

Exodus: Of Coming Out!

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The descendants of Jacob numbers 17 in all. Joseph was already in Egypt.

Exodus 1:6-22

⁶And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. ⁷But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them. ⁸Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph.

It's written there that a new king, who did not know Joseph, came to power in Egypt. The *Book of Exodus* begins with introducing a man whose name is never mentioned. He is mentioned as the Pharaoh, a man who did not know Joseph. The background history; if you know your history of Israel, the theologians say that – when Joseph went into Egypt and was sold as a slave and then, rose to prominence in Egypt as the number 2 to the Pharaoh, the Pharaoh or the dynasty that ruled Egypt were not Egyptians. They have conquered and you had a Pharaoh who was not originally from Egypt. It was like the Mughal Emperors of India. So, naturally, he also found it easier to trust Joseph who also was not from Egypt. And then, when we are coming to the *Book of Exodus*, there is a tale. Now, that only dynasty is defeated and gone and a new Pharaoh has come into the picture, who is Egyptian. And this is a Pharaoh who does not know Joseph. This is a story that will keep on repeating from history. Because Joseph stands for the testimony of God, the living testimony of God in any land and there will always be power right from homes down to the corridors, the political power – Pharaoh, who do not know Joseph. That's when the problem comes. When you have a Pharaoh or when you have an authority or a boss or a manager or a husband who knows Joseph, you don't have much trouble. Joseph represents the testimony of the Living God. But if you have somebody who doesn't know the Living God, who doesn't accept the testimony of the Living God, trouble comes. The more power he or she has, the more trouble you face. Because life, you say in English – absolute power corrupts absolutely. You need to realize – what is happening here with the Pharaoh is the same temptation that showed up in the Garden of Eden. The same temptation will show up everywhere where there is power. Wherever there is power, the same temptation will come and the temptation was not about the fruit; the temptation was to be like God. That's the temptation. The temptation was not the fruit; it's what the fruit offers. If it was just a fruit, there were many fruits in that Garden but what the fruit offered was a chance to be God. That's what the tempter came and whispered to Eve, "You shall be like God." And to be like God means to be in control of your circumstances. That's the temptation you and I face every day – to be in control. To be in control of our circumstances. Someone once said, "The biggest difference between God and you is that God doesn't think He is you but you think that you are God." He never thinks He is me. He knows there is a difference between me and Him. But it's very difficult for us to accept the fact that I've got no control over my tomorrow. I've got no control over my next minute. We are limited by that and it's not a very easy thing for us take. The more power you have, the more you will try to control your circumstances. I will tell you a secret – all of cosmetics is an attempt to control your tomorrow. But you cannot defy the aging process. You will grow old. Everybody grows old. There is no escaping that. I'm not saying, therefore, you shouldn't use cosmetics. I'm not saying that. I'm talking about you need to look why.

The desire to have more money is to have more control over your tomorrow. But you need to realize – God will not allow man to play God because there is only one God and He is God. And don't ever think that only the people who are up there on the Throne or in the political power, try to control their circumstances but try to play God. Even those who have nothing still try to be God and it manifests in different ways. Here is a king who thinks he is god because the Pharaoh was supposed to be the son of the sun god, of Ra. And therefore, all the other gods of Egypt are supposed to be under him because he was the son of the sun god.

If you read the news, a few days back, a king had to leave his palace and he is supposed to be a god. In this country, he is supposed to be the incarnation of the main deity of that land. But he also... and if you go to any house, at least, a non-communist house, either in Nepal or even if you go to Sikkhim or Darjeeling or Kalimpong, to one of these Nepali houses, the Hindu Nepali houses, you will see a picture of the Nepali king along with the deity. Because he is supposed to be a god and here is a god, a king, a man who claims to be god and he realizes – there is only one thing that stands between him and absolute power over the people. There are a set of people here whose loyalty he suspects. You can't make these people, at least, all of them, follow the gods of Egypt. They are the only stumbling blocks standing there between him and absolute

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power. So, you will see that when power comes in or when pride comes in, you always take steps to remove those hurdles in your way. That's why all down history, they have done this, down to Hitler, everybody done this. They will look, "Who is that stands between me and power?" And they will try to destroy them. And in your workplaces, if you stand there as a testimony of the Living God and as a Joseph, I'm telling you – you will get into trouble. Everybody reached to Joseph with an authority over you who doesn't know Joseph, will face trouble. Because you stand there in the way of absolute power. Because you refused to accept his or her standards. And that's what's happening over here – there is a king. And there, he stands.

And the second part of it is in *verse 7*,

Exodus 1:7

⁷But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

It's not only that you have a problem; the problem seems to be increasing. They are growing in numbers. So, what do you do? Solution number 1 – make them slaves. There is a problem. First problem is not to kill them. The first solution is not to kill them. The first solution is – if you can use them, then we will use them. And there are historians who say that all those great monuments in Egypt were actually built by the Hebrew slaves, probably, including many of those pyramids. They used them. At least, two cities are mentioned – Pithom and Rameses which were built by the Hebrew slaves. So, step one – use them as labor. And you need to realize – thousands of years later, that's what Hitler did. He also used them for labor until they died. They were used as slaves. So, solution number one is – make them slaves. But you know what happened? *Verse 11* says,

Exodus 1:11

¹¹Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.

Exodus 1:14

¹⁴And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage—in mortar, in brick, and in all manner of service in the field. All their service in which they made them serve was with rigor.

In all their hard labour, Egyptians used them ruthlessly. They were given more work and more work. Maybe they were better than everybody else but their work was never appreciated. Does it happen to you in your workplaces? The one who worked sloppily gets all the credit and goes; you slog over there and you get no credit, simply because you believe differently. Because you refuse to tow the lines. This is a story that has been repeated over and over again in history. And you need to realize – these are signals. Whenever you have task masters who do not know Joseph, this is what happens.

Now, let's get this personal here because I'm sure there are no Egyptian task masters here. I want us to look into our hearts for signs of the same problem. The problem is – pride, wanting to control your situations, your circumstances, the people around you. And the problem is – if you cannot, you rage. You are angry or you spend your days in anxiety; or you spend your days in self-pity; or you spend your days in bitterness. In each of these manifestations, you play God because the only One who has the right to be righteously angry is God. Because He is the only One who sees a situation in its entirety. We never see it. We see things only in certain angles, in certain perspective. He is the only One who sees the whole thing. Therefore, when He says, "I am angry," you can be real sure He's got a reason to be angry. He is God. But when we are angry, usually, most of the times, we are not angry because of an issue; we are angry because the other person did not submit to our viewpoint. And then, we are trying to play God. When we are anxious and we are worrying all the time over something, it's not because always that the problem isn't real but it's because we cannot control that problem. Let's say Vijay has got a problem, a financial one. Let's say – he needs money and he's worrying and worrying about it. Supposing I give him a lot of notes, suddenly, he stops worrying. You know why? Because now, he has power to handle that problem. And nowhere has God come into the picture at all. We need to ask ourselves – do we manifest the symptoms of the Pharaoh? Pride is at the root of most anger and all self-pity and bitterness because you couldn't play God over your life and over the life of somebody else. That's why God asked this fourth question in the Bible, "Cain, why are you angry?" Because God has accepted your sacrifice, why are you angry? If you do right, won't you also be accepted? But he refused to accept

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him because he couldn't control the circumstance. What is that you want to do? "I will give You whatever I please but You must accept it." He couldn't play God over a sacrifice. So, he's angry. And God asks the fifth question, "Where is your brother?" And Cain's reply is, "Am I my brother's keeper?" You will see how pride manifests and goes into a different level. If you are bitter, that means you are withholding forgiveness. The only way you can be bitter about something or somebody is when you are withholding forgiveness. And if you are withholding forgiveness, you are playing God because the only One who can withhold forgiveness is God. Nobody else can. Do you remember *Psalms 51*, David is accused by Nathan and what David says is in *Psalms 51* is not about Bathsheba or Uriah? He says, "Against You and You alone have I transgressed." He understood. If there isn't a Living God who is holy, whose ways are right, who has said, "This is right and this is wrong," then there is no sin. Then, you can kill anybody you want, take somebody else's wife; it doesn't matter any difference. But because there is a God who spoke, you can't. Therefore, when you sin, you sin against Him and that's what David says in *Psalms 51*. If you are bitter, you are trying to play God. Then, God says, "Then, I will act like God. I will also withhold forgiveness." That's why, in the Lord's prayer, there is only one conditional request – *Father, forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors*. We try to manipulate; we try to control our situations but it doesn't work. You know why? Because there is only God. There are no two gods; there is only one God and He is seated on High, He is seated in the Heavens. That's what the Pharaoh has to learn. Exodus begins with an account of a man consumed by pride who thinks he is god. And he is now trying to change the circumstances. He has made slaves of an entire nation. A nation who is there by divine plan and who's got a divine Protector.

Plan number 2 – if they are still increasing, kill their new-born babies, the boys, so they don't become a threat. Kill the babies, the boys. "The boys are dangerous because if they grow up, they become fighting men one day. But first, let us do it subtly. Let's not do it openly; let's do it subtly so that there is no uproar," because they're a big nation any way. So, the way to do to is – "Call the midwives. And tell them." Infant mortality is very high even today in so many countries." So, you can imagine how it was 4000 years ago. So, if the babies are killed during the birth – only a midwife would know it – and it would pass off as normal, there would be no uproar. So, tell the midwives. And two midwives are there, probably, the one in charge of all of them. And they are told, "Kill the babies." It's only later when that plan doesn't work, the pride comes out even more open, saying, "I don't care. Throw the babies into the Nile." First is through the midwives. The midwives' job was very clear in the Bible. The job of the midwives was there in the Book of Ezekiel – cut the umbilical cord, wash the baby, rub it with salt and wrap it with swaddling clothes. That's the job of the midwife. And she can do anything over there and these mothers; there are no doctors there. These mothers trust the midwives and if the baby dies, the mother accepts the testimony of the midwife. But you know, in the *Book of 1 Corinthians 1:27*, God says something incredible over there.

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

²⁷ But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. ²⁸ God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, ²⁹ so that no one may boast before him.

Whom does God choose? The foolish things. He always chooses the foolish things. There is a Pharaoh, a mighty man. And to stop him in his track, God picked two foolish things called 'midwives'. In the eyes of the greatest empire in the world, who are these two women – Puah and Shiphrah – who are these midwives? Slaves. So, God always uses the foolish things of this world if they are willing to step over and take their place. Maybe these two ladies whose names are mentioned. Remember, their names are mentioned and the Pharaoh's name is not mentioned because he is just the type of the tyrants who have come and gone but these two are symbols of God's faithfulness. These two represent the testimony of Joseph in that land. They would stand up there. These two slaves stood before the most powerful man in the ancient world and not only powerful, the most cruel. And his command to them was, what we call, today, is still happening in so many places; if you want, you can find it happening. It's called 'ethnic cleansing'. Kill a race off and nobody needs to know about it. It still goes on. It hasn't changed. Wherever tyranny is there, wherever there are men sitting in places of power who think they are god, who have the power over the lives and death over other people, they still use the same methods of cleaning out or cleansing out a type or a race who they feel will not follow their line. And here are two people, women, standing there. The Spirit of the Lord ignores the name of the king in the record of *Exodus* but names these two midwives. They are ordered to kill and they have government sanction. If you want to put it in modern terms, Shiphrah and Puah have been given the double bureaucracy – license to kill. They can. Nobody is going to question them. Even the mothers cannot because they have sanction from the emperor, from the king. What is the choice that you and I would make in a situation like that? If

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they obey, the rewards are great. If they disobey, a wave of his hand and they are dead. Yet, there is a line that is recorded, written in *Exodus 1:17*,

Exodus 1:17

¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God...

You see that one line over there?

¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do...

That's where the story of every person in God's history has changed. That's what will make the difference in your life. It's not about the man who is standing before you; it's the God who is always there and Puah and Shiphrah feared God over and above what the Pharaoh could do to them. Let me tell you, whenever a man or a system or a government decides to take the life of babies, there is something wrong with that system. I find it interesting that we have campaigns to save trees, to save water bodies, to save the city from pollution; have you heard anybody talking about saving the unborn child? Yet, they are the most defenceless set of people who come into existence. There is nobody to protect them; yet, almost in every country, the government has sanctioned that they can be terminated before they are born. And you have medical termination of pregnancy. There is nobody to speak for their lives. And if you speak against that, they will call you an 'anti-abortionist'. If you speak for it, they will call you 'pro-choice'. Look at the terminology, how it changes. They will not call you 'pro-life'. They will call you 'anti-abortionist' because 'anti' doesn't sound good. But if you say you are for it, they will call you 'pro-choice'. It doesn't matter how good a speaker he or she is, the only nation's election everyone watches is the elections of USA. I don't look at their economic policies or their military policies. I look at the stand they take when it comes to unborn babies. And I will tell you, both Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton are pro-choice. They don't speak up for the right of the unborn child. McCain is standing somewhere in the middle. That's why when I got involved in the American election by emailing and getting involved, I supported only one man, who is Mike Huckabee because he was pro-life. Because we think money is the main thing; economy is the main thing. No, if you fear God, there are issues much more bigger than the economy. It's got nothing to do with the things that around. Let me ask you a question: what if all the doctors in India decide, "We will not do an abortion," what can the government do? They can't force you to give them an abortion. My mother-in-law turns 79 years old today. Year back, maybe 40, 50 years back, when she was a young doctor, a government doctor in Bhopal, she opted for a transfer to a T. D. Sanatorium which was like cutting out her career. Because those days, when there were hardly any doctors in this country and she was the first batch from Gandhi Medical College, Madras. She opted out to the T. D. Sanatorium when government legalized abortion. As a government doctor, she was asked to do it and she said, "I will not." And she retired in her old age from that hospital. She never became the director of medical education or anything. She stayed there because she said, "I will not do it. It goes against what my God told me." Yet, how many people I know have sold themselves to the money that comes along with it. It's a choice that we make. And here, two people stood up there and made a choice and said, "No, we will not do it because there is a God who values life." He is the only One who has the right to take life. We can't." He is the One who said, later, *Exodus 20*, "Thou shall not kill." And here are already two people standing there and are saying, "We will not sin." And God takes the foolish things of this world to make a stand in the presence of a king.

And every time a baby is killed, you need to read Scripture to see how God reacts. I want you to turn with me to the *Book of Ezekiel 16*. If you want to know the duties of the midwife, it is also there in *Ezekiel 16:4*.

Ezekiel 16:4

⁴ On the day you were born your cord was not cut, nor were you washed with water to make you clean, nor were you rubbed with salt or wrapped in cloths.

That's what the midwives did. I want you to turn to *verse 20* and look at God's cry over the children of Israel.

Ezekiel 16:20-21

²⁰ "And you took your sons and daughters whom you bore to me and sacrificed them as food to the idols. Was your prostitution not enough? ²¹ You slaughtered my children and sacrificed them to the idols.

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He doesn't call them as our children. He says, "They are My children. You bore them," but He says, "You bore them unto Me and they are My children." Please be very careful how you deal with children. He is very serious about children. Because today, we sacrifice our children at the idol of a career, for more money, more luxury. We may not put them through fire but we put them through another fire of another kind. We have sacrificed them. I'm not talking to the parents who are single. God's grace is there. I know there are quite a lot of them in this Church. I'm not talking to them but I'm talking about – we need to be very serious about how we deal with our children and if you are young and just married, put it before the Lord. Just put it before the Lord because He's very serious about them. He's very, very serious about them. And He says, "That's why I gave them two parents to take care of them." And He says, "You should train them up in the first initial years of their lives and then, they go out." Even if they stray, they will come back. But if you don't do that, then it's a lifetime of fasting and praying, hoping for a miracle. And that's how God lifts us up because when it comes to issues of life, we all have to take a stand one day or the other. And these two ladies, Puah and Shiphrah, are standing there, taking a stand and putting us, the 21st century, to shame. Two simple ladies. They stood there by the mightiest man on planet Earth. They were just two nobodies. And probably, they were barren and found a profession – delivering babies. And they had nothing to lose. If you turn to the left or to the right or choose a narrow way. He's the ruler of this world, in charge of your life or God? And whom do you choose to obey – God or Pharaoh? That's why *verse 17* says,

Exodus 1:17

¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God...

And they make a statement. It's not a blatant lie. What they probably did is – they delayed going to any house where the baby was being born so that by the time they reached, the baby was already born. So, they couldn't kill it. And they make a statement which also relates to our time. The answer they gave the king. They weren't sarcastic,

Exodus 1:19

¹⁹ The midwives answered Pharaoh, "Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive."

I think today, all the women are more like Egyptian women, the new generation, at least – 18 hours of labour, 24 hours of labour. The Israelite women, while walking, they had their babies and they walked out. Almost 9 out of 10 you hear are all Caesareans. It's our lifestyle. It's our current lifestyle that has taken the pride. Those who are out typically working hard, they have no problem in delivery. Even now in India, in the countryside, in the villages, they deliver and they go back to work the next day. The Egyptian ladies went into labour and delivered two days later. The Israelite women delivered very fast. So, they are saying, "By the time we reach, they've already delivered." You need to understand what the answer meant. Meaning – they were asked to kill the babies subtly. They said, "We can't do it because by the time we reach, the babies are already born." And if you look at the next verse,

Exodus 1:20-22

²⁰ So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own.

Because they feared Him, he gave them families of their own. Because they feared Him and they choose to obey. Sometimes, we wonder that if we take a decision for God, we know exactly what God wants, we think – there is no way out. We are going to lose in the bargain. But that's not the reason to take the stand. We take a stand because the stand is right. Not because of the consequences. The consequences are in the hand of God, like the three friends of Daniel. "If He wants to rescue us, He can. If He doesn't want to, that's up to Him. But we only know one thing – we need to take a stand and we take a stand for truth." And these two ladies took a stand for God and God blessed them. And now, probably, these barren women have married and have households of their own. The hand of God comes upon them.

Step two – pride has moved to paranoia. After trying to kill the babies secretly, now, it becomes open. "Throw the babies into the Nile. Feed them to the crocodiles." That's what you will see in pages, how all tyrants in history have behaved. First, all secret covering of the anger and the rage and all. It's all behind closed bedroom doors. Nobody even know that there is anything wrong in the family. And then, when it still doesn't happen, the doors are open, "I don't care," and the rage comes out in the open and all the neighbours know about it. "But I don't care anymore." I'm talking about in terms that go from

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the home down to the top appearance of ours. It's still the same. First of all, nobody should hear. Nobody should know that I am that kind of a man or that kind of a woman. I've got a picture outside as a very calm and very gentle. Only at home, they know the real picture. And then, one day, you still can't be God over there. So, what do you do? You throw the doors open, "I don't care about the others now." The Pharaoh doesn't care anymore. It's open. "Take the baby boys and throw them into the Nile."

²² Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: "Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live."

We do not know how many children died – hundreds, thousands. We do not know.

Now, between the plans of a crazy ruler and an extermination of a race, the third woman steps forward. If you look at the first initial stories of the salvation of the Jews, it's all women – Puah, Shiphrah, Jochebed and Miriam. These four women, God used. Another woman steps forward. Her name is Jochebed, the mother of Moses. Now, they have a baby. Chapter 2 talks about it.

Exodus 2:1

¹ Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, ² and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.

She wouldn't let him go. For every mother and son, the child dies. So, don't read anything into it. She picked him up and she refused to let him go. In a toddler's little class, a teacher was teaching the children about magnets. She brought a little magnet and she brought a lot of nails. She showed how the magnet picked up all those little pieces of metal and doesn't let it go. And she taught them everything. Next day, there was a test and she told them, "Write the name of something that will stick and won't let go." Most of the class wrote, "Mother." They didn't write, "Magnet." It actually said, "Write the name of something that picks up and doesn't let go and it has got 6 letters." Both 'mother' and 'magnet' have six letters. Most of the children wrote 'mother' because they know – she will pick and won't let go. And here is Jochebed, standing there with her baby boy and she refused to let go. In human wisdom, Moses had no chance. Not only was he born to a slave, there was already a death sentence over him. The only thing that was between the death sentence and the innocent baby stood a mother, a Jochebed. And you need to realize – her courage saved a nation.

Turn with me to the *Book of Hebrews 11:23*. Moses' parents' stand is mentioned there.

Hebrews 11:23

²³ By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict.

It's written over there – they were not afraid of the king. They only feared God.

...they were not afraid of the king's edict.

And you need to realize – here are people standing up and making a point to us. They are living in such terrible times which we, probably, will never go through. And they are slaves. They are not even free people. They can't go to the law; they can't go to court. They can't get a crowd behind them. There is nothing they can do. Yet, they are taking a stand simply because they fear God. When you fear God, you don't fear anybody else. It is written, "They hid Moses because they were not afraid of the king." That's why Scripture says that if you fear God and trust Him, He can use the very things that are against us and use them for our good. He can use the very tools the enemy uses to terrify us to bring salvation. The same river that is intended to kill Moses will become the means of his salvation. Because his mother makes a boat of papyrus, lines it with tar and pitch inside and outside, puts a baby in it and sets it down. Papyrus is from where paper is made and it is on paper that the Word was written, symbolically saying that he was preserved by the Word of God. The very water which killed all the babies and could have killed him, the water is now preserving him. The very government that plotted to murder him will pay his mother for his upbringing. That's how God does. The very government that is plotting to kill him is now going to take care of this child, who would bring that government down one day. That's how God does. God used the same water

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that destroy the world to preserve Noah and his family. And God uses the same body of water which he used to save the children of Israel, to destroy the Egyptian army. So, don't tell God, "God, you don't know what I'm going through." "Moses, I know exactly what you are going through." Your situation is worse only if you are a slave, your husband is a slave and the lives of the children are at stake and you have no hope for tomorrow. Then, your situation is worse than Jochebed. And I don't think there are any slaves here. Otherwise, you wouldn't be here. I don't think any one of your husbands are slaves either. It's not your situation that determines the stand that you take; it's what you believe in. If you believe in the truth, Jesus says, "That truth will set you free." That is Jochebed – she trusted in the Living God of Israel and rose above her situations and misery and instilled faith in the heart of her son. Two years or more, Moses was with his own mother. She got only two years. In those two years, she put faith into that little boy's heart. 38 years of living in the Pharaoh's palace did not take that faith away because when the day came to choose, he chose by faith and decided, "I'm not an Egyptian. I am a Hebrew." All because of what the mother put in his heart. Please don't ever negate what you are able to do with your children now when they are small. Now is the time you have them with you. You put the Word of God, the faith of God into their hearts today, there will be a day they will walk away; they will walk in the ways of the world; they will go into a lot of things. But one day, when they have to take a choice and a stand, faith will come to the forefront and they will make a choice for God. This mother raised all her children in slavery, overcoming all obstacles. I don't think, as a mother, give a resume like Jochebed. Her son – first high priest of Israel. Eldest daughter, first prophetess of the nation of Israel. Second son – the savior of Israel. These are the three children she raised in slavery. You have all the advantages which she never had. She didn't have any one of those advantages. All she had was one thing – she and her husband feared God. That's the only thing they had. And I'm telling you, Church, today, if you fear God over above everything, that's all that you need. If you fear God over and above everything else, you will take the decisions that line in with God's Word.

I want you to turn, before we close, to *Proverbs 14:26* and mark it in your Bible.

Proverbs 14:26

²⁶ Whoever fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for their children it will be a refuge.

Saw that? He who fears the Lord; and that's all God is asking us to do – to fear Him. You may have gone wrong. David went wrong. And David could be corrected and put in place because he feared God. Saul couldn't be corrected and kept in place because he did not fear God. The wisest man on earth, after going wonky, in the end of the *Book of Ecclesiastes* still says, "There is only one thing under Heaven that man need to do – fear God and keep all His Commandments." Fear God. Because situations will keep on repeating itself. Things are not going to get better in this country. It's going to get worse. Things are going to get worse. It's not going to get better. If things are going to get better, then God has to rewrite the *Book of Daniel* and *Revelation*, which He is not going to do because He says, "You cannot add or subtract from it." So, it's set. So, if you read it carefully, things are only going to get worse. When things get worse, all of us, probably, every day, have to take a stand on this. When you take a stand, you have to decide – whom do you fear? Do you fear God or do you fear man? In your workplace? Especially those who work in private institutions. Just remember these three names then – Puah, Shiprah and a Jochebed. Three names. We all know Daniel and his three friends. We don't know these three names. We probably did not know Moses' parents' names was – Amram and Jochebed and it is found in *Exodus 6:21*, you will see the names are mentioned there. And these two simple ladies.

Just recently, just a little while back, a Pastor was caught by the rebels in Sudan. Sudan is where a civil charge is being going on for years. Thousands and thousands of Christians have been killed. The disaster was caused by them, tied to the back of a tank and dragged kilometre after kilometre; and then, cut and left for died. He didn't die. He was rescued and was taken to the hospital. When he came out of the hospital, he had lost one eye and most of his hands were gone. But do you know what was the first thing he did? The first thing he did – he lifted those withered hands and say, "If this is all You give me, God, I will still use it to praise Your Name." And we are talking about something that happened now because there are still tyrants. There are still people who will try to play God in the lives of others. I'm not saying that you will always win. Often people lose. But even when you lose, lift up those withered hands and say, "Lord, I've learnt only one thing, that if you lift up these hands and praise Your Name. Because I have feared God and not man." Amen? I have feared God and not man. And I still believe – if you fear God, your house, you have a secure portion, a secure portion with God. And over and above, we are concerned about our children. Over and above, He says, "For these children, for your children, it will be a refuge." Amen. Shall we pray?

Closing Prayer:

Father, we thank You. We praise You, God. We worship You, God. Thank You, Lord. We just saw today morning, Lord, the courage of three simple women, O God, who lived thousands and thousands of years before us. I do not even know whether they knew how to read and write, Master. They were just slaves. They had no hope but hope in the God of Israel. That was their only hope. And that's the only hope that we need today, this morning, O God – the hope in the Living God and not to trust in the arm of flesh. We have put our hope in You, O God, and that's why we are in here in Your house this morning. And I know, Lord, so many people have been going through tough times and they have put their hope in You. And we want to confess with our mouths today, Lord, that he who fears the Lord has found a secure portion. If Puah and Shiphrah could stand before the king of that world, so can we stand before the ruler of this world and say, "It's not possible because we fear God." Father, I pray, Lord, this week, Your presence will go with Your people to their workplaces. We come against every oppression from the enemy in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth. We bind it in the Name of Jesus and we release the power of God into their situations, O God. You are a God who will not let go of Your people. If they go through fire, You will stand with them and bring them out. If they may go through the waters, You will go with them and bring them out. Because You are a God who promised – "You will go through the fire and the water. Neither will you be burnt nor drowned." And we worship You this morning, God. I speak Your deliverance. I speak Your healing. I speak Your victory over the lives of each one of us here, Lord, through this week; that they will experience Your healing, Your deliverance and Your victory, O God – over their situations, over their circumstances and above all, over themselves, over ourselves, O God; that each one of us will acknowledge that You are God and there is no other god besides Thee, not even me, O God, over my life. You are God. Help us to take a stand, the right stand at the right moment so that we can leave a legacy behind like these three simple women, O God – three women who changed the history of this world, the history of a nation. As we teach and bring up our children, enable us to do it by faith as Jochebed did, because from among them would rise a high priest, a prophetess or a leader, who would minister to Your people. Help us to instil that faith into their hearts, O God, so that when they grow up and they have to take a stand, they have to take a stand by faith, O God. Because, O God, Pharaohs come and Pharaohs go but the God of Israel lives forever and He neither sleeps nor slumbers and He watches over His people. We thank You. We praise You, God, that we are Your people and You are watching over us. We surrender everything at Your feet – all our anxieties, all our worry, all our problems, all our situations. We commit them at Your feet, O God, and we truly declare, O God – You are God and we are Your people, Your Covenant people. A people with whom You have made a Covenant with the Blood of Your Son. Thank You, Father. We praise You. We worship You, God. Help us to walk with our chin up through this week, trusting in Your Name. Thank You, Father. For in Jesus' Precious Name we pray, Amen.

Benediction:

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of the Father and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, rest, abide and empower each one. Amen.