



JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

6.23.24

BEYOND SUNDAY

The God of the And — Exodus 1:8-20 — Mark Tumney

1. How does Pastor Mark use the opening of Exodus with the word "And" to emphasize God's continuous involvement and promise despite changing circumstances?
2. Why do you think Pastor Mark highlights Shiphrah and Puah as pivotal figures in the Exodus story, even though they are not as well-known as Moses?
3. Discuss the parallels Pastor Mark draws between Pharaoh's actions towards the Israelites and similar patterns of discrimination and fear in today's world. How can we as Christians respond to such situations?
4. What role did faith play in Shiphrah and Puah's decision to defy Pharaoh's orders? How can their actions inspire us in our own lives today?
5. Pastor Mark mentions the concept of the God of the "and," where God never allows evil to have the final word but inserts hope instead. How does this perspective challenge our faith in difficult times?

6. Reflecting on Exodus 1:20-21, how did God reward Shiphrah and Puah for their faithfulness? What does this reveal about God's character and his response to acts of courage?
7. In what ways does the story of Shiphrah and Puah echo themes of civil disobedience and standing up against injustice? How can Christians navigate situations where obedience to God conflicts with societal norms or laws?
8. Pastor Mark shares his personal story of adoption and the impact of a courageous decision. How does this illustrate the God of the "and" in a modern context? What other examples of the God of the "and" have you witnessed or experienced?
9. How does the resurrection of Jesus Christ serve as the ultimate affirmation of God's promise to insert an "and" in history? What implications does this have for our understanding of God's sovereignty and our role in his ongoing story?
10. Thinking about Pastor Mark's challenge at the end of the sermon, how can we practically apply the lessons from Shiphrah and Puah's story to our lives and to our church community today? What small acts of faithfulness can have a significant impact for God's kingdom?