

Exodus 1:12

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel.

Analysis

But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew (יכִּאָשֵׁר, vekha'asher ye'anu oto ken yirbeh vekhen yifrots)—The Hebrew structure creates emphatic contrast: "the more... the more." **Grew** (גָּזַע, parats) means "break out/burst forth"—an irrepressible expansion despite oppression. **And they were grieved because of the children of Israel** (וְצִקְרָנָה, vayakutsu, "they felt dread/loathing"). This verse reveals a spiritual principle: God's blessing cannot be suppressed by human opposition. The Egyptians' mounting dread anticipates their terror at the Red Sea (14:10-12). Satan's attacks on God's people often produce the opposite of intended results.

Historical Context

This phenomenon defied Egyptian expectations and natural demographic patterns under oppression. Mortality typically rises and birth rates decline under harsh slavery. The supernatural multiplication testified to God's covenant faithfulness and set the stage for Pharaoh's more drastic infanticide policy (v. 16).

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How have you seen God's purposes advance precisely through opposition meant to stop them?
2. What does this verse teach about trusting God's blessing even when circumstances seem designed to crush you?

Interlinear Text

וְכֹאֲשֶׁר	וְיַעֲשֵׂה	אַתָּה	וְכֹאֲשֶׁר	וְרָבָה
H834	But the more they afflicted	H853	them the more	they multiplied
	H6031		H3651	H7235
וְכֹאֲשֶׁר	וְיַפְרֵץ	וְלֹא צוֹ	מִפְגַּח	וְשָׁרָאֵל:
them the more	and grew	And they were grieved	because	of the children
H3651	H6555	H6973	H6440	H1121
				H3478

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 105:24 (Parallel theme): And he increased his people greatly; and made them stronger than their enemies.

Exodus 1:9 (References Israel): And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:

Romans 8:28 (Parallel theme): And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.