

# JOB

## Chapter-By-Chapter Through The Greatest Poem in Literature

Session 34 | Job 41:1-34

### Job 40:6-41:34 | The Lord Speaks the Second Time, Job Responds

- Job 40:6-24 included on session 33
- Job 41:1-10 - God's Divine Power Seen Specifically - part 2, the Leviathan.
  - The word **leviathan** is a transliteration of the Hebrew, just like **behemoth**, described in 40:15-24. As in the previous verses, it is transliterated rather than translated because the exact meaning is unknown. The Hebrew word was also used in Job 3:8, but translated as **their mourning** and the reference is a challenge to **raise up** leviathan.
  - What do we know of leviathan?
    - He is mentioned in association with **dragons** in Psalm 74:13, and was given as **meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness**, a reference to food that is spoken of no other place in Scripture.
    - He is said to play in the **great and wide sea** and also mentioned in reference to a food source (Ps. 104:25-27).
    - He is called **the piercing serpent** and **that crooked serpent** in Isaiah 27:1, a passage that is in relation to the coming Day of the Lord.
  - What do others say?
    - The most common interpretation is a crocodile.
    - Bullinger says this is "probably the crocodile" here, but in Isaiah 27:1 says the **dragon** (Hebrew *tannin*) is "the crocodile of Nile."
    - NASB has a footnote for "the crocodile," as do many other translations.
    - *The Message* strangely comes closer to accuracy (one of the few times) when it speaks of "the sea beast, Leviathan."
  - In the end, we can only go by the description given in the text (vv. 1-10). While there are a few (very few) similarities to a crocodile, in the end the description of the creature does not have enough of a match to be a crocodile. Some type of now-extinct "sea monster" seems more fitting.
- Job 41:11-14 - God's Divine Power Seen in Control of Leviathan
  - Verses 11-12 are difficult Hebrew, but it appears that God, for a moment, stops describing Leviathan and speaks of His own control over the creature.
  - In verses 13-14 God challenges others to know the creature like He does.
- Job 41:15-32 – God's Divine Power seen in His Knowledge of Leviathan
  - In these verses, God Himself describes Leviathan, as the only One who can truly describe him.
    - He has scales like armor (v. 15-17).
    - When he sneezes **a light doth shine**. The word **neesings** is an obsolete word for *sneezings* (v. 18).
    - He has **eyelids of the morning**, making it sound as if his eyes glow like the sun (v. 18).
    - He has **sparks of fire leap out** of his mouth (v. 18) and smoke out of his nostrils (v. 19) and **His breath kindleth coals** and **a flame goeth out of his mouth** (vv. 20-21).
    - He has a strong **neck** and turns **sorrow** into **joy** (v. 22).
    - Even the **flakes of his flesh** show strength (the Hebrew word describes the weaker portions, we would say "the folds of his flesh") (v. 23).

- A **heart** which is **firm as a stone** (v. 24).
  - So fearsome that **the mighty are afraid** and they **purify themselves** (likely, spiritually, preparing themselves for their destiny) (v. 25).
  - He is always the victor in battle (vv. 26-30).
  - He makes the sea **boil like a pot** (v. 31) and leaves a shining wake behind him, making **the deep to be hoary** (gray) (v. 32).
- In what way does this sound like a crocodile?
- Job 41:33-34 - God, Supreme over Leviathan
  - While a crocodile may be fearsome, it is not true that **upon earth there is not his like**, nor does the crocodile **beholdeth all high things** nor is he **king over all the children of pride**.
  - So what/who is Leviathan? Could it be the incarnate form of "the beast," which is seen in the last days (of which Job represents?)
    - See Rev. 11:7, 13:1, 13:4 for description.
    - If so, that beast is described as **the beast that was, and is not, and yet is** (Rev. 17:8).
    - Could it be that it **was** in Job's day, it **is not** in our day, and it **yet is** in a future day? If this is the same beast, then his ultimate destiny is **a lake of fire burning with brimstone** (Rev. 19:20).

### [Job 42:1-17 | The Restoration of Job](#)

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- Stay tuned! Coming next week! THE FINAL SESSION OF THE BOOK OF JOB