

No. 30 Imitate Loyal Ones (Symposium)
 -Shiphrah and Puah

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes two videos]

THEY FEARED THE TRUE GOD (3 min.)

Who were Shiphrah and Puah?

Their names might not be as familiar to us as Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, but their acts of courage and loyalty are just as worthy of imitation

Please open to Exodus 1:15, 16 and imagine the scene as it may have taken place

[Video crew begins video. While the artwork displays, describe the account]

Pharaoh is on his royal throne, clearly agitated

In a controlled panic, his voice slightly desperate, he laments the explosive growth of the Israelite nation and claims that they are a threat to his realm

With increasing intensity, he demands: 'Where are those Israelite midwives?'

The midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, are quickly brought before Pharaoh
In a thinly veiled threat, Pharaoh asks the midwives how much they love their parents and their relatives

He continues: 'Do you wish to continue to see them? I have an assignment for you'

As the midwives are escorted out, Puah whispers to Shiphrah, 'What are we going to do?'

Shiphrah replies: 'He's only a man, and no man has the right to tell us to murder Jehovah's people. We will fear Jehovah!'

Puah responds, 'You are right, and may Jehovah help us!'

OBEY GOD AS RULER RATHER THAN MEN (3 min.)

[Read Exodus 1:17] These brave women refused to obey the order because they "feared the true God" more than the powerful ruler of Egypt!

Shiphrah and Puah were motivated by godly fear and loyalty to Jehovah, and they would not compromise

Jehovah honored and rewarded them for their courage and faith

(Ex 1:20, 21; w03 11/1 8 ¶4)

Imitating such loyal ones as Shiphrah and Puah, today thousands of God-fearing witnesses preach the Bible's lifesaving message in lands where "the order of the king" forbids it (Heb 11:23)

[Read Acts 5:28, 29] Human rulers forfeit their right to obedience when they prohibit what God requires or require what God prohibits

If "the superior authorities" ban our witnessing work, we cannot stop carrying out our God-given assignment to preach (Ro 13:1)

Consequently, many Christians contend with opposition and persecution

VIDEO (2 min.)

BE DETERMINED TO IMITATE LOYAL ONES (2 min.)

Like *Shiphrah* and *Puah*, many of our dear brothers and sisters have courageously maintained loyalty no matter the cost

Their example inspires us to obey God as ruler rather than men

Our symposium has shown how we can imitate the example of loyal ones

Like *Ruth*, be resolved not to allow the pressures of this world to erode your loyalty

Maintain a self-sacrificing spirit

Like *David*, display love and respect for Bible principles

Like *Hushai*, use your thinking ability to overcome challenges and
fulfill your assignments

As we strive to imitate these faithful ones, we will fulfill the words
of Psalm 145:10: "Your loyal ones will praise you"

TO BE COVERED IN 10 MINUTES

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