

## National Council of Jewish Women

Source Sheet: Resistance Lessons from the Heroines of the Passover Story Rabbi Danya Ruttenberg, April 7, 2020

ַנַּיָּקֶם מֶלֶּךְ-חָדָשׁ עַל-מִצְרִֻים אֲשָׁר לְא-יָדָע אֶת-יוֹסָף: וֻיִּאמֶר אֶל-עַמֵּוֹ הָנֵּה עֻם בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵׁל רָב וְעָצָוּם מִמְנוּ: הַבָּה נְתְחַכְּמָה לֵוֹ בָּּן-יִרְבֶּה וְהָיֵה כִּי-תִקְרָאנָה מִלְחָמָה וְנוֹסַף גַּם-הוּאֹ עַל-שַׂנְאֵינוּ וְנִלְחַם-בָּנוּ וְעָלָה מִן-הָאָרֶץ: נַיִּשַּׁימוּ עָלָיוֹ שָׂרֵי מִפִּים לְמָעַן עַנֹּתָוֹ בְּסִבְלֹתָם...וְכַאֲשֶׁר יְעַנַּוּ אֹתוֹ כַּן יִרְבָּה וְכַן יִפְרֵץ וַיִּלְּצוּ מִפְּנֵי בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל.

A new king arose over Egypt who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are much too numerous for us. Let us deal shrewdly with them, so that they may not increase; otherwise in the event of war they may join our enemies in fighting against us and rise from the ground." So they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor... But the more they were oppressed, the more they increased and spread out, so that they came to dread the Israelites. (Exodus 1:8-12)

ַניּאמֶר מֲלֶךְ מִצְלֵּיִם לָמְיַלְּדָת הָעִבְרִיִּת אֲשֶׁׁר שָׁם הָאַחַת שִׁפְּרָה וְשֶׁם הַשֵּׁנִית פּוּעָה: וַיֹּאמֶר בְּיַלֶּדְכֶן אֶת-הָעָבְרִיּוֹת וּרְאִיתֶן עַל-הָאָבְנָים אִם-בֶּן הוּאֹ וַהֲמִתְּן אֹתוֹ וְאִם-בַּת הָיא וָחָיַה: וַוִּּיקְרָא הָמְיַלְּדֹת אֶת-הַאֱלִהִּים וְלָא עֶשִׂיתֶן הַדְּבָּר הֲזָה וַתְּחַיָּין אֶת-הַיְלָדִים: וַתּאמַרְן הָמְיַלְדִים: וַוִּיקְרָא מֶלֶךְ-מִצְלֵים לָמְיִלְּדֹת וַיִּאמֶר לָהֶּן מַדְּוּע עֲשִׂיתֶן הַדְּבָּר הַזָּה וַתְּחַיָּין אֶת-הַיְלָדִים: וַתּאמַרְן הָמְיַלְדוֹת אֶל-פַּרְעֹה בִּי לָא כַנָּשִׁים הַמִּצְרָיֹת הַעַבַּרִיּת כִּי-חֵיוֹת הָּנָּה בָּעָרָם תַּבָּוֹא אֵלֵהֵן הַמִּיֵלֶדָת וַיַּלְדוֹּ

The king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, saying, "When you deliver the Hebrew women, look at the birthstool: if it is a boy, kill him; if it is a girl, let her live." The midwives, fearing God, did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this thing, letting the boys live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women: they are vigorous. Before the midwife can come to them, they have given birth." (Exodus 1:15-19

ַוַיֶּלֶךְ אִישׁ מִבֶּית לֵוי וַיִּקָּח אֶת-בַּת-לֵוי: וַתַּהַר הָאִשָּׁה וַתֵּלֶד בֵּן וַתַּרֶא אֹתוֹ כִּי-טוֹב הוּא וַתִּצְפְּנֵהוּ שְׁלֹשָׁה יְרָחִים: וְלֹא-יָיְכְלָה עוֹד הַצְפִינוֹ וַתִּקָּח-לוֹ תֵּבַת גֹמֶא וַתַּחְמְרָה בַחֵמָר וּבַזָּכֶּת וַתָּשֶׂם בָּהּ אֶת-הַיֶּלֶד וַתָּשֶׂם בַּסּוּף עַל-שְׁפַת הַיאר: וַתִּתצַב אחתוֹ מרחק לדעה מה-יעשה לו:

A certain man of the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw how beautiful he was, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer, she got a wicker basket for him and caulked it with bitumen and pitch. She put the child into it and placed it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. And his sister stationed herself at a distance, to learn what would befall him. (Exodus 2:1-4)

וַתֵּרֶד בַּת-פַּרְעֹה לִרְחֹץ עַל-הַיְאֹר וְנַעֲרֹתֶיהָ הֹלְכֹת עַל-יַד הַיְאֹר וַתֵּרֶא אֶת-הַתֵּבָה בְּתוֹךְ הַסּוּף וַתִּשְׁלֵח אֶת-אֲמֶתָהּ וַתִּקְחָהָ: וַתִּפְתַח וַתִּרְאֵהוּ אֶת-הַיֶּלֶד וְהִנָּה-נַעַר בּּכֶה וַתַּחְמֹל עָלָיו וַתּאמֶר מִיּלְדֵי הָעִבְרִים זֶה: וַתֹּאמֶר אֲחֹתוֹ אֶל-בַּת-פַּרְעֹה הַאֵלֵדְ וְקָרָאתִי לָךְ אִשָּׁה מִינֶקֶת מִן הָעִבְּרִיּת וְתֵינִק לָךְ אֶת-הַיֶּלֶד: וַתֹּאמֶר-לָה בַּת-פַּרְעֹה הֵילִיכִי אֶת-הַיֶּלֶד הַזֶּה וְהֵינִקְהוּ לִי וַאֲנִי אֶתַּן אֶת-שְׂכָרֵךְ הַעַלְמָה וַתִּלְמָה הֵיֵּלֶד וַתִּנִיקָהוּ:

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe in the Nile, while her maidens walked along the Nile. She spied the basket among the reeds and sent her slave girl to fetch it. When she opened it, she saw that it was a child, a boy crying. She took pity on it and said, "This must be a Hebrew child." Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you a Hebrew nurse to suckle the child for you?" And Pharaoh's daughter answered, "Yes." So the girl went and called the child's mother. And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will pay your wages." (Exodus 2:5-9)