not just enslaved the Nation of Israel, but he had given this order that all the males within the Nation of Israel are to be killed.

You say, "Boy, that sounds familiar, does it not? Isn't that what happened in the New Testament?" In fact, you would be right. This was an order that Herod gave in the time of Christ. Matthew 2:16 says,

"Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi."

He figured out from the magi where the Messiah was going to be born—he knew that the Messiah had come. He consulted his own "wise men," asking where this Messiah was going to be born. They said Bethlehem. They knew the Scripture (Micah 5:2). Herod said, "Okay, let us kill all of the male infants in Bethlehem."

Why? Why does this keep happening? Why does what is happening in Exodus show up again in the New Testament? The answer to that is: the devil has an agenda. You see this agenda being executed as Pharaoh, who did not know Joseph, is giving an order to the midwives, just like at the end of the chapter, he is going to give an order to the masses. All of the male infants within the Nation of Israel are to be killed.

Why does this sort of thing keep happening? It relates to the devil's agenda. Paul the Apostle, in 2 Corinthians 2:11 says, "...for we are not ignorant of [Satan's] schemes" Or plans or strategies or devices. Most Christians today, very sadly, are very, very naive; very, very ignorant as to what Satan's plan is.

God has His plan, but the devil has his counter plan. The first reference to the gospel of a Messiah that is going to come to fix what was lost in the fall is given in Genesis 3:15. These are actual words spoken to the serpent. This is what God said when our forebears fell:

*"I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel."*

There is coming from the seed of the woman—this is the lineage of Eve—One who is going to take the serpent, or Satan's, head and crush it.

"Of course, serpent or Satan, you are going to do a lot of damage along the way, but when this Messiah comes, He will do a deal: a fatal wound to your head. You can bruise His heel all you want, but your head is going to be crushed." This is what God told the devil right out of the gate, right after the fall of man happened.

Satanic Attempts to Stop Messiah's Birth	
I.	Cain & Abel (Gen. 4)
II.	Sons of God (Gen. 6)
III.	Pharaoh persecutes Israel (Exod. 1)
IV.	Joash protected from Athaliah (2 Chron. 22-23)
V.	Haman persecutes Israel (Esther)
VI.	Antiochus Epiphanés (Dan. 11:31)
VII.	Herod persecutes Christ (Matt. 2; Rev. 12:4)

Satan, in his very darkened mind said, "I am going to stop it; I am going to prevent it; I am going to work in history to prevent Genesis 3:15 from happening." That really explains the rest of the content of the Bible. It is why Cain murders Abel in the next chapter, Genesis 4. It is why the sons of God are trying to contaminate the pre-flood gene pool (Genesis 6). It is why Athalia tried to kill Joash, the last remaining Davidic descendant on the earth at that time. It is why Haman persecuted Israel in the Book of

Esther. It is why Antiochus Epiphanes persecuted the Jewish people, desecrated their temple in the Intertestamental Period. It is why what we just read, Herod issued an order to persecute those born in Bethlehem.

What is happening with all of these things? These are just human actors, but behind it all is the devil himself. We know it is the devil himself doing this, because John in the Book of Revelation gives a divine commentary on this.

What I am describing here is what the theologians call the seed of the woman, the seed of the serpent conflict. Just when it is darkest, God does something to rescue the Messianic line so that the Messiah can be born, in each of these episodes so Genesis 3:15 can be fulfilled.

That is the crushing of the head, but the bruising of the heel is what is happening all the way through the Bible. We know that it is Satan involved because it says in Revelation 12:4, describing all of this,

"...the dragon [the devil] stood before the woman who was about to give birth [Israel], so that when she gave birth he [the devil] might devour her child."

Eventually, as you move through the Bible, it is very clear that this Messiah is going to come to the world through the Nation of Israel. He will not just be a descendant of Abraham, He will be a descendant of Isaac, and He will be a descendant of Jacob, which makes Him Hebrew to the core. Satan, in his darkened mind, believes that, "I can stop Genesis 3:15 from happening by taking out the Nation of Israel, which is the instrument that God has chosen to bring the Messiah into our world. I will just take the Nation of Israel, and I will destroy it."

Once you see that, you start to understand all of these perpetual attacks on the Messianic line and the Nation of Israel, going from the Old Testament into the New Testament. What you are reading in Exodus 1, as the Pharaoh that did not know Joseph gives this order to execute all of these Jewish male children (male infanticide), is just another round in this ongoing conflict. That is why these things are happening, and it is just another outworking of the seed of the woman, the seed of the serpent conflict.

Now, let me tell you something about the Nation of Israel, if I could. The Nation of Israel is the gift that keeps on giving. God has blessed the world through Israel, and He wants to bless the world yet future through Israel. We know that from Genesis 12:3, God forming the Nation of Israel and speaking this to the patriarch Abram:

"And in you [Abram and your descendants] all the families of the earth will be blessed."

Here we are in the year 2025, and we are completely, totally, and radically blessed by what we just celebrated this morning in communion: the sacrifice that Jesus paid for us 2,000 years ago. The truth of the matter is, we would not have a single blessing had God not worked strategically through the Nation of Israel; had God not thwarted the seed of the woman, seed of the serpent conflict spoken of in Genesis 3:15.

The Scripture that we are reading from is Jewish, Hebraic. Jesus Himself was a Hebrew. He was not a Southern Baptist; He was not a Presbyterian; He was not a Methodist. In fact, Jesus spent His whole life and ministry within the confines of the borders of Israel.

Those are the past blessings that have come to us through the Nation of Israel, and there is a third blessing on the horizon called the coming Kingdom which will not be headquartered in Washington, D.C. It will be headquartered in the City of Jerusalem. Jesus, on David's throne, will rule the entire world from Jerusalem. Israel is the gift that keeps on giving, and this explains Satan's hatred for the Jews past, present, and future.

It explains the irrational hatred for the Jewish people. You probably saw this on your news feeds all of last week. These two young Israeli ambassadors (on the precipice of being engaged to be married, and by the way, Messianic believers). These weren't just Hebrews; these were that special group of Hebrews that believed that Yeshua (Jesus) is the fulfillment of Hebrew Bible. You know the story: shot, assassinated in cold blood. The young lady was trying to crawl away from the attacker, and was shot over and over again until she was dead.

Why are these things happening in our world? It does not make any sense unless you know a little something about the Bible. Satan hates the Jews; He hates the Hebrews, because God Himself has ordained them as the instrument through which the world will be blessed—Savior, Scripture, coming Kingdom.



We are living in a world today where the Nation of Israel is blamed for everything. That green area on the map shows Islamic countries in the Middle East—about 22 of them. All of them have charters which commit themselves to driving the Nation of Israel into

the Mediterranean Sea. That little tiny red dot is the Nation of Israel. It is about the size of New Jersey.

The world community thinks, "If Israel just gave up a little more territory, we would have world peace." That is insanity. In fact, the United Nations this coming month is about to meet. There is a big global conference on the horizon. Number one on the agenda amongst these globalists is they want to impose, coerce, push upon Israel the two state solution, meaning they want to take Judea Samaria give it to the Palestinians (a fake name, by the way), and reduce Israel's width to less than ten miles, putting them in a position where they cannot even defend themselves.

Joel 3:2 says that if the nations of the earth do this (and this is what they all want to do), it will trigger God. Do you ever talk about someone getting triggered? What triggers God? Joel 3:2 is very clear that what will trigger God and bring His wrath to the world is the division of His land. He does not even call it Israel's land; He calls it His land.

This is how the world thinks. It is irrational; it does not make any sense; yet if you understand the seed of the woman, the seed of the serpent conflict, you understand the idea that Israel is the gift that keeps on giving. It is part of the angelic conflict of Satan coming against Israel past, present, and future. You are just reading another chapter of this ongoing conflict in Exodus 1.

Revelation 12:1-5 describes what Satan did in the past to destroy Israel so that the Messiah could never be born, that the Scripture could never be given. That same chapter (Revelation 12:6-17) is merely a description of what Satan is doing now and in the future to prevent the birth of the Kingdom. Once the Kingdom manifests itself on the earth, Satan's days are over. He will be bound for a thousand years. He has enjoyed illegitimately running planet Earth ever since the fall of Man in Genesis 3, and he does not want to surrender the keys to the car. What better way to do that than to blot out Israel in his mind—a preemptive strike so that these blessings can never transpire?

In all of these episodes, when it looks the darkest, God provides a way, some way, somehow. Whether you are talking about Cain and Abel, the way was provided through the birth of Seth; the sons of God attacked, the way was provided through Noah in the ark, where his family was not contaminated genetically, he was "perfect in his generations" (Genesis 6:9). Whether it is the hiding of baby Joash in the temple by the priest Jehoiada; whether it is God's miraculous work through Mordecai and Esther; whether it is the royal family escaping just in the nick of time, traveling to Egypt where they could not be heard, they came back after that particular Herod was dead. In every single instance, when it looks the darkest, God provides some kind of miraculous way of escape so that His plans can be accomplished.

God's plan is going to happen, but there is going to be a ton of warfare along the way. That is what is spoken of in Genesis 3:15, concerning the bruising of the heel. We are just getting another chapter in the whole thing. That is what this infanticide order is all about.

Going down to Exodus 1:17. Look at what it says. This is why we have entitled this message the way we have. When the midwives were given this order to murder all of these young males, it says: *"But the midwives feared God..."* They feared God.

A lot of the commentators focus on Exodus 1:18-19, where it looks like they told a lie. I am not sure if they did lie, but a lot of people accuse them of lying. But that is not the point of the chapter. People who do that miss the whole point: Is it okay for a Christian to lie? When the point of it is not that they told a lie (assuming they did), but it is that they feared God—that is the issue.

Exodus 1 says that Satan did not succeed here because these midwives feared God. In other words, they were more afraid of God than they were of Pharaoh.

If you go to Exodus 1:21, it says the same thing; it is repeated twice: *"But the midwives feared God."* That is why they had the internal fortitude to stand up against this decree of infanticide: they were more fearful of God than they were of man.

That is a great place to be when you think about it. That is how Joseph turned down the opportunity for sexual immorality when he was a very young person, probably at the very height of his sexual desires. Potiphar's wife offered herself to him. I have a tendency to think that she was a very attractive woman, because I do not think someone in Potiphar's position would necessarily marry the ugly duckling, so to speak. She came to him consistently, it says. Day after day she offered herself to him to engage in what the Bible would call fornication. Joseph said no.

How could a young man like that say no to that kind of opportunity? It is very obvious why: he feared God. In fact, the Bible says he feared God. This is what Joseph said in Genesis 39:9:

"There is no one greater in this house than I, and [Potiphar] has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do this great evil sin against God?"

Why not just go ahead and engage in sexual immorality? A lot of us think we should not do that because there might be a venereal disease or there might be an unwanted pregnancy or this or that. I am here to tell you that those are sub motivations for doing what is right. The number one reason for doing what is right is you are more afraid or fearful of God than you are people.

When you start to live that way, your decisions start improving a lot. You are not relying upon sub motivations or less than stellar motivations. You are thinking, "If I do this, I am wounding the heart of God. I am more afraid of God than I am of people."

Proverbs 1:7 says,

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge."

It does not even say the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, though it does say that later. When it says in Proverbs what the fear of the Lord brings to a person, it brings to a person knowledge or understanding, by which they can take the principles of God and walk in wisdom.

Why is it that we have a society today, like the Book of Jonah describes Nineveh, where we do not even know our right hand from our left morally? We do not know up from down. Why are we the way we are? It is very simple: it has to do with the fact that we are not afraid of God. We do not fear God.

Romans 3:18 says that this is how humanity can get into trouble. Paul, describing the great mass of unsaved humanity, says this as he is quoting Psalm 36:1:

"There is no fear of God before their eyes."

People can get on the radio, they can get on TV, and they can say some of the most godless things that can be imagined. You ask yourself, "What is wrong with these people?" What is wrong with them is what can go wrong with all of us when we do not fear God: you are not afraid of God. You just live your the life you want to live.

In Joseph's case, you could have slept with whoever you wanted to sleep with; you can lie, you can cheat, and you can steal. The moral barriers are removed, but not these Hebrew midwives. They stuck out like a sore thumb in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. To the risk of their own lives they said, "We are not going to kill these infants, these male infants."

The answer is right there in Exodus 1:17 and 21. It says, they feared God. May the Lord help us to be like that.

"But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live." (Exodus 1:17)

Well, look at that: God fearing people telling the government no right there in the Bible. Romans 13:1-5 is one of the most hijacked verses in all of the Scripture. You know the verses. These are all the verses that were rammed down our throats during the shutdowns the mandates of 2020, when the state was telling us not to meet; you can only sing to a certain level, or you can only sing a certain kind of song because of this virus that they were supposedly fighting.

All of a sudden, for the first time, at least in my lifetime, Christianity had to think through what are the limits of the state. Can I tell the state no, if it becomes unbiblical and tyrannical?

You know these verses:

"Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same...Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake."
(Romans 13:1-5)

Submit, submit, submit, submit, submit, submit. Do not ask any questions. I cannot tell you how many pastors I know of who were preaching that way in 2020. What do you do with Exodus 1 where these two Hebrew midwives told the state, "We are not going to do that; we are more afraid of God than we are of man"?

Titus 3:1:


"Remind them to be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed."

First Peter 2:13-14:

"Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution..." (1 Peter 2:13)


These are the clobber verses; these are the verses that are rammed down our throats constantly. What do you do with Exodus chapter 1? It seems like in Exodus 1 they are violating Romans 13. That is the way it looks to me. If it was submit, no matter what, they would have killed all of the firstborn, right?

The Nation of Israel, in the Book of Daniel, was sent to Babylon. In that 70-year captivity in Babylon, the Nation of Israel was outside the land. Daniel 2-7, being written in Aramaic, forms a chiasm. The data in Daniel 2 harmonizes with Daniel 7; the data in Daniel 3 harmonizes with the data in Daniel 6; the data in Daniel 4 gives the same theme in Daniel 5.




Synthetic Outline

Chiasm in "Aramaic" (Dan. 2-7)



1. Gentile History (2)
2. **Protection (3)**
 3. Revelation to a gentile king (4)
 - 3'. Revelation to a gentile king (5)
2. **Protection (6)**
1. Gentile history (7)



Right there, in the second layer of the chiasm, you have two examples of what I am going to call civil disobedience. The first one involves Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, where they were told, "When you hear the music, bow down and worship the image of Nebuchadnezzar." Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said to Nebuchadnezzar, no.

Then during the reign of Persia, a law was passed behind Daniel's back that there was to be no public prayer. That was a problem for Daniel, and his enemies knew this. He prayed openly three times a day towards Jerusalem. In Daniel 6, Daniel went out and did it anyway, even though the law had been passed. I think we need to read the whole Bible and not just go for some clobber passage in Romans 13 that says you have to submit no matter what.

If a man is abusing a woman in marriage, and that woman comes to me for counseling, and he uses her face as a punching bag regularly, do you think I am going to tell her to submit to that? Even though Ephesians 5 says the wife is to submit to the husband, no counselor in this whole country or in this whole world, if they are in their right mind, would tell a woman to submit to that unfair treatment. I would tell her to get out of harm's way.

It is what I would tell her to do, yet we come to this issue of the state versus the citizen, where we think we have to submit to anything and everything the state says, because there are pastors around the clock that keep preaching these New Testament passages making it sound like the biblical position is unlimited compliance to the state, I am here to tell you: that is not the biblical position. There is a ground for telling the state, no. That is what these midwives are doing.

When do you tell the state no? I have four things that have worked when I have tried to teach this: there has to be a crystal clear conflict between the laws of God and the laws of man, not just a difference of opinion. If the state comes after the Christian and says,

"Do not share the gospel anymore because it is a hate crime," then I am not going to submit to that.

If Homosexuals, transsexuals, or whatever you want, come into Sugar Land Bible Church and say, "We want to be married. The state law says you, as the preacher, have to marry us," in so doing, I would be participating in and giving some official sanction to their sin. I will tell you this right now: I am not marrying those individuals. Why is that? Because I am more afraid of God than I am people. Take away the job; take away freedom. I do not care anymore. Take away tax exempt status, or whatever their little threat is. You reach a point where the state is wrong, and you tell the state no.

Number two, exhaust all creative remedies—meaning civil disobedience should be a last resort rather than a first resort. Number three, you have to be willing to pay the consequences when you do rebel against the state. In Daniel 3:18, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said, "Okay, Nebuchadnezzar, you can throw us into the fire if you want to. God can rescue us; but even if He does not, we are still not going to do what you said, because if we did what you said—bow down to a statue—we would be violating commandments one and two, which is not a very good precedent."

Even as Christians, those that love God and fear God, if we rebel against the state we are always to be respectful. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego did not call Nebuchadnezzar a loser. They still respectively referred to him as "O king."

It is obvious that when you look at this that there are a lot of examples in the Bible where civil disobedience becomes an option. I wish I did not even have to talk about this; I wish it was just smooth sailing in the United States. "But don't you know that the Trump administration has brought in this freedom and that freedom?" Wonderful, but the Trump administration will not always be there. There could very well arise a situation in the United States where one administration replaces another and all of this insanity comes back. You have to make a decision: What are you more afraid of? Afraid of people? Or are you more afraid of God?

In Acts 5:29, Peter, who was the same guy that wrote 1 Peter 2:13-14, is dealing with the Sanhedrin that said, "Do not teach doctrine anymore in Jerusalem."

"But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" (Acts 5:29)

There was an event in Town Square a few weeks back, with the Muslims doing their prayer sit-in, linking Sugar Land to Saudi Arabia through a giant live feed in the background. Do you think that when Muslims get control of something they give freedom to people who have different views? You show me one example in human history where the Muslims got control and they afforded other religions freedom. That does not happen.

I am not trying to be a scaremonger. What I am saying is: we have to start thinking about civil disobedience because we are living in a very strange climate where things can go either way. If we have a bad election, or something does not work out the way we want, we could be under the thumb of government tyranny.

God help us if we are deceived by people that say, "Submit no matter what," because they quote Romans 13. Why don't they quote Exodus 1? Why don't they quote Daniel 3? Why don't they quote Daniel 6? Why don't they quote Acts 5? Let us put our doctrines together carefully, looking at the full counsel of God's Word.

If you read Exodus 1:18-19, these midwives give an excuse; some would say it is a lie. It could be a lie, but maybe they were telling the truth. In my opinion, we do not have enough information to know; but I do know what the Bible is emphasizing here: they feared God.

Exodus 1:18-19:

"So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives can get to them.'"

Was that true? Was that not true? I do not know, but I know they feared God. Look at what happened because they feared God. They put the principles of God over the principles of man at risk to themselves.

Exodus 1:20 says, *"So God was good to the midwives..."* We are going to read about that goodness that He showed to them in Exodus 1:21 in just a moment, but the rest of Exodus 1:20 says, *"And the people multiplied, and became very mighty."*

Because they did what they did, God used them as a rescue operation around the seed of the woman, the seed of the serpent conflict. Israel was marked for destruction, but instead, because of these two midwives, the nation prospered. We already know that they were prospering there in Egypt, because Exodus 1:7 says,

"But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them."

That should not be a shock to us that the Nation of Israel would become multiplied and mighty—that is what God said would happen. Satan, through the Pharaoh that did not know Joseph, tried to shut the whole thing down. God, as He always does, had another plan to get around Satan's objective—it was these two midwives that were more afraid of God than they were of people. God used them as His instrument to save and protect His nation, which looked like it was almost on the verge of destruction or elimination.

Do you want to be used by God? I want to be used by God; you want to be used by God; we all want to be used by God. How do you become a candidate to be used by God? You develop a mindset where you are more afraid of God than you are people. Now, that is a person God is going to use.

As Paul says, you try to live at peace with all men, but you reach a point where it is impossible. The values of the world system are just too strong. So, you plant your feet and you say, "This is my red line right here. I am not going to go past this."

If you are a young person you are in a dating relationship with a young man that keeps pressuring you over and over again for sexual intimacy, then number one, get a new boyfriend; and number two, it is no. That is a great word, by the way. No. Learn it, memorize it, and use it often, because if you are going to walk with God in these last days, you have to know that word no.

If my employer wants me to do this, and I think it is unethical, then I am just not going to do that. "But what about the consequences?" "That is God's issue, not mine. I just know that I cannot do what you are asking me to do." These midwives had this mentality, and God used them to preserve Israel so that it continued to grow, which was His plan from the beginning.

He said, you are going to be like the dust of the earth (Genesis 3:16); you are going to be like the stars of heaven (Genesis 15:5); you are going to be like the sand of the seashore (Genesis 22:17). God cannot lie. We know His plan is going to go forward, but these two are instruments in His hands. This concluding paragraph of Exodus 1 says twice, "They feared God." Boy, how we need people like that today!

Look at the multiplication that happened. I gave you this quote last week from Charles Ryrie. It says,

"The census at Sinai (Num. 1) showed 603,000 males 20 years and older"—

These were the very people that the Pharaoh that did not know Joseph was trying to eliminate. The reason they are in the census is because of what these two midwives did.

*"If they represented 1/4 of the total population, then the Israelites numbered 2,000,000 people. An annual growth rate of 5 percent would increase the population from 100 to 2,000,000 in 215 years (see Gen. 4:27; Ex. 12:41)."*¹

You go into Numbers and all of these books, and when you read about these censuses, most people just skip right over it because it is a lot of laborious mathematical detail.

¹ Charles Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible*, page 69

You read that you say, "I may not understand all of these numbers, but I know why these big numbers are here." These two midwives made a decision, and the Nation of Israel grew accordingly.

They stuck their necks out for the Lord, and what did the Lord do for them? Exodus 1:20-21 says,

"So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. Because the midwives feared God, He established households for them."

Do you see how that is the second time that is brought up? Once in Exodus 1:17, and once again in Exodus 1:21. The commentators are all trying to figure out if they told a lie, and we do not even have enough data to know that they did. These commentators are missing the point of the passage. The point of the passage is they feared God. Do not do not sit in judgment on their ethics; that is not what Moses is bringing up. Moses is bringing up the fact that these two feared God. They were more afraid of God than they were people.

Because the midwives feared God, look what God did for them: *"He established households for them."* What does that mean? It means a family. God did something for them because they did something for Him. I am not here to promise that is always going to happen to you if you lose a job, etc. I am just saying that the Lord knows exactly the decisions that you are making.

It is interesting to me how God has a way of looking out for such people, even if it does not happen in this life—certainly at the Bema Seat of rewards in the life to come. God established households or families for these two because they put God first. If I am reading this right, godliness pays. Godliness pays dividends that we cannot even imagine. I am not saying how or when the reward is coming, but I do know there is payday someday.

God knows very well the people that are standing for Him and for His principles. It is like Daniel in Daniel 1. They are told to eat the king's food, and he said, "Give us the Hebrew diet for ten days." At the end of the ten days, the Hebrews were looking a lot better than everyone on the king's diet.

God is the one who set up the principles of this world, and He knows what will bless us, and He knows what will prosper us. Daniel prospered at the risk of his own life because he feared God. These two midwives are prospering in a different way because they feared God.

One of the ways that you can prosper in this world is to be a blessing to the Jewish people. Genesis 12:1-3 talks about many promises that God gave to Abraham. One of the things He gave to Abraham was this: a blessing to the blessers. You bless Israel, expect to be blessed.

Genesis 12:3 says,

*"And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."*

I do not know of a single person that does not want to be blessed, and one of the ways we can be blessed is being a blessing to the Nation of Israel. I do not even know how, when, and in what circumstances the blessing will come, but by divine promise it will come. These two, although Hebrews themselves, bless the Messianic line, and God blessed them. He established households for them.

Then you go to Exodus 1:22 where Pharaoh obviously is not getting very far with this infanticide order from these Hebrew midwives. Now his order gets bigger. Notice Exodus 1:22, it says,

"Then Pharaoh commanded all his people"—

If you were to go back to Exodus 1:15, he gave a narrow order to the midwives that they did not submit to. Pharaoh says to himself, "Most likely that order did not get carried out, so let me expand it." That is why you see this switch from the midwives to all the people.

Exodus 1:22:

"Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, 'Every son who is born you are to cast into the Nile, and every daughter you are to keep alive.'"

If it is a male Hebrew, they are going into the Nile to drown them. What is happening here? It is just another intensification of the seed of the woman, the seed of the serpent conflict." Satan, behind the scenes, is orchestrating these things so that the Messiah cannot be born, but God always provides some kind of path around the impossible.

We are going to learn about it in Exodus 2 when baby Moses was set adrift on the Nile in a little basket; and it just so happens that that basket comes across the path of the daughter of Pharaoh. Boy, what a coincidence. No coincidence at all. It is when things look dark that God is working behind the scenes. This infanticide order is neutralized because of God's work via Moses. This is how it is in the Scripture. It is the seed of the woman, the seed of the serpent conflict.

"Take the boys, take the males, take the infants and throw them into the Nile." That is a very interesting statement. Have you ever asked yourself this question? Why did God, later on in the Book of Exodus, drown the Egyptians in the Red Sea? To deal with the Egyptians. God could have used any means possible—hurricane, tornado, earthquake, lightning, opening up the ground, which He will do in the Book of Numbers—but very interestingly, God chose the instrument of drowning. Why is that? It is because of

Genesis 12:3, where part of the promises to Abraham was: the ones that curse you, Israel, will be cursed. It is in kind.

Genesis 12:3:

*"And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse."*

Have you studied this in Hebrew lately? *"I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse."* We have two different Hebrew words translated "curse."

Why is that? Because the first one is a light curse; the second one is a heavy curse. You give a light curse to Israel; you get a heavy curse from God. Do not take my word for it, the great Arnold Fruchtenbaum writes this:

"The first word for curse is 'kalal,' which means 'to treat lightly,' 'to hold in contempt,' or 'to curse.' To merely treat Abram and the Jews lightly is to incur the curse of God. The second word for curse used in the phrase (him that curses you I will curse) is 'aor,' from the Hebrew root 'arah,' which means 'to impose a barrier,' 'to ban.' This is a much stronger word for curse than the first one in the phrase...Therefore, even a light curse against Abram or against the Jews will bring a heavier curse from God."²

Genesis 12:3
<p>"And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who <u>curse</u> <u>[kala]</u> you I will <u>curse</u> <u>[aor]</u>. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."</p>

Are you listening, Donald Trump? Executive branch? Anybody that occupies the position of President of the United States? Or are you listening, Mr. or Mrs. Senator? House of Representatives member? Are you listening, United Nations, as you contemplate the future of Israel? Do you understand that a light curse against the Jewish people will bring a heavier curse from God against you? It will bring an in-kind curse. It is a completely different way of looking at foreign policy, is it not?

Are you listening, Harvard and everybody else that is chanting, "From the river to the sea, the land of Palestine will be free"? Are you listening, 20 something on TikTok, bashing the Nation of Israel over and over again? Are you aware of the forces that you are unleashing? May God help us to understand this.

² Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, *The Book of Genesis*, 242.

I do not know if I agree politically in every single little thing the Nation of Israel does, but I have great respect for those people. I am not going to use my platform to bash them as people like Candace Owens do constantly—Stew Peters, Tucker Carlson.

I wonder if these people doing these things understand what they are doing, what they are unleashing. You just entered the game, this is a contact sport. This is called the seed of the woman, the seed of the serpent conflict. You better figure out what side of the ledger you want to be on. As for me and my house, I want to be blessed. I look at the Jewish people as not perfect people. God has not completed what He promised He would do to and through them, but I look at a Jewish person and I have tremendous respect for them.

I would not have anything as a Gentile Christian had God not worked strategically through the physical descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God brings the Nation of Israel through the Red Sea; He brings the Nation of Israel through the Red sea; and He brings Egypt to the Red Sea to be drowned. He is drowning them in the Red Sea. We will read about that in Exodus 14. Israel escapes through dry land, and here comes Pharaoh's pursuing army; the waters closed and they were drowned.

Why in the world would God drown them? Because they, at the beginning of the Book of Exodus, were drowning His people. "You drown my people, I will drown you." That is an outworking of Genesis 12:3. Have you ever asked this? In plague ten, does God kill the firstborn all over Egypt? Why does God do that? You will find the answer in Exodus 4:22:

"Then you shall say to the Pharaoh, 'Thus says the Lord, 'Israel is My son, My firstborn.'"

"Egypt, you want to come against My firstborn, as you are doing here with this infanticide order? I am coming against your firstborn. You want to take My firstborn out? I am going to take your firstborn out all over the land of Egypt." Why in the world would God do something like it? That it is an outworking of Genesis 12:2-3.

What we have looked at today are the results of the oppression. We have seen Pharaoh's building decree, and now we see his bloody decree via male infanticide order. This order has gone to the midwives who stood for God, because they feared God. Now his order goes out to the masses, necessitating what is coming up in Exodus 2-4. Now, in order to get around the seed of the woman, seed of the serpent conflict, God raises up a redeemer who has some issues, just like you have issues. We discover in Exodus 2-4 that God works in his life to deal with his issues so that he can become the great redeemer that we read about in the Book of Exodus.

It brings joy to our hearts because God can use any of us. If God dealt with Moses and his issues before he became a leader, then I can apply for the job because I have issues that God can help me get through, as do you. That is what is coming in Exodus 2-4.

We pray, Lord, that if anyone here or within the sound of my voice that does not know You personally, I pray that for them, today would be the day of salvation. Even as they come under conviction, I pray that they would be exercising their faith into the finished work of Jesus Christ for their salvation, for the forgiveness of their sins, for the safekeeping of their soul.

I pray many, many people within the sound of my voice would be doing that. Thank you, Lord, for salvation and the conviction that You bring to give us salvation. Help us to receive these things as a free gift by simply trusting in the God-Man, Jesus Christ. His final words on the cross were, "*It is finished!*" (John 19:30). There is nothing more that we can do to merit salvation other than to trust in the completed work of the Savior.