



## The Grapevine

“For I know the plans I have for you declares The Lord, Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Jeremiah 29:11



## CRAFT AND VERSE

Craft and Verse meets every Friday morning at 10:00 in the church office complex. This group was started to encourage people to find time to memorize scripture and complete craft projects. God has given us the gift of creativity and We should find ways to express that gift.

The group has many diverse interests such as knitting, crocheting, card stamping, painting, diamond art, coloring, loom knitting, sewing, and quilting. We enjoy sharing our passions with each other. Whether you have never crafted a thing in your life or you're an old pro, come and join us. We would love to see what you are up to!

# CW SPORTS

Ok sports fans we have another exciting season coming up. This year we were moved by God to branch out on our own. The basketball and cheer program now goes by CW Sports. This year we have 35 kids signed up so far. Pastor Watts will be doing weekly devotions with the kids and Pastor Rob will be doing the game devotions this year. As the season starts we encourage all of you to come out to the games watch a little basketball and cheerleading and help us minister to the family's and the community. Don't forget to stop by the Double Dribble café Ms. Dawn makes a mean sausage and biscuit sandwich. Hope to see you there. Go CW Sports!



*Thank you  
Tracy Milburn*



## Ladies Bible Study

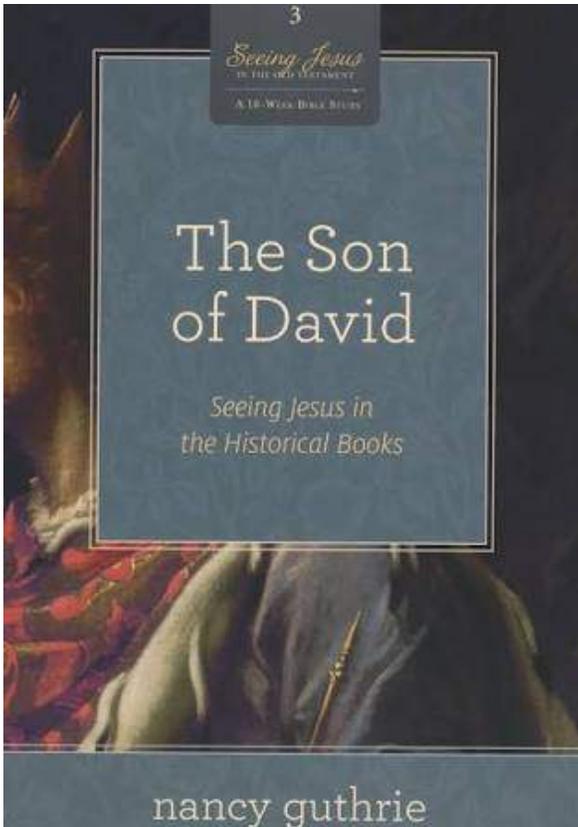
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When you read the old testament, do you think about Jesus? Do you see Him peeking through the lines? Can you find Him guiding the Israelites through the centuries, leading, teaching and loving us, pointing to the cross? Jesus has been a presence since before time began and He will be there at the end of the ages to gather us and take us home.

We are currently studying a series of books by Nancy Guthrie entitled “Seeing Jesus in the Old Testament”. We finished book 2, “The Lamb of God” in November, and are currently taking a long holiday break and start fresh on January 10<sup>th</sup> with, “The Son of David” We will be looking at the historical books starting with Joshua and ending with Esther.

We are blessed to have a wonderful baker, Ralph, who supplies us with goodies to munch on every week. Come join us and discover the many ways that we are presented with the soul saving plan of God, and the only High Priest, and Holy Sacrifice that we will ever need.

Bible study meets every Thursday morning at 10:00 at the Watts’ home, at 2363 Alton Darby Creek Road, Hilliard, 43026. If you have any questions, contact Regina Sampson at 614-254-0033 or Karen Watts at 614-376-6598.





# Flexibility

*How does the Deer Illustrate the need to adapt to the wishes of the one it serves?*

In the east a brilliant glow burst over the treetops. Its fiery light filtered through the leaves, creating dancing silhouettes of shadows on the ground. A doe walked along the forest path on that beautiful June morning.

Normally this graceful creature would have browsed among the tender new shoots of grass. But today was different. The doe wasn't interested in food. When the morning hours passed, she quietly slipped away to a secluded place where she would give birth to a fawn.

This was the first time the two-year-old doe had gone through this experience, so the probability of having more than one fawn was remote. The birth would be over in ten minutes.

Soon it was busily licking the small, white-spotted fawn. Contentment welled up within as it washed the little one. The doe did this so vigorously that the unsteady fawn was knocked off its wobbly feet.

Hungry from the exertion of birth, the fawn began nuzzling its mother's white belly and suckled the warm, nutritious milk. When full, it dropped off to sleep. For the next three days it would remain practically motionless, lying with legs folded underneath its body and neck extended.

During this time of the young fawn's life it is provided with a special protection against enemies. It has no odor to betray its location. A predator could walk right by it, and the infant with its protective coloration would still be safe, if it remained perfectly still.

The doe concealed its young in a secluded spot, returning six or seven times each day to feed it. Thus it ensured that its own scent would not endanger the fawn by attracting the enemies.

As the days passed, the fawn grew rapidly. With its growth came an increasing desire to wander. This was a dangerous matter that the mother had to deal with immediately in order to prevent it from becoming a habit. In no uncertain terms, the doe made it very clear to the young fawn that when hidden, it must stay there. Every time it was disobedient, the doe firmly pushed it back down with its muzzle. If firmer measures were needed, the doe would raise her forefoot, place it on the fawn's back, and forcefully press it to the ground. In spite of the other's stern disciplinary actions, however, the young fawn still continued to wander on occasion.

One day a swallow-tail butterfly caught its eye. The fawn stood up to investigate. Its movement disturbed the insect, and it quickly flew away. As the fawn watched the bright wings flutter out of sight, terror and fright suddenly gripped the creature. There, just a few yards away, stood a hungry coyote on the prowl for food.

It was too late for the mother to intervene. The quick and powerful coyote had caught the movement of the fawn. With a few well-paced strides, the coyote lunged at the defenseless creature. One powerful snap of its jaws, and the fawn was dead. The little deer had needlessly lost its life because it failed to adapt to the wishes of its mother.

## Annual Business Meeting

This year is a very important year for us as a congregation. We have gone through a rough year this past year and yet there have been some awesome times of blessing in the midst of the desert. We would like to encourage you to come for the Annual Business Meeting Sunday Morning, January, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. with a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m. You are encouraged to bring in breakfast items to share. Let's have a great time of fellowship before we get down to business. The Lord has some great things for us in the future and the Leadership has some exciting things to share at this meeting. This is a meeting where all are **STRONGLY** encouraged to be in attendance. Should you be in need of an absentee ballot, please contact the church office for one by the 13<sup>th</sup> of January. See you at the meeting.

## Go into all the World



We are so blessed to have leading us in missions, Bud McKinney. He has worked very hard to contact the different missionaries that we have supported in the past and is working closely with each one on their current needs and what we can do to help them.

As many of you know, one of those missionaries is Elizabeth Eno. She is working with Wycliffe Bible Translators and is in charge of sending and putting together teams to go to places like India, China, Africa, and other parts of the world to translate the Word of God. Elizabeth spent several years, herself, in India as a missionary living with the locals. She spent time translating the Word of God and sharing God's

love on a one on one basis. She is now equipping others to do the same. She and Jason have been blessed with little Lilly, who is keeping them busy as she grows into that toddler age. Please continue to pray for Elizabeth, Jason and Lilly.

Another missionary that we support through prayer and finances is Chris Pick. Chris is currently living in northern Pennsylvania with his wife, Michelle and their two children. He did some work and currently does work stateside in India. His current calling is to the Indians on the reservation of South Dakota. He is continuing the work that was started by singer/songwriter Rich Mullins. Chris makes 1-2 trips to the reservation a year to teach music, hold vacation Bible Schools, and preach wherever he's allowed. There have been many trips that he has been on that his life has been threatened, he's been in danger for preaching the Word of God. There have been a couple of towns where the team that he had been working with was told to leave and not to come back because they were teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There are times that we think that the persecution of missionaries, of preachers, of those who go and share the Gospel

of Christ is just overseas, however, as we are finding out that is not the case. Chris can tell you story after story of the persecution that believers face on the reservation because of their faith. He can tell you of the persecution that missionaries face because of the call that God has placed on their lives. He can tell you stories of the teams from his church has faced because of the love they have poured out to the communities on the reservation.

There are two last missions that we support that we'd like to touch on just briefly. Both are very important and we will be highlighting them in the upcoming issues of the Grapevine. One is Ken Biron and the work of LACF in Peru. Many of you have heard Ken's story and know that he is working with the locals in Reque, Peru through a school, a church, and whatever else he can do to share the Word of God. The Lord has blessed over and over through people, through churches, through the government. The stories that he shares are just amazing, and hopefully we will be sharing some of those stories in the next issue.



The last one is PDHC, which is right down here on West Broad Street. There are a few of the ladies in our congregation who have used the services of PDHC because of situations and choices that they have made in their lives. Because of this ministry we can see how the Lord has reached into these ladies lives and filled them with His love, grace and mercy. They are now vibrant believers who are serving in the Kingdom of God.

Please be in prayer for Bud as he leads us and reaches out to our missionaries. Please also be in

prayer for our missionaries as they are on the front lines driving the forces of evil back. God is working in their lives and yet there are tremendous sacrifices that they and their families make for the sake of the Gospel. Let's do all we can to help them share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

# What's The Youth Up To?



The youth meet Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 in the church office complex. Currently they are having a contest to see who can look up scripture the fastest. They are really enjoying it. Maybe the rest of us should start practicing just in case they decide to challenge us! They also are enjoying Pastor Rob's lessons.

The recent Le Grande Chateau was awesome! The youth had fun setting up decorating and serving. We would like to thank the congregation for coming out and supporting us. The money raised will go towards Teen Week and other activities for the year. This gives us great opportunities to fellowship and build relationships within our group and to reach out and minister to others we invite along or meet while we are out.



Our next fundraiser is coming up soon. We will be selling Anthony Thomas Candy Bars! Yum!

If you would be interested in helping out with the youth ministry please contact Candy Pongrantz or Pastor Rob. There are several areas where your help would be needed like fundraisers or maybe Teen Week. Once again thank you for all the help and support.



# The Source of Strife

Happy New Year!!! God has been so good to us over this past year. There have been many times that we could relate to what I'm going to share with you this month. James 4:1 states, ***“What leads to strife (discords and feuds) and how do conflicts (quarrels and fightings) originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members?”*** Think about that for a moment.

What is the source of strife? As you think about that and think about the fights that you have had over the past year, maybe even in the past month, ask yourself this question, was it really worth the fight?

I don't even have to ask, “Do you have strife?” Because we are all human and we all have strife in our lives, the question that I want to ask is, “How does all this disturbance get started within us?” We know that it is not God's will for us. The Lord does not want His children to live in the midst of a constant interior war zone. That is the nature of this world, but it is not supposed to be the nature of the Kingdom of God—and Jesus has told us that the Kingdom is within us. (Luke

17:21).

One reason you and I came to Christ in the first place is because we wanted to escape all that kind of endless strife and conflict. That is why we became citizens of the Kingdom of God. The Bible tells us that the Kingdom is righteousness, peace and joy. (Romans 14:17) As followers of Jesus, that is our heritage and our inheritance. Why is it, then, that so many of us who truly love God, who are going to heaven, who are the called according to His divine purpose, still spend our whole earthly existence in the midst of what we are trying so desperately to escape from?

What is the source of all this strife? Where does it originate? That is the question that we want to answer in order to discover the solution to our frustration and misery. However, notice the second part of this verse. James tells us that all these negative things arise from the sensual desires that are ever warring in our members. Do you know that you and I can get



## For the Family

into conflict by wanting something that is clearly God's will for us? Having God's will in our lives can frustrate us. If we go about trying to get it in the wrong way, we will only produce strife and war and conflict.

God wants our spouse and our children to be saved. We know that is His will, because He has said in His Word that He desires that all people come to a saving knowledge of Him (2 Peter 3:9). Yet you and I can get frustrated—and cause all kinds of misery for ourselves and others—if we go about trying to get our loved ones saved by our own human efforts. As strange as it sounds, it is entirely possible to get into war over the Word of God. It happens all the time within the Body of Christ. Let me close with this thought, it is certainly God's will for us to live holy lives, but I can't tell you how much conflict I caused in my life trying to be holy. I wanted all the right things, but I went about getting them in all the wrong ways. That is what James is warning us about here in this verse. He is saying that strife and conflict arise within us because our desires—even possibly our righteous desires—are warring in our bodily members. Many of you heard my messages in November about having "One Heart, One Vision." If we don't have the heart that seeks after God and are following His vision for our lives, there will be NO peace and we will constantly be in strife. Let me encourage you this month to examine your heart, examine your vision. Do you have a heart that seeks after God? Are you hungering and

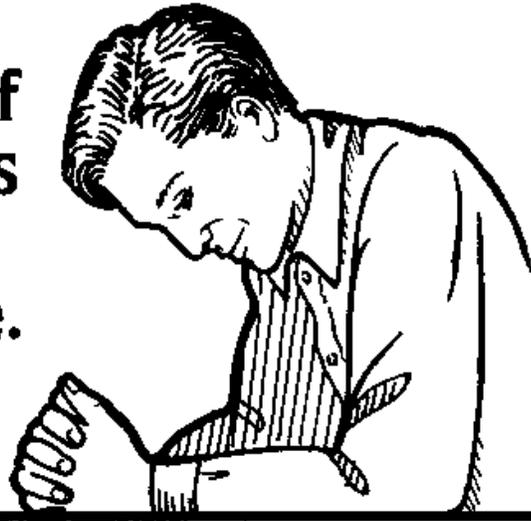
thirsting after righteousness? If you are, then you will have peace, if you aren't then you are living in strife. Check your heart and then follow the Lord. Until next month, live in peace.

*Pastor  
Rob*



**The prayer of  
the righteous  
is powerful  
and effective.**

**-James 5:16 NRSV**



This is the time of year when believers and unbelievers celebrate two major holidays that are linked to the Bible. Christmas is celebrated around the world by believers and unbelievers. Hanukah (Chanukah) is celebrated by Jewish believers and unbelievers. Are they connected?

Both celebrations include the giving of gifts to children and yet both Christmas and Chanukah picked up that tradition in more recent times.

It is interesting to note that both holidays are celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of the month – not necessarily on the same day. Christmas is celebrated of course on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December but Chanukah is celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev. Kislev is the name of one of the months in the Jewish calendar. The Jewish calendar is too complicated to get into here but just realize that Chanukah does not fall on the same day every year according to our calendar.

The 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev is the day that the Syrian Greeks defiled the Temple by offering pagan sacrifices (pigs) in the Temple. Years later the Jews celebrated the restoration of their Temple on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of Kislev. It is interesting to note that just as the Jewish folk replaced a pagan celebration with a celebration of the restoration of their Temple, Christians celebrate Christmas on the 25<sup>th</sup> of December to replace the pagan celebration of Saturnalia.

Now, to me those are some interesting physical connections between the two, but more importantly are the spiritual connections between the two. Christmas and Chanukah are celebrated at the darkest time of the year – the hours of daylight are the shortest at this time of year. Both holidays,

however, celebrate light. If you were to visit a Jewish home during the time leading up to Kislev 25 (Chanukah) you would note that the home has a menorah which is a nine branch lamp-stand. Beginning on Kislev 25 one of those candles is lit each night for eight nights until all eight candles are lit. The ninth is used to light the other candles.

Some light all eight candles on Kislev 25 and then extinguish one candle each night for eight days. When the Jews cleaned out the temple idols, they found only one small cruse of oil with only enough oil for one day to light the menorah (golden lamp stand) in the Temple. They lit the menorah anyway on Kislev 25 and it stayed lit for eight days until new oil was available. It was a miracle which is celebrated as a part of Hanukkah, which is also why it is sometimes called the Festival of Lights.

Jesus preached three sermons in which He declared Himself the "Light of the world." All three were preached during Hanukkah. Christmas is marked by the star of Bethlehem and the angels singing in the shepherd's field. Both of those events are flooded in light and now-a-days the Christmas lights are all around us everywhere we go.

Of course, according to John, there is more light to Christmas than the star of Bethlehem or the light that shone on the shepherds when that heavenly choir sang. The Light of the world was born in Bethlehem that night. Jesus is the Light. How significant that the Light was born in the darkest time of the year and born at night. That Light continues to shine in the darkness to this day.

That is the true message of Christmas. Darkness surrounds us today. Darkness continues to creep into our culture. If you watch the news, you hear and see it every day. The evil darkness is all around us, even in many congregations that claim to be Christian.

If you have Jesus as your Savior, the Light lives with you even as the darkness surrounds you. As you see the lights of Christmas this year, let it be a reminder of the Light you have that shines brighter and brighter in the darkness. Pray that God will anoint you so you can stand with no compromise. Let the Light of Jesus shine in and through you. It means going against the darkness of the world but your light can light up the world around you. Pray and shine brighter and brighter with the Light, the Truth, and the Love of God.

When was Jesus born?

A study of the time of the conception of John the Baptist reveals that he was conceived about Sivan 30, the eleventh week (Luke 1:8-13, 24). Add forty weeks for a normal pregnancy reveals that John the Baptist was born on or about Passover (Nisan 14). Six months after John's conception, Mary conceived Jesus (Luke 1:26-33); therefore Jesus would have been conceived six months after Sivan 30 in the month of Kislev – Hanukkah.

Was the Light of the world conceived during the festival of Lights?

Starting at Hanukkah Kislev 25 and counting through the nine months of Mary's pregnancy, we arrive at the approximate time of the birth of Jesus at the Festival of Tabernacles, which is also very significant. Think about it and dig a little deeper.



I "DIDN'T START A FIGHT WITH TOMMY IN CHURCH! WE JUST FINISHED ONE WE STARTED YESTERDAY."

## MEET THE FAMILY



Here is a chance to get to know someone in our church family.

Let me introduce the Cornells. We have Robert, his wife Pam, and their children Michael and Brianna. Here is their story. Robert and I started dating when I was 16 and we married in 2002 when I was 20.

My parents would talk about God and explained to us what this meant but didn't really get us involved in religion. When I was in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade, 12 years old, I became friends with Katrina Robinson (Candy's sister) and her family. They quickly became like family to me and will always be my family. I went everywhere with them as a teen and this included Church and bible studies. The more I learned the more I felt like this was the path I wanted to take. I was first saved as a teen and then baptized at Hilltop Baptist church in April of 2002. We stopped going to church after Mike was born because I would drop him off at the nursery and he would cry so hard he stopped breathing so they would come get me and I would stand in the hall holding him to calm him down. This went on for a few months and I wasn't able to listen to any services.



Robert was first saved when he was 10 and then baptized when he was 21.

Both of the kids have asked to be saved but neither have been baptized. I believe when you choose to be baptized that is when you decided to follow the Lord and what he wants for your life so I don't push this on my kids. I want it to mean something to them when they are baptized.



As I said before I'm friends with all of Katrina's family and any opportunity Candy Pongratz had to invite us to a church function she did. I love to be with their family so a few times I did go. The first function I remember going to was the family retreat about 6 years ago. It was great getting to know the people at the church and how open and nice they were.

In the summer of 2014 the sitter my kids went to was diagnosed with cancer and couldn't watch the kids any longer. Mike was 2 when she started watching him and

after I had Brianna she was there. She was like a Grandmother to my kids and in December 2014 she lost her battle with cancer. When I had to find someone else to watch the kids I knew there was no one else I would consider but Candy who was then babysitting. Candy started inviting the kids to the activities of the church and where my kids go I follow. As I started getting more involved I realized this was the church I was looking for. See Robert and I had been to many churches over the years trying to find the one that made us feel welcome. Yes I would say Hilltop did make us welcomed but there was still something off. At Columbus West Church of God



I don't just feel welcomed I had family (Candy, Daisy, Margret, Jr) and friends. Thank you for making this church the place for my kids to have what Katrina and her family gave to me. A safe place to learn about the Lord and how to follow what he wants in their life.

When you see the Cornells at church stop and say "Hi!".

## Greetings from the CW Church Worship Team!!

Hard to believe we are getting near the close of another year at work in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. Reflecting back on this year, there have been what seemed to be some very hard times as well as some AMAZING and glorious times!! Those times that aren't so great, we count as joy. We know that all things work together for those who love God and are called to his purpose. We who are

brothers and sisters in Christ are ALL called to his purpose. There is a job for each and every one of us to help further the Kingdom. Praise the Lord!! We are truly blessed to be able to give back the talents that the Lord has blessed us with. What an awesome blessing to GET to worship our King together and with all of you each Sunday morning!! As I sat to write this, the Lord brought this scripture to me.

"Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father."  
Colossians 3:16-17

Wow!! We are representing the Lord Jesus himself!! He is so worthy of our praise!! What a humbling honor if you think about it. He has chosen us. US!! To be a part of his family. The king of the world!! So many, many things to be thankful for. How could we NOT praise him!!

In closing, we are wishing you all a very blessed and safe new year!! To another year of serving our Lord together!!

In His Love,  
Dawn O'Keefe



# Flexibility

*How does Scripture illustrate the need to sense the wishes of the one being served?*

Scripture instructs those who are under authority to adapt to the wishes of the one they serve. Scripture also requires everyone to obey God. The more we learn to obey God, the more we will understand the true purpose and potential of flexibility. What man in Scripture thought he was fulfilling God's wishes by getting out from under authority?

He is listed with the great men and women in God's hall of fame. He was a man of courage, faith, and conviction—one of the greatest leaders the world has ever known. These facts force us to ponder with dismay the final days of his life.

At that time he spoke to the nation which he had led. He told them that they were a stiff-necked people and warned them never to forget how they had provoked the Lord their God. He pointed out that their rebellion began the very first day they were freed from bondage, and he predicted it would continue in the future.

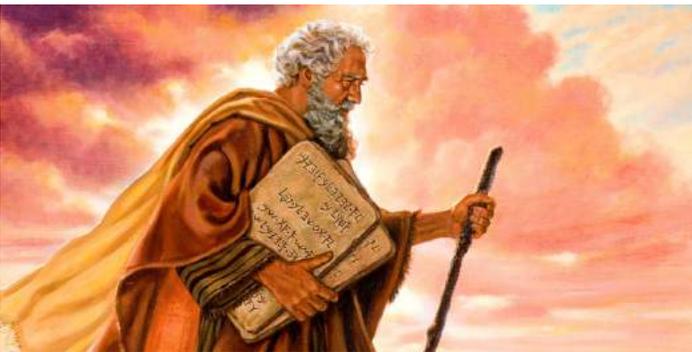
Immediately following the disappointing message, God told this leader that he would die without leading his people into Canaan because he had rebelled against the Lord.

It has been said that a nation will not rise above the level of its

leadership. What was lacking in this man's life that prevented him from inspiring obedience and flexibility within those he led? The answer may be discovered in an event which took place many years before. Early in life, this man turned from riches and honor to serve the Lord. He chose to suffer affliction with the people of God rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin which last only for a season. But in his zeal to serve the Lord, he took matters into his own hands long before the

Lord gave him specific steps of action.

As a young man he knew that god had chosen him to lead his people out of bondage, but at that time he was serving the very



ruler whose power oppressed them. This young man decided that serving the ruler was not the way to freedom. One day he took up an offense for a slave who was being beaten. He assumed that this was the time to fulfill the vision of leadership and liberation which had been given him. After killing the taskmaster who had beaten the slave and incurring the wrath of the ruler, he fled from the land. During the years that followed he was out from under that authority and far away from his people who continued to cry out for freedom. By getting out from under authority he set a tragic precedent. Throughout his leadership they repeated this pattern toward him and toward God. They rebelled against God's provisions and God's laws. There were uprisings against his authority and leadership. The faith of this leader was great enough to lead his people out of bondage but not great enough to lead them into a land of blessing. How different his example might have been if Moses had remained under Pharaoh's authority until it was God's time for him to leave Egypt. This was the example of Joseph before him and Daniel, Esther, and Nehemiah after him. Moses had great faith but even greater faith is built by adapting to the wishes of those in authority without disobeying God. –From Exodus 1:11-15 and Numbers 20:7-13

