

“The Courage to Resist and Do Right”

By Dale D. Robins

Israel had moved to Egypt at the invitation of Joseph and the Pharaoh and were allowed to settle in the fertile region known as Goshen (Gen. 47:1-6). Over time, however, another Pharaoh came to power *“which knew not Joseph”* (Ex. 1:8), and he feared the power of the Hebrew population. He thrust them into slavery, but he still feared their large population numbers, and he ordered Shiphrah and Puah (the Hebrew midwives) to kill all the male babies born to Hebrew women. What were they to do? The text says, *“But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive”* (Ex. 1:17). They had the courage to resist and do what was right.

Their strength to resist came because of the fact they feared God more than they feared the Pharaoh. As the Apostle Peter later told a Jewish council, *“We ought to obey God rather than men”* (Acts 5:29). Our whole duty is to *“Fear God, and keep his commandments”* (Eccl. 12:13). We understand that one day we will *“all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in the body according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad”* (II Cor. 5:10). It is more important for us to please God than it is for us to please men. We may be asked to do many evil things. We may be pressured to go along with the crowd in participating in or upholding unrighteousness, but we need to pray for the strength to resist and do what is right as these midwives did. God will bless you for it, and your eternity may depend upon it!