Deadliest Creatures on the Planet

4. Dogs – 25,000
3. Snakes – 50,000
2. Humans – 475,000
1. Mosquitoes – 750,000-1,000,000

Global Estimates of Modern Slavery (2022) from Walk Free, the International Labor Organization and the International Organization for Migration:

- 49.6 million people live in modern slavery.
- About 25% of all victims of modern slavery are children.
- 22 million are in forced marriages—2 out of 5 being children.

Types of Slavery Today

- Human trafficking
- Forced Labor
- Debt bondage/bonded labor
- Descent-based slavery (people born into slavery)
- Child slavery (trafficking, soldiers, marriages, domestic, etc)
- Forced and early marriage

Countries with Slaves Today—Global Slavery Index (2018)

1. India—7,989,000
2. China—3,864,000
3. North Korea—2,640,000
4. Nigeria—1,386,000
5. Iran—1,289,000
6. Indonesia—1,220,000
7. Democratic Republic of Congo—1,045,000
8. Russia—794,000
9. Philippians—784,000
10. Afghanistan—749,000

William Wilberforce – British Politician

- Slave Trade Act of 1807 (it took him 20 years)
- USA – 13th Amendment (ratified Dec 6, 1865)

SLAVERY IN THE OT

- Joseph, sold into slavery (Genesis 37-50)
- People of Israel enslaved in Egypt (Exodus).
- Slave catching was a capital offense (Exodus 21:16)
- Slaves were given a range of protections and privileges: for example, slaves were included in the day of rest (Exodus 20:10).
- If their masters did them permanent bodily harm, they had to be released (Exodus 21:26)
- Any Hebrew man or woman sold into slavery had to be released after six years and given gifts—unless he or she shoes to remain (Exodus 21:2; Deuteronomy 15:12-16)
- Israelites were commanded to offer refuge to escaped slaves (Deuteronomy 23:15)
- Protections extended to those captured in warfare (Deuteronomy 21:10-14)

The NT and Slavery

- Jesus said the greatest among you will be your slave and that He came to give His life as a slave (Matthew 20:25-28).
- Jesus washes His disciples' feet like a slave (John 13:13-14).
- Apostles routinely called them addressed themselves as "a slave of Christ Jesus" (Romans 1:1; Philippians 1:1; Titus 1:1)
- The NT insists on the equality of slave and freedom within the church (1 Corinthians 12:13; Colossians 3:11; Galatians 3:28).
- Serve your masters as if you are serving the Lord (Colossians 3:22-4:1).
- Gain freedom if you can (1 Corinthians 7:21-24).
- Ungodly and sinful to be a slave trader (1 Timothy 1:8-11).
- Book of Philemon—Urges owner Philemon to take back runaway slave Onesimus, don't punish him, but welcome him back as a brother is Christ.

FACTS ABOUT SLAVERY IN THE BIBLE

1. Slavery, unfortunately, was COMMON throughout the history of mankind.

2. The bible does not CONDEMN or CONDONE slavery but pushes to improve the CONDITIONS of a person who is enslaved.

3. Because the young church lacked any political or social power, they encouraged slaves to win favor through their CHARACTER.

WHY SHOULD SLAVES SUBMIT
1 Peter 2:18-27

1. Because it is a COMMAND.

   1 Peter 2:18 "Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh."

2. Because it is COMMENDABLE.

   1 Peter 2:19-20 "19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God."

3. Because it is CHRIST-LIKE.

   1 Peter 2:21-25 "21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in His steps. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly. 24 "He Himself bore our sins" in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by His wounds you have been healed." 25 For "you were like sheep going astray," but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls." (NIV)

COMMENDABLE CHRISTIANS

1 Peter 2:23 "When they hurled their insults at Him, He did not retaliate; when He suffered, He made no threats. Instead, **He entrusted Himself to Him who judges justly**."

1. Trust God in spite of the CIRCUMSTANCES.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "16 Rejoice always, 17 pray continually, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (NIV)

2. Trust God for the CONSEQUENCES.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-10 "6 God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you 7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with His powerful angels. 8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. 9 They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His might 10 an the day He comes to be glorified in His holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you." (NIV)

3. Trust God because of CHRIST.

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that, in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (NIV)

BOTTOM LINE

1 Peter 4:19 "So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good." (NIV)