

Magid2

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Source: original

Even though they were slaves, the Children of Israel continued to have more children. Pharaoh was scared of them because of their large population. Pharaoh thought that the Children of Israel might join with his other enemies and try to overthrow him and his family as rulers of Egypt.

Because Pharaoh was scared of the Hebrews, he decided to make things difficult for Hebrew mothers (all male, Hebrew babies were to be killed). He ordered the two head Hebrew midwives, Shifrah and Pu'ah, to cooperate with him. He commanded them to make life difficult for some of their own people – the Hebrew mothers. The midwives recognized that Pharaoh was trying to use Israelites to hurt other Israelites. Instead of following Pharaoh's orders, the midwives secretly took special care of the babies and mothers. If a woman did not have enough food, they went to the other Hebrews and arranged that there would be enough for both mother and child.