

## Exodus 1:1–22 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Now these *are* the names of the children of Israel who came to Egypt; each man and his household came with Jacob: <sup>2</sup> Reuben, Simeon, Levi, and Judah; <sup>3</sup> Issachar, Zebulun, and Benjamin; <sup>4</sup> Dan, Naphtali, Gad, and Asher. <sup>5</sup> All those who were descendants of Jacob were seventy persons (for Joseph was in Egypt *already*). <sup>6</sup> And Joseph died, all his brothers, and all that generation. <sup>7</sup> But the children of Israel were fruitful and increased abundantly, multiplied and grew exceedingly mighty; and the land was filled with them.

<sup>8</sup> Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. <sup>9</sup> And he said to his people, “Look, the people of the children of Israel *are* more and mightier than we; <sup>10</sup> come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and *so* go up out of the land.” <sup>11</sup> Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses. <sup>12</sup> But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were in dread of the children of Israel. <sup>13</sup> So the Egyptians made the children of Israel serve with rigor. <sup>14</sup> And 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.

<sup>15</sup> Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one *was* Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; <sup>16</sup> and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see *them* on the birthstools, if it *is* a son, then you shall kill him; but if it *is* a daughter, then she shall live.” <sup>17</sup> But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the male children alive. <sup>18</sup> So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?”

<sup>19</sup> And the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women *are* not like the Egyptian women; for they *are* lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.”

<sup>20</sup> Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. <sup>21</sup> And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them.

<sup>22</sup> So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.”