

What is a horrible economic scenario? (28:15)

Like a roaring lion and a rushing bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

THE TEXT (NASB)

Like a roaring lion and a rushing bear is a wicked ruler over a poor people.

As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people. KJV - Proverbs 28:15

INTRODUCTION



The sound of a **lion's** roar or the sight of a charging **bear** terrorizes the heart.

Imagine being attacked by these two vicious beasts at once.

Carnage! Who could survive?



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COMMENTARY

Consider the Stalinist purges, the Nazi holocaust and the multi-millions executed by Communist revolutionary Mao Tse-tung. Bloody massacres mar human history all too often. The **poor** are easy prey for a **wicked ruler**. Poor **people** need kind and strong **rulers**. A poor populace is more vulnerable to abuse than a wealthy, prosperous nation.

Government Control

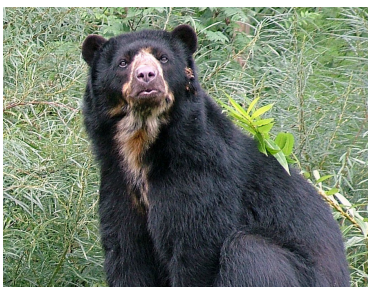


Government authorities control its citizens through taxation, limits on private property, and restriction of the media. If the majority of a country is impoverished, the people are easily mistreated by governing authorities. One way the state can intimidate its citizens is by keeping them poor and weak - unable to resist government pressure. This is one reason why small governments are usually better than large governments. Large governments milk their inhabitants and leave them dry and anemic. Many governments abuse their power and deliberately keep their people poor. Wicked rulers love serfdom.

Terrorists in Power

We may as well live defenseless in the jungle among savage, wild beasts as being ruled by a wicked leader. Praying for authorities is important. Christian churches are instructed: "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity," 1 Timothy 2:1-2. Certainly a tranquil and quiet life is the exact opposite of a terrorized, persecuted life brought about by a governing tyrant.

USSR—A Bear



It seems ironically coincidental that the symbol of the bear was



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adopted by the former Soviet Union. A despotic dictator, Joseph Stalin, forced collectivization (a relinquishing of private ownership to form a mandated cooperative) upon a successful private enterprise farming system in the Ukraine. The Stalinist policies of oppression in the Soviet Ukraine in 1932-1933 deliberately orchestrated the starvation of millions.

Engineered Famine

The fertile Ukraine, once the breadbasket of Europe was brutally forced into collectivization (run or organize) resulting in an enormous engineered famine. This holocaust is not as well-known as the Nazi extermination of Jews during World War II, but is probably larger—as the number of dead is an estimated 10 million, including my wife's grandmother. This **rushing** bear was a Russian bear! I prefer the ESV translation, a *charging* bear.

A Champion of the Weak

It is interesting to note that the youthful shepherd, David, killed both a lion and a bear when these two predators attacked his flock of sheep. Most shepherds would not have risked their lives and safety for the sake of a single sheep. David foreshadowed a greater Shepherd.



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OUR CREATOR, REDEEMER, AND FRIEND



Jesus did not abuse power; He was kind to the poor. He told His disciples,

You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. It is not this way among you, but whoever wishes to become great among you shall be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave; just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many (Matthew 20:25-28).

Rather than being a tyrant and terrorizing His followers, Jesus served His followers. With great humility He gave of His own resources to meet their needs. This is illustrated powerfully as He washed the disciples' feet, even the feet of Judas (John 13:3-8).

Jesus knew that he had been given all authority from His Father. He had nothing to prove. He was not insecure. As the creator and master of the universe, Jesus chooses to give rather than to take. But make no mistake. When Jesus returns to planet earth, He will not come as a sacrificial lamb but as a conquering lion. He will judge the whole earth bringing joy and salvation to some but sheer terror and agony to others (Matthew 25:31-46).

APPLICATION

- Memorize the text in your favourite Bible translation and think about it often.
- Give the poor opportunities to work for their welfare. Pay a fair wage—not too much or too little. Giving them too much or too little does them a disservice.
- Understand that aggression and intimidation make some people rich—but don't copy it!
- Pray for the leadership of a nation. Ask God to put wise, benevolent, and strong people into positions of power.

Which of these steps, if any, does Jesus want you to take first? Ask Him.



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KEY WORDS

abuse, exploitation, harshness, less assets (quantity), management, oppression, protection, tyrant, waste, wicked, famine, poor (dāl pronounced “dahl”), taxes

ILLUSTRATION

Who is Self-Centered Sam?



Self-Centered Sam looks out for number one. Who's that? It's Sam, of course! Sam doesn't consider himself to be self-centered. One of his favourite books is ["The Richest Man in Babylon."](#)

What does Sam do with his income? The cream, the very best goes to his own long-term growth fund. His motto is 'pay yourself first.' Some call him Stingy Sam. But he's not stingy; he's just making careful preparation for his own future, comfort, and well-being. He is part of the "me" generation. He typifies the Maslow's hierarchy of needs with self-actualization as apex of all values. Sam is a dedicated humanist. He doesn't recognize any higher power than himself. He's a tough negotiator.

Sam doesn't ignore charity. But how could he possibly help anyone one else unless there was something in it for him? Therefore any and all charitable donations must have full and public credit given to the donor. The more people are aware of his generosity the better. After all, a little bit of advertising is good for business. When his corporation gives a gift it comes as a percentage of profits, not revenues.

His financial hero is the multi-millionaire, whose assets once exceeded the entire US treasury:



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The great Railroad and Steamship Baron [Cornelius Vanderbilt](#).

