

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FLAWED MASTERPIECE



wisdom from
ancient voices

WEEK 5

FLAWED MASTERPIECE WEEK FIVE

As we continue our series “flawed Masterpiece,” this week we will focus on “action items” What is this? Glad you asked, take a look at the video and then dive in

EXODUS 1:15-21



Action items is a way of looking at the action in a story and seeing where God is at work. More specifically, it's a way of focusing our attention on the movement behind a story that drives the theological narrative.

As said in the video, if God is ever the subject in a story, his actions are the most important. Take a look at the passage in Exodus 1. While Brayan starts at verse 15 go ahead and read the whole chapter as it will give you context for what is happening in this passage.

While you read, ask these questions:

- Who are the main characters in the story?
- What is confusing, surprising, or confusing?

Action Items

The main step we want to practice is to look at the “verbs.” Since this is a long passage we want you to focus on verses 18-21. If you have time, make a little chart that looks like this:

Verse	Subject	Verb Clause
18a	King of Egypt	Called the midwives & Said to them
18b	Hebrew women	Are not like Egyptian women
18c	They (Hebrew women)	Are vigorous
18d	They (Hebrew women)	And give birth before...

Keep the chart going! Don’t worry if you don’t get it “right” just focus on getting the general subject and verb clauses mapped out (also the verses on the side are just to help you reference there is no official “right” way to sub divide a verse into parts like we did)

DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP

- Take a minute to look at your chart. Do you have any initial observations?
- Study just the nouns, how many times is God mentioned? How many times are other's mentioned? Is anyone of power mentioned by name? Is anyone who is typically marginalized mentioned by name? (These types of questions help you see where the author is leading the theology of the story)
- Take a look at the verbs: are they active or passive? Who is doing the action? What action items surprise you? Where is God at work? (Studying the verbs helps us see how what was happening and ultimately leads us toward our modern-day application)



One thing we talked about last week was there is often a “glitch” where things don’t seem to add up. Remember, this is an intentional writing practice of ancient Jewish authors where they would write the story in a way where something would not seemingly make sense causing the reader to ask deeper questions.

- What would you say is the “glitch” (something confusing, surprising, or unique) in this passage?
- Why do you think the author wrote the story in such a way?

"17 he midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.."

COMMENTARY 2

Their pious disobedience to this impious command, v. 17. They feared God, regarded his law, and dreaded his wrath more than Pharaoh's and therefore saved the men-children alive. Note, If men's commands be any way contrary to the commands of God, we must obey God and not man, Acts 4:19; 5:29. No power on earth can warrant us, much less oblige us, to sin against God, our chief Lord. Again, Where the fear of God rules in the heart, it will preserve it from the snare which the inordinate fear of man brings.

-Matthew Henry Commentary,

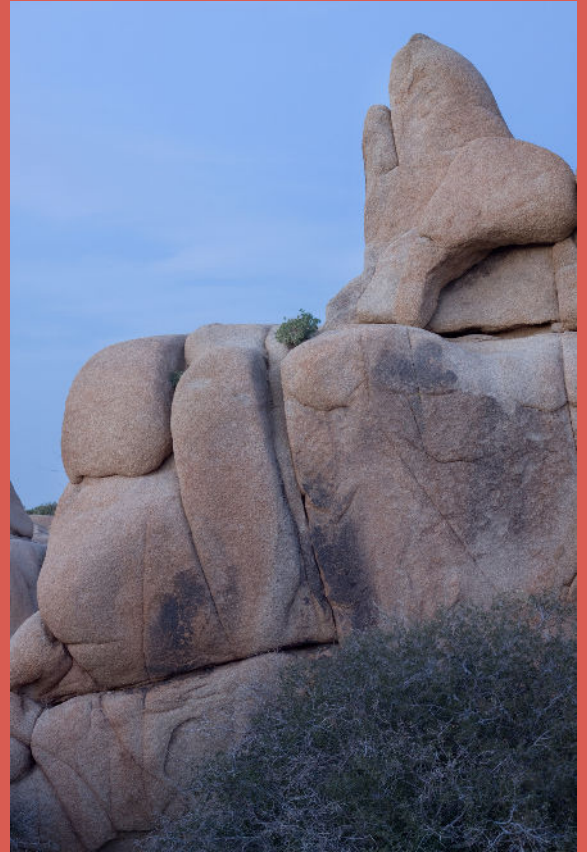
https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/mhc/Exd/Exd_001.cfm



FINAL THOUGHTS

Take a final few minutes to apply this passage to your lives:

- Where in your life are you being called to obedience?
- What does it look like for you to fear God?
- How can you shape your values to be less influenced by culture and more influenced by Christian worldview?



**Here are some online commentaries
you can consider:**

Free:

biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/
blueletterbible.org/study.cfm

Paid:

accordancebible.com
logos.com