

# Exodus 1:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we:

## Analysis

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**And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we** (וְיֹאמֶר אֶל־בְּנֵי־יִשְׂרָאֵל, rav ve'atsum mimenu)—Pharaoh's assessment reveals both truth and paranoid exaggeration. **More** (רַב, rav, "many/numerous") and **mightier** (אַתָּה, atsum, "strong/powerful") echo verse 7's description of Israel's growth. The phrase **than we** is likely hyperbolic—Israel was numerous but hardly outnumbered all Egypt. This is the rhetoric of fear used to justify oppression. Pharaoh's speech to **his people** suggests mobilizing popular support for his policies. The irony: the more Pharaoh oppresses, the more God multiplies (v. 12).

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern rulers commonly used demographic fears to justify harsh measures against minority populations. Egyptian texts from this period express xenophobic concerns about Asiatics. Pharaoh's public rhetoric aimed to unite Egyptian nationalism against a common "threat."

## Related Passages

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**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. How do you recognize and resist fear-based rhetoric that demonizes others to gain political support?
2. When has God turned your enemies' fears into opportunities for His glory to be displayed?

## Interlinear Text

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אָל	לֵיְ אַמְרָה	וְעַד	הַנְּהָרָה	וְעַד	בְּתִי
<b>And he said</b>	H413	<b>Behold the people</b>	H2009	<b>Behold the people</b>	<b>of the children</b>
H559		H5971		H5971	H1121

  

מְקֹם	וְעַצְמָה	כִּי	יִשְׁרָאֵל
<b>of Israel</b>	<b>are more</b>	<b>and mightier</b>	H4480
H3478	H7227	H6099	

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ecclesiastes 4:4** (Parallel theme): Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

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