

Exodus 1:15-12 -- "Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah, and the other was named Puah; and he said, 'When you are helping the Hebrew women to give birth and see them upon the birthstool, if it is a son, then you shall put him to death; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.' But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt had commanded them, but let the boys live. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives, and said to them, 'Why have you done this thing, and let the boys live?' And the midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous, and they give birth before the midwife can get to them.' so God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied, and became very mighty. And it came about because the midwives feared God, that He established households for them."

C. The Benefits of Common Grace

Many benefits flow from the blessing of common grace. The following may be especially noted.

1. Execution of the sentence of death upon fallen man is deferred

When Adam and Eve sinned, God did not at once fully execute the sentence of death on the human race. Even now He manifests His longsuffering, as He provides time and opportunity for repentance.

Genesis 6:3 -- "Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, because he also is flesh; nevertheless his days shall be one hundred and twenty years.' "

Romans 2:4 -- "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?"

II Peter 3:7-9, 15 -- "But the present heavens and earth by His word are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance . . . and regard the patience of our Lord to be salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you."

2. Sin is restrained in the world

Human depravity is restrained from its full development and expression, and not yet permitted to complete its destructive work.