

# 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** (וַכַּאֲשֶׁר וַיַּכּוּ אֶת־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל וַיִּרְבּוּ וַיִּפְרֹצוּ, vekha'asher ye'anu oto ken yirbeh vekhen yifrots)—The Hebrew structure creates emphatic contrast: "the more... the more." **Grew** (פָּרַץ, parats) means "break out/burst forth"—an irrepressible expansion despite oppression. **And they were grieved because of the children of Israel** (וַיִּקְצוּ, 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

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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

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וְכָאֲשֶׁר H834	וְעַתָּה H6031	אֵת H853	וְכֵן H3651	וְרַב־הָ H7235	
	But the more they afflicted		them the more	they multiplied	
וְכֵן H3651	וַיִּגְדַּל H6555	וַיִּהְיוּ H6973	מִפְּנֵי H6440	בְּנֵי H1121	יִשְׂרָאֵל H3478
them the more	and grew	And they were grieved	because	of the children	of Israel

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.