

BEHEMOTH

in Job 40:15-24 **was** / is ...

“Look now at the **behemoth**, which I made along with you; he eats grass like an ox. See now, his strength is in his hips, and his power is in his stomach muscles. He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit. His bones are like beams of bronze, his ribs like bars of iron. He is the first of the ways of God; only He who made him can bring near His sword. Surely the mountains yield food for him, and all the beasts of the field play there.” (40:15-20)

“He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh. The lotus trees cover him with their shade; the willows by the brook surround him. Indeed the river may rage, yet he is not disturbed; he is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth. Can one take it in his eyes or pierce his nose with a snare?” (40:21-24)

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a gigantic

object lesson (40:19)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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at home in

wetlands & mountains

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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best known

for its great tail (40:17)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

controversial but

also still important

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

evidence of

human-dinosaur coexistence

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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free and

unhindered by men (40:24)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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greater than

any war horse (39:19-25)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

“See now, his strength is in his hips, and his power is in his stomach muscles. He moves his tail like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.” (40:16-17)

Descriptive



Meditation

likely referring to a now-extinct dinosaur

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like and unlike

Leviathan in chapter 41

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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not a

great man-made object

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

part of God's

great final rebuke (40:1-41:34)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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probably not

a hippopotamus (40:17)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

real like

Job & the Creator (40:15,19)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

representing

God's independence (40:24)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

the Creator's

greatest land animal (40:19)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

* * *

too great

for Job (40:19, 24, 41:7)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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used to

humble Job (40:12-24)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Directions: after reading through **Job chapters 40 and 41**, consider and discuss the ways that Behemoth (40:15-24) is described above. **Do you agree with the various points made?** At the end of the study, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make applications. Many of the points above are about behemoth's identity, but it is important to think about why behemoth and Leviathan are so prominent near the end of Job. If the main purpose was to humble God's servant, Job, then obviously the main applications for us today as well should be related to pride and humility. — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.