

TED Talks Youth

Curated by Kevin Murray

Pandora's Box - A Greek myth of hope. A Christian understanding of hope and why it is unique.

The myth of Pandora's box by Iseult Gillespie

https://www.ted.com/talks/iseult_gillespie_the_myth_of_pandora_s_box#t-229045

I have said this a thousand times, but I have trouble understanding and interpreting art. A lot of ways people view, think about, and study are use many of the same principles as reading, interpreting, and studying the Bible.

Core Questions:

1. What does it mean to hope as an action? What about conceptually like in the myth of Pandora's box?
2. How do Christians define hope through Jesus Christ?
3. How do we define God's hope in the future?

What is hope? We think of hope as a concept or noun (_____ is the hope of the nation), a verb (I hope we get there soon), and an adverb (they drove on hopefully). In Pandora's Box, you have a typical Greek myth where what we remember best are the minor characters even though the biggest movers and shakers are typically the gods, and in particular Zeus with his shenanigans. Zeus was mad at Prometheus for giving men fire and to get back at Prometheus devised a plan to hurt Prometheus' brother (in addition to chaining Prometheus to a giant rock) by giving Epimetheus Pandora and a beautiful box to never be opened as a wedding present. Side note: Prometheus is generally translated as 'foresight' and Epimetheus as 'hindsight.' In this box was all sorts of evil that would be unleashed forever into the world but also hope that would heal the wounds that all the evil inflicted. Certainly lots of lessons can be taught from the myth, one of which is the nature of hope.

Can we compare it to how we as Christians view hope? The Gospel of Matthew quotes Isaiah to explain some of Jesus' healings and ties it to the hope of the Gentiles:

When Jesus became aware of this, he departed. Many crowds followed him, and he cured all of them, and he ordered them not to make him known. This was to fulfil what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

'Here is my servant, whom I have chosen,
my beloved, with whom my soul is well pleased.

I will put my Spirit upon him,
and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles.

He will not wrangle or cry aloud,
nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets.

He will not break a bruised reed
or quench a smouldering wick
until he brings justice to victory.

And in his name the Gentiles will hope.' – Matthew 12:15-21

Other than awesome phrases like 'quench a smouldering wick,' this quote from Isaiah puts the idea of God's hope in Jesus, but by extension in Jesus' name everybody will find their hope. In Christian thought our concepts of hope and hopes for the future are found in Jesus and Jesus' name. When we want to figure out a future for our lives and think through our own personal hopes, we compare those to the hope that Jesus gives us. What kind of world do you think God hopes for in the future? How can you and the church be a part of that vision and hope? Pray this week for the hopes you have for the future and think about how they line up with what Jesus hopes for your life.