

May 14th

GOD'S ASTOUNDING PREDICTION

"But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty..." **EXODUS 3:19-21**

A man by the name of David Pogue published an article in *Scientific American* in 2012 entitled: "Use It Better: The Worst Tech Predictions of All Time. Here's some quotes he cites that have caused "enough egg on your face to make an omelet." "I predict the internet...in 1996 will catastrophically collapse (1995)." "The Americans have need of the telephone, but we do not. We have plenty of messenger boys (1876)." "Television won't be able to hold onto any market it captures after the first six months. People will soon get tired of staring at a plywood box every night (1946)." These predictions seem ridiculous, arrogant, and short-sighted to say the least. God's prediction to Moses was quite bold at first glance, at least from our human perspective. What is God showing us about His nature here with these predictions and how does this apply to us as men?

We begin by going back into the history of Egypt. This regime is not something to mess around with. Even though this is a new Pharaoh from the one that chased Moses away, the old one showed that the kings of Egypt will stop at nothing to preserve their kingdom. The kings are desperate to maintain their slave workforce. Egypt is one powerful nation, led by a powerful king. Remember, the king of Egypt was seen as a visible representation of the sun god Ra. This is the situation that Moses is being called into! But God. God fears no man. After all, God is the orchestrator of man's heart. God predicts that Pharaoh won't let the people go "unless compelled by a mighty hand." We see throughout the narrative of the 10 plagues that Pharaoh has a hard heart, and we also discover that God hardens his heart. Each plague is a judgment of God against the false gods of the Egyptians (we'll dive into the plagues when we get to that part of the narrative).

Even against the backdrop of the mighty nation of Egypt, God still flips the script. Did you see how the Hebrews become rich as they are leaving the country? Remember, they are slaves and would not have many possessions as they enter the wilderness of Sinai. How could they survive the desert that Moses traveled through 40 years prior? It's all by God's grace. He has already promised that His people would come out of Egypt rich. This was His promise to Abraham in Genesis 15:14: "But I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions." An astounding prediction! But look deeper at who receives the riches of the Egyptians: women! Women ask the Egyptians for their belongings. Philip Ryken emphasizes that this is no act of a warrior nation that has conquered Egypt. Instead, women (not men) plunder the Egyptians! God's perfect power and grace completely undermine the culture of the Hebrews' day.

Men, what does this mean for us today? We're going slowly through this chapter because there's so much evidence of the greatness of God against the weakness of humanity. Against the undaunted power and riches of Egypt, God rewards His poor people. Instead of coming out as destitute slaves, the people triumph over one of the mightiest nations in the known world! This is your God. God consistently reminds His people throughout the Older Testament that His actions for His people is all because of His grace. There was nothing special about the Hebrews. It was all about God and His grace. This gave them hope and gives you hope. God's grace comes to you, not based upon your efforts or your success. It comes from His grace alone. The God who is faithful will keep you, just like He kept the Hebrews. Will you trust Him today?

Spend some time praising God that His promises for the future are guaranteed and that you can't move outside of His promise to save you.

For Further Reading: Exodus 15:1-21

