

## Genesis 15:13-14

***Then He said to Abram: "Know certainly that your descendants will be strangers in a land that is not theirs, and will serve them, and they will afflict them four hundred years. And also the nation whom they serve I will judge; afterward they shall come out with great possessions.***

I love, love, love the Word of God, the Bible. I have been reading it everyday for years now and always find some new nugget of information or wisdom or guidance in it. Take today's verses for example. If you think about it and go forward to the book of Exodus, we know that the children of Israel were in bondage for 400 years when Moses came on the scene, and God used Moses to deliver the children of Israel from bondage and he led them out of Egypt. But reading the book of Exodus, you may think it all started in the first chapter of Exodus.

† ***Exodus 1:8-11 Now there arose a new king over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. And he said to his people, "Look, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we; come, let us deal shrewdly with them, lest they multiply, and it happen, in the event of war, that they also join our enemies and fight against us, and so go up out of the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh supply cities, Pithom and Raamses.***

Or maybe you would think it all started at the very end of Genesis.

† ***Genesis 50:25-26 Then Joseph took an oath from the children of Israel, saying, "God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here." So Joseph died, being one hundred and ten years old; and they embalmed him, and he was put in a coffin in Egypt.***

But no, the real answer is that God knew everything way ahead of time. God knew how the Egyptians were going to treat Abraham's descendants hundreds of years before it even happened, and not only that, but God also knew how long they would be in bondage in Egypt. "***and they will afflict them four hundred years.***"

† ***Exodus 12:40-41 Now the sojourn of the children of Israel who lived in Egypt was four hundred and thirty years. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years--on that very same day--it came to pass that all the armies of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt.***

I tell you all of this as just a reminder to us all how Awesome our God is! Yet we still doubt God at times or wonder what He is doing in our lives, wondering if He possibly made a mistake because of how things are panning out for us.

God saved the children of Israel by allowing Joseph to be sold into slavery in Egypt, which was all part of the plan to get the children of Israel to Egypt, so that God could show His might and power and deliver them.

If God knew this, hundreds of years ahead of time, and He planned it all out, don't you think God knows what He is doing in your situation, even if you don't! God hears you crying out to Him for help and take comfort that He has everything under control.

† **Exodus 3:7-8** *And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites.*