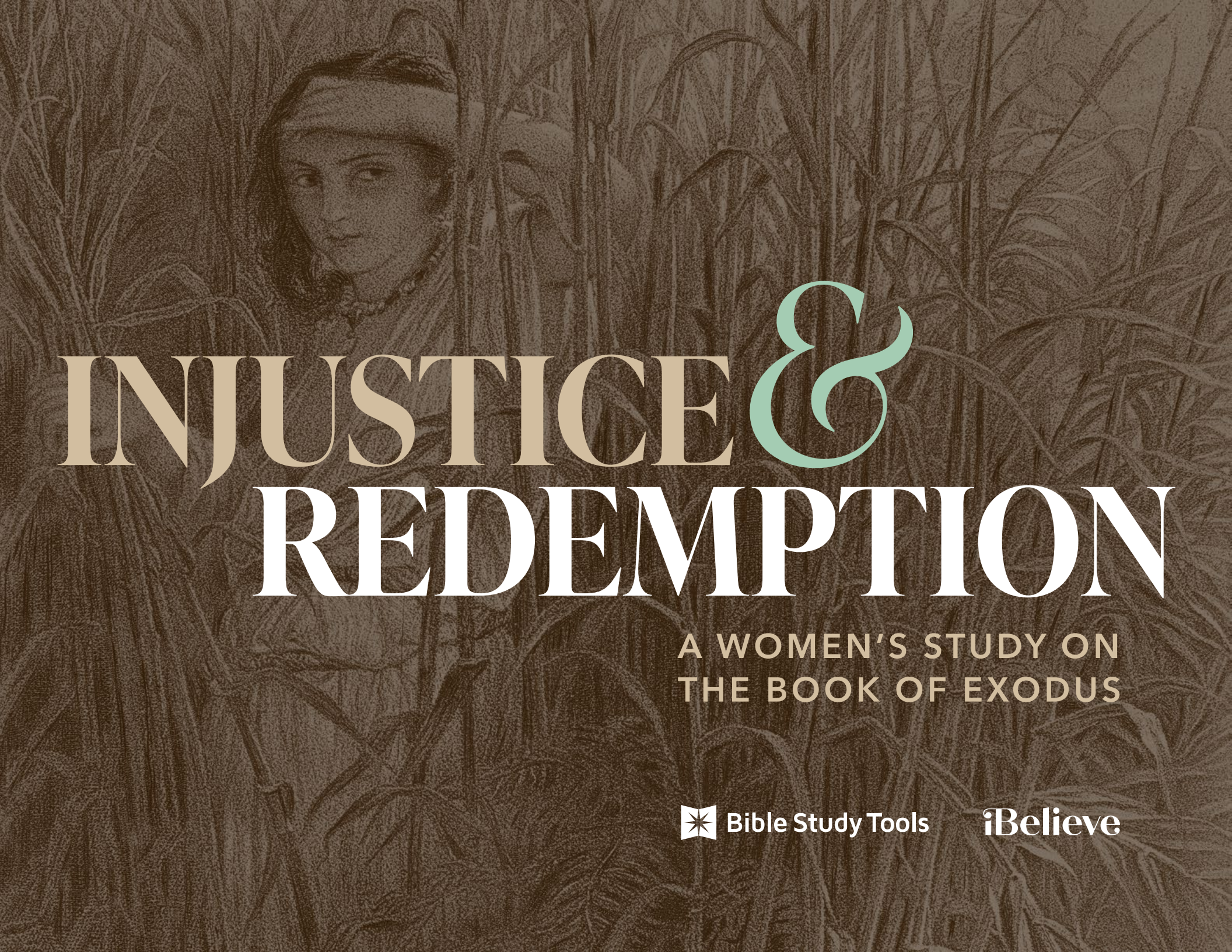


The background of the entire image is a detailed, sepia-toned illustration of a woman with long, dark hair, wearing a headscarf and a high-collared dress. She is looking slightly to her left with a gentle expression. She is standing in a field of tall, dense grass or reeds that reach up to her chest. The overall tone is historical and contemplative.

INJUSTICE & REDEMPTION

A WOMEN'S STUDY ON
THE BOOK OF EXODUS



Bible Study Tools

iBelieve



Introduction

In the book of Exodus, we meet courageous women who defied the most powerful man on earth—Pharaoh. Their stories are a testament to God’s heart for the vulnerable and His ability to use ordinary people to resist injustice and bring about redemption.

This study focuses on the profound truth that our identity in God empowers us to stand against oppression and partner with Him in His redemptive work. We will explore how faith, courage, and a deep-seated reverence for God can be used to challenge unjust systems and protect the innocent.

The Nature of Injustice

Injustice often arises from a place of fear and insecurity in those who hold power. Pharaoh's anxiety about the growing Israelite population led him to a cruel and oppressive plan. He saw their prosperity as a threat, not a blessing.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Exodus 1:8-11: "Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, 'Behold, the people of Israel are too many and too mighty for us. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and, if war breaks out, they join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with heavy burdens."

REFLECTION

Where have you seen God bring flourishing out of hardship or injustice in your own life?

TAKE ACTION

Write down a specific instance where God brought good from a difficult situation. Share this testimony with a friend or family member to encourage them in their own struggles.

OPPRESSION
DOES NOT
COME FROM
A PLACE OF
STRENGTH,
BUT FROM
A PLACE OF
FEAR.
UNKNOWN

God's Sovereignty Over Human Evil

God's purposes cannot be thwarted by human evil. Despite Pharaoh's attempts to crush the Israelites, God causes them to flourish even more under oppression. This is a powerful paradox that reveals divine sovereignty.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Exodus 1:12-14: "But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and the more they spread abroad. And the Egyptians were in dread of the people of Israel. So they ruthlessly made the people of Israel work as slaves and made their lives bitter with hard service."

REFLECTION

How can we respond to an abuse of power with the humility and grace of Christ?

TAKE ACTION

Identify a situation where you feel a power dynamic is being misused. Instead of reacting with anger, commit to praying for humility and grace for all involved. Seek God's wisdom on how to approach the situation with love, not retaliation.

THE DARKEST
HOUR IS JUST
BEFORE THE
DAWN.

THOMAS FULLER

The Power of Women

Pharaoh's cruelty escalates with a direct command to the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah: kill all newborn Hebrew boys. This is an ultimate act of violence and control. He expects them to be complicit in his evil. However, their story is a powerful testament to the strength and conviction of women. They faced a critical choice: obey the king and save their lives, or disobey and trust in God. They chose to fear God more than they feared Pharaoh. Their identity was not in their status as slaves but in their reverence for God.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Exodus 1:15-17: "Then the king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you serve as midwife to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt told them, but let the male children live."

REFLECTION

What does it mean for us to "fear God" in a way that empowers us to stand against injustice today?

TAKE ACTION

Research a local or global organization that fights against human trafficking or another form of injustice. Make a donation, sign up to volunteer, or commit to praying for their work.

COURAGE
IS NOT THE
ABSENCE OF
FEAR, BUT
THE TRIUMPH
OVER IT.

NELSON MANDELA

Redemption Through Defiance

When confronted by Pharaoh, the midwives respond with wisdom and courage. They use their intelligence to protect the innocent. Their defiance is an act of redemption, preventing a genocide. God rewards their faithfulness by giving them “families of their own,” a significant blessing in that culture. Their act demonstrates that God’s justice is often brought about through the small, seemingly insignificant acts of the faithful.

SCRIPTURE TO READ

Exodus 1:18-21: “So the king of Egypt called the midwives and said to them, ‘Why have you done this, and let the male children live?’ The midwives said to Pharaoh, ‘Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.’ So God dealt well with the midwives... And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families.”

REFLECTION

How does this passage challenge the notion that we have to be powerful or famous to make a difference for God?

TAKE ACTION

Look for an opportunity to do a “small act of kindness” that has a ripple effect. This could be speaking up for someone who is being mistreated, writing a letter to a public official, or simply offering a word of encouragement to a person who is struggling.

THE ONLY
THING
NECESSARY
FOR THE
TRIUMPH
OF EVIL IS
FOR GOOD
MEN TO DO
NOTHING.
EDMUND BURKE

Final Application & Reflection

OUR IDENTITY IN GOD

Shiphrah and Puah's identity was rooted in their fear of God, not in their status as slaves or women. This allowed them to defy the most powerful man in the world. How does your identity in Christ empower you to resist pressures to conform to unjust standards or expectations in your life?

STANDING AGAINST INJUSTICE

The midwives chose to protect the most vulnerable members of society—the newborn boys—at great personal risk. This aligns with God's heart for the marginalized and oppressed. In what areas of your life or community do you feel God is calling you to stand against injustice and advocate for the vulnerable?

THE POWER OF HUMILITY

Pharaoh's power was based on fear and control. The midwives' power was based on humility and a deep trust in God. They didn't seek a throne or authority; they simply sought to do what was right in God's eyes.

CLOSING PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for the powerful examples of the women in Exodus. Help us to have a deep-seated identity in you, so that our fear of you outweighs our fear of man. Give us the courage to stand up for the vulnerable and to resist injustice, just as they did. We pray that you would use us as instruments of your redemption in this world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

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Sophia Bricker is a writer. Her mission is to help others grow in their relationship with Jesus through thoughtful articles, devotionals, and stories. She completed a BA and MA in Christian ministry, which included extensive study of the Bible and theology, and an MFA in creative writing. You can follow her blog about her story, faith, and creativity at [The Cross, a Pen, and a Page](#).

For further study, be sure to check out [Embracing Silence: What Is a Quiet Time and Why Do We Need It?](#) from our sister site, BibleStudyTools.com.

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