

# LEVIATHAN

in Job chapter 41 **was** / is ...

"Can you draw out Leviathan with a hook, or snare his tongue with a line which you lower? Can you put a reed through his nose, or pierce his jaw with a hook? (41:1-2)

"When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; because of his crashings they are beside themselves. Though the sword reaches him, it cannot avail; nor does spear, dart, or javelin." (41:25-26)

"He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. He leaves a shining wake behind him; one would think the deep had white hair. On earth there is nothing like him, which is made without fear. He beholds every high thing; he is king over all the children of pride." (41:31-34)

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also in

Job 3:8, Psa. 74:14, 104:26

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\*\*\*

dangerous

to ignore or belittle

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\*\*\*

described relative

to Job & people in general

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\*\*\*

helping show that

man is not in charge

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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hopefully

preserved as a fossil

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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humbling

to think about (41:8-9)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

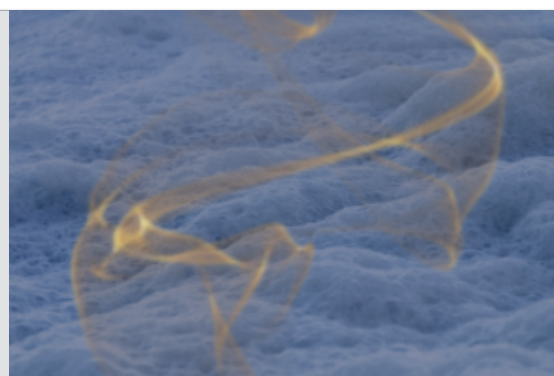
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impossible to

identify with certainty

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

Descriptive



Meditation

dragon like (41:18-21) and  
probably long necked (41:22, 31)

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like and unlike

behemoth in 40:15-24

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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much like

a proud king (41:34)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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not too

big for God (42:2, Isa. 27:1)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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proudly rejected

by the proud (Rom. 1:20-25)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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taken seriously

by Job (42:1-6)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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the last / final

animal in a long series

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\*\*\*

the top

ocean predator (41:33-34)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

\*\*\*

too big to

catch or challenge (41:1-10)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

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used to

teach respect (41:10, 42:1-6)

(Agree? yes, no, partly)

**Directions:** after reading through **Job chapter 41** and **some of the context**, consider and discuss how Leviathan is described above. **Do you agree with the various points?** Would you change any of them in some way? **At the end of the study, discuss the most important descriptive phrases and make applications.** In doing so, notice that several of the descriptive cards make similar points and show that the long chapter was more about restoring Job in his proper humble place than praising Leviathan who was "the king over all the children of pride" (41:34). — © 2022 by Jon F. Mahar, Hakusan City, Japan and Alexander, Maine, U.S.A.

### **What was Leviathan?**

Though it is impossible to know for sure what this likely-now-extinct creature was, it is clear that it was important since God spoke of it at great length. None of the other animals in the preceding chapters are mentioned in such great detail. Moreover, in addition to Job, others in the ancient world knew of this creature since it is mentioned in the Psalms and by Isaiah.

### **How is Leviathan regarded today?**

Those who take the Bible lightly often claim that Leviathan was just a mythical creature. Yet the animals in chapters 39 are obviously real, though it is somewhat unclear exactly what Behemoth in 40:15-24 was. Both Behemoth and Leviathan were so large and powerful that only God could overpower them (40:19, 41:7-10). Moreover, their existence in the time of Job and Abraham is evidence for a young earth.

### ***Leviathan is hopefully. . .* How would YOU finish this line?**

Some may say that they hope that Leviathan is *no longer alive*, since it was / is such a dangerous creature. Others might say that they hope that Leviathan is *still alive* so that it can be proven that he is / was not mythical. On the worksheet, it says that one might hope that Leviathan is *preserved as a fossil*, but, of course, only some characteristics are clearly seen through fossils. For instance, it probably would not be clear from a fossil alone that the breath of the dragon-like Leviathan apparently caused fires (41:20-21).

### **How could a great sea creature cause a fire?**

Though Leviathan swam in the deep and left a wake behind him (41:31-32), the chapter does not say that he never came near shore or ships. In fact, many verses (41:1-2, 25-29) imply that he did. In addition, 41:19-21 in part seems to be about light, phosphorescence perhaps.

### **What Bible character are those who reject Leviathan like?**

As Pharaoh repeatedly rejected the Lord's powerful messages in the ten plagues, each of which displayed God's power in creation, disbelievers today proudly reject Behemoth and Leviathan. Both are viewed as mythical by those who in their pride also regard creation as a myth. Moreover, sadly, not a few believers attempt to tone down the power of the greatest of God's creatures by suggesting that they may have been a hippopotamus and a large shark. Both of these approaches are disrespectful.

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

It must have been humbling to think about the awesome power of Leviathan, since the Lord repeatedly compared its brute strength to the weakness of human beings. It was far too big for Job to catch with a hook (41:1-2) and far too powerful and well protected for anyone to successfully attack with weapons (41:7-10, 26-29). Like Behemoth, Leviathan and even more so its Creator were to be respected.

### **What is the application for us?**

Though Job for the most part did not sin in what he said about his suffering (2:10), he was too bold in asking God to reveal himself and explain everything. As it was foolhardy to attack Leviathan, it was also foolish to oppose God in any way (41:10) including by questioning his goodness or wisdom. Thankfully, Job took the powerful Leviathan object lesson about respect seriously (42:1-6). We should as well.