

### **What was the Creator teaching Job?**

The identity of Behemoth is controversial, but God's purpose in describing it to Job is not. As with Leviathan in the next chapter, God was speaking to his servant about human weakness compared to the greatest of certain special animals and himself. Behemoth was so great that it was free and unhindered since it could not be controlled by any human being (40:19-24). Therefore whatever behemoth was, it was a gigantic object lesson.

### **What are the applications for us?**

Lest we miss the point of the Behemoth passage by only focusing on its identity, we have begun with God's purpose. Simply stated, the basic point in Job chapters 40 and 41 is that we should not question the Lord for he is not required to answer us since we are weak, ignorant, and secondary. He does, in fact, often graciously answer us as he did Job in the end, but we must not demand that he do so.

Moreover, in light of God's greatness, we should not focus on human accomplishments, either personal or collective (Daniel 4:30). Rather, we should think about the greatness of the Creator and what he has made.

### **What was Behemoth?**

This is a controversial topic and should not be the starting point. Yet, it is still important because the great animal's emotional impact on Job and us is linked to its identity. Whatever it was, it was gigantic and the greatest of all creatures (40:19) that Job knew. Since Job lived thousands of years ago, however, long before Moses in the time of Abraham, it is probable that Behemoth was alive then but now extinct. Therefore linking it to the largest animals alive today, such as the elephant or the hippopotamus is probably incorrect.

All the animals and birds in Job chapter 39 were local creatures that Job in ancient Arabia knew well. Behemoth, however, dwelt in a land with more water (40:22-23) than where ostrich and donkeys dwell. This probably was somewhere in the interior of Africa beyond the Red Sea.

### **Was Behemoth a dinosaur?**

Many believe that Behemoth was the greatest of all dinosaurs since such would have had a much greater emotional impact on Job than a relatively small hippopotamus or elephant. Moreover, it could not have been a hippopotamus because its tail was like a great cedar tree (40:17). In addition, the hippopotamus is not at home in the mountains (40:20). As for the argument that the mouth of plant-eating dinosaurs not being large enough (40:23), such huge herbivores had small heads compared to their overall size, but their heads and mouths were not small.

### **How is Behemoth in Job chapter 40 evidence for God?**

Whatever Behemoth was, it points to the Creator rather than to the godless theory of evolution. Therefore it makes no sense to begin with a belief in evolution over millions of years and assert that the greatest land animals that God made therefore could not have coexisted with Job. Apparently it did, and what an impact it must have had on him! It should humble us as well.