

HOLD OUT



Exodus 1:8-22, ESV – ⁸ Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. ⁹ And he said to his people, “Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. ¹⁰ Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.” ¹¹ Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens. They built for Pharaoh store cities, Pithom and Raamses. ¹² But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. ¹³ So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard service, in mortar and brick, and in all kinds of work in the field. In all their work they ruthlessly made them work as slaves. ¹⁵ Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “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.” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but let the male children live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this, and let the male children live?” ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives. And the people multiplied and grew very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall cast into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

SERMON-BASED STUDY

For the week of September 22, 2019

Exodus 1:8-22

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This weekend we were reminded that God's plan will continue on and cannot be stopped. How should people act and relate to God knowing this truth?
- 2 We were also reminded that God uses the weak to move His plans forward. Have you ever felt God calling you to do something that you felt inadequate to do? How did you proceed?
- 3 Describe a time you have been blessed through persecution.

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Acts 7:17-19, 35-36, ESV** – ¹⁷“But as the time of the promise drew near, which God had granted to Abraham, the people increased and multiplied in Egypt ¹⁸until there arose over Egypt another king who did not know Joseph. ¹⁹He dealt shrewdly with our race and forced our fathers to expose their infants, so that they would not be kept alive.

³⁵“This Moses, whom they rejected, saying, ‘Who made you a ruler and a judge?’—this man God sent as both ruler and redeemer by the hand of the angel who appeared to him in the bush. ³⁶This man led them out, performing wonders and signs in Egypt and at the Red Sea and in the wilderness for forty years.

- 4 When reading passages about God's plan for Israel and Moses, how did He use the negative work of other people to fulfill His plan?

5 How should believers live in light of this understanding of God's plan for their life?

B *Ex 4:10-12, ESV* – ¹⁰ But Moses said to the LORD, “Oh, my Lord, I am not eloquent, either in the past or since you have spoken to your servant, but I am slow of speech and of tongue.” ¹¹ Then the LORD said to him, “Who has made man’s mouth? Who makes him mute, or deaf, or seeing, or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? ¹² Now therefore go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall speak.”

6 Looking ahead in Exodus, we see that Moses was not the strongest candidate, by human standards, to be used by God. However, God uses Moses regardless of his shortcomings. Why does God use those who are weak to move His plans forward?

7 In what ways has God used you in your shortcomings?

C *Rom 5:3-5, ESV* – ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

8 Looking at the verses above, how does God bless people through persecution and suffering?

9 How does persecution and suffering produce allegiance in Christ?

10 According to Paul, how should a Christian respond to suffering? How would you describe your typical reaction to persecution and suffering?

TAKING IT HOME

God uses people in their weakness and through persecution and suffering to move His plans forward. How do you see God currently using you in your weakness and/or suffering to move His plan forward and/or to bless you? Share with your group and pray for God's will to be done in each of your lives.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

Gen 46
1 Kings 11:38
Psalm 105:25