

The Lord Answers Job

Chapter Forty

Job 40:1-2

“And the LORD said to Job: ‘Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty? He who argues with God, let him answer it.’”

God's Concluding Challenge

- God began His speech by issuing a challenge to Job and now God ends His speech the same way by challenging Job a second time.
- **Shall a faultfinder contend with the Almighty?**
- Job found fault with God for bringing suffering upon him while he was godly.
- Job wanted a face to face meeting with God so he could question God about His injustice and hear how God responded to them.

- “But I would speak to the Almighty, and I desire to **argue** my case with God...Though he slay me, I will hope in him; yet I will **argue** my ways to his face.”-**Job 13:3,15**
- Here in chapter 40, God asked Job if he still desired to **argue with Him** after God reminded him that He is the Creator and Provider, Who does so with wisdom and power.
- God had produced evidence of His wisdom and power and asked Job, if he still desired to **contend with the Almighty**.
- Although Job used court type metaphors to describe how he wanted to face God in a trial, God never does. God came to Job in His grace as a Father and a Teacher.

Job 40:3-5

“Then Job answered the LORD and said:
“Behold, I am of small account; what shall I
answer you? I lay my hand on my mouth.
I have spoken once, and I will not answer;
twice, but I will proceed no further.”

Job Silenced

- We have witnessed throughout our study how Job had prayed to God by expressing his heart with honesty and at times seemingly irreverent.
- Job spoke with a different tone after God had revealed Himself.
- Job believed himself to know more than God about how to manage the universe but now he **will not answer** God but instead he would use his **hand** to stop his **mouth** from speaking again.

- “ If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, **put your hand on your mouth.**”-**Proverbs 30:32**
- “Perhaps one of the most worshipful gestures of all is the uncommon one that Job here performs: covering the mouth with the hand. **The act is a demonstration of total submission.** One can fall on one’s face and yet continue to blubber and babble. But to yield the tongue is to yield everything.”-**Mason, Mike**

- Job recognized that he was a mere man of **small account** with nothing left to say in **answer** to God.
- It is only after Job had been humbled and silenced that God could begin His work in Job's heart.
- The Bible is clear in its teaching about the sinfulness of pride.
- “When pride comes, then comes shame; but with the **humble is wisdom.**”-**Proverbs 11:2**
- As long as man is stubborn and continues to defend himself by arguing with God, He either can't or won't work for us or in us to accomplish His purpose through us!

- Pride falsely exalts man over God, distorts man's thinking about his position before God, and demands that God bless me in light of my righteous deeds whether real or imagined.
- “They that know God will be humble; they that know themselves cannot be proud.”- John Flavel
- “ Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. **Be not wise in your own eyes**; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.”-**Proverbs 3:5-7**
- A Humble person is not wise in his own eyes but is willing to learn. A Prideful person exalts himself, thinks he knows more than everyone else, and doesn't need to learn any more.

- “...because of your **hard and impenitent heart** you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God’s righteous judgment will be revealed.”-**Romans 2:5**
- “Pride must die in you, or nothing of heaven can live in you...Here is the path to the higher life: down, lower down! ... “**Humility** is nothing but the disappearance of self in the vision that God is all...**Humility** is simply the disposition which prepares the soul for living on trust.” - Murray, Andrew
- In bringing Job to this place of humility God was not angry nor harsh towards him. God’s method as He dealt with Job was marked by grace and love producing trust in Job.

- For Paul stated, “do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?”-Romans 2:4
- There is a lesson in the Book of Job for any believer today who starts to complain about particular events in his life and with **pride** and with a self-righteousness attitude suggests that he could offer to God better ways of governing the universe than those God currently uses.
- “Humility, the place of entire dependence on God, is the first duty and the highest virtue of the creature, and the root of every virtue. And so pride, or the loss of this humility, is the root of every sin and evil.”-Murray, Andrew
- “God opposes the **proud**, but gives grace to the **humble**.”-James 4:6

Job 40:6-7

“Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said: ‘Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.’”

God Teaches Job

- Once again God spoke in the midst of the storm, i.e. the **whirlwind**.
- God wasn't finished teaching Job from His creation. There was still more for Job to learn; a lesson that will create within Job a humble and a repentant heart.
- God said to Job as He did when He began speaking to Job in Chapter 38:3, **dress for action like a man**.
- “Resume new strength, and prepare yourself for a second encounter; for I have not yet done with you.” –Trapp, John

Job 40:8-14

“ Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right? Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his? Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him. Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand. Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below. Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you.”

God Questioned Job

- Job had implied earlier that because he couldn't figure out why God would bring suffering to him then God must be unjust.
- God said in response to Job's claim, **Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right?**
- God was reminding Job that He was not Job's equal but in fact superior to Job and because Job is inferior to God he had no right to judge Him.
- “Even if everyone else is a **liar**, God is true. As the Scriptures say about him, ‘**You will be proved right** in what you say, and you will win your **case in court**.’-Romans 3:4; NLT
- “But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, ‘**Why have you made me like this?**’”-Romans 9:20

God's Strength

- The **arm** in Scripture is a sign of strength.
- “for not by their own sword did they win the land, nor did their **own arm** save them, but your right hand and **your arm**, and the light of your face, for you delighted in them.”-Psalm 44:3
- God was asking Job if he thought he was as powerful and strong as Himself.
- “The power of creatures, even of angels themselves, is derived from God, limited by him, dependent on him; but the power of God is original, independent, and unlimited: he can do every thing without us; we can do nothing without him; and therefore we have not an arm like God.”-Benson, Joseph

God And Salvation

- God has the power to **look on everyone who is proud and bring him low** but God also has the power to save.
- “Love the LORD, all you his saints! The LORD preserves the faithful but abundantly repays the one who acts in pride.”-**Psalm 31:23**
- Since Job was powerless to do the things that God was challenging him to do then he was also powerless to **save** himself with his own **right hand**.
- “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the **power of God** for salvation to everyone who believes...”-**Romans 1:16**
- “These verses are presented as an aggressive challenge to Job... But they are lovingly designed to shake Job’s spirit into realizing God is the only Creator and the only Savior there is.”-Smick, Elmer

Job 40:15-24

“Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox. Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly. He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together. His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron.”

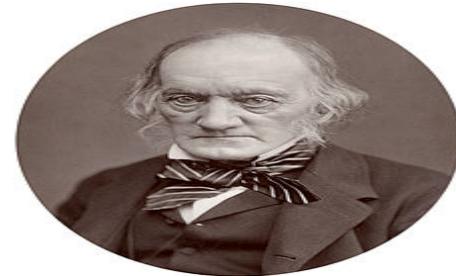
“He is the first of the works of God; let him who made him bring near his sword! For the mountains yield food for him where all the wild beasts play. Under the lotus plants he lies, in the shelter of the reeds and in the marsh. For his shade the lotus trees cover him; the willows of the brook surround him. Behold, if the river is turbulent he is not frightened; he is confident though Jordan rushes against his mouth. Can one take him by his eyes, or pierce his nose with a snare?”

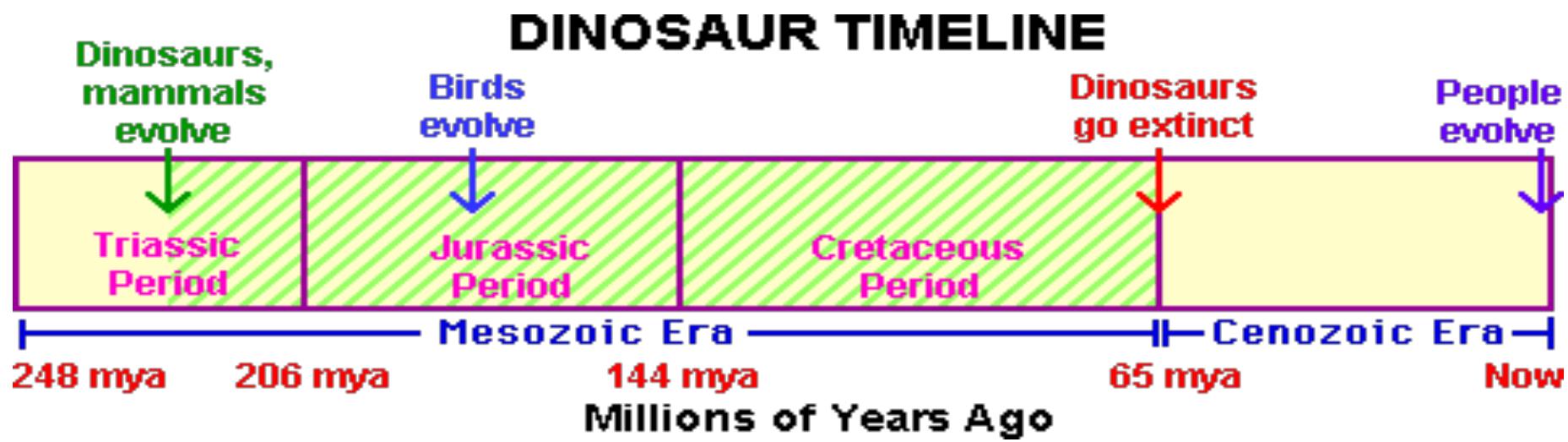
Example Of God's Strength

- God asked Job to consider the mighty **Behemoth** which He **made** as he had **made** Job.
- On the 5th day of creation **God made the beasts of the earth** according to their kinds (Genesis 1:25). He **made** man on the sixth day.
- “O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom have **you made them all**; the earth is full of your creatures.”-**Psalm 104:24**
- The word **Behemoth** means “super beast” and was used of large four legged animals.-BlueletterBible.com

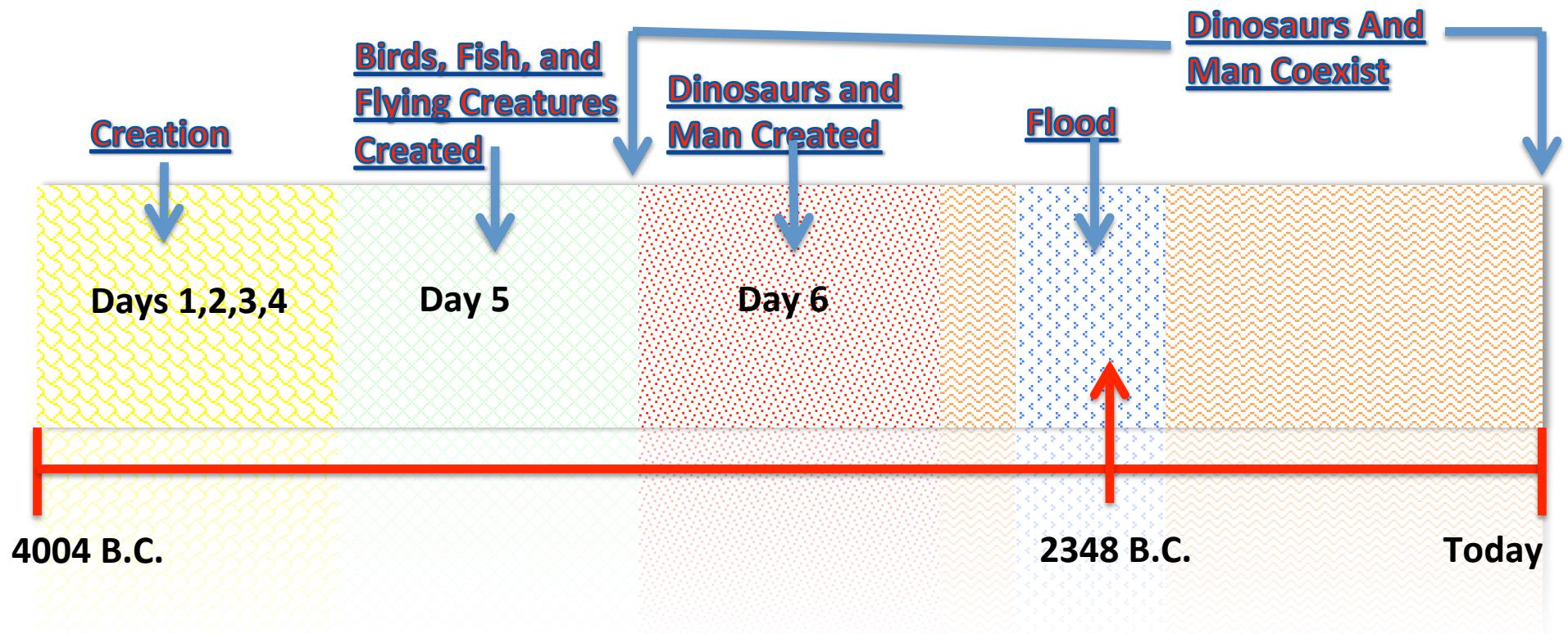
Dinosaur

- The word “dinosaur” means "Terrible Lizard", or "Terrible Reptile" from the Greek *“deinos”* meaning fearfully great, and *“sauros”* meaning lizard
- Dinosaurs are used as proof for evolution.
- The word "dinosaur" is not in the Bible because there was no such word until 1840 when Sir Robert Owen coined the term.



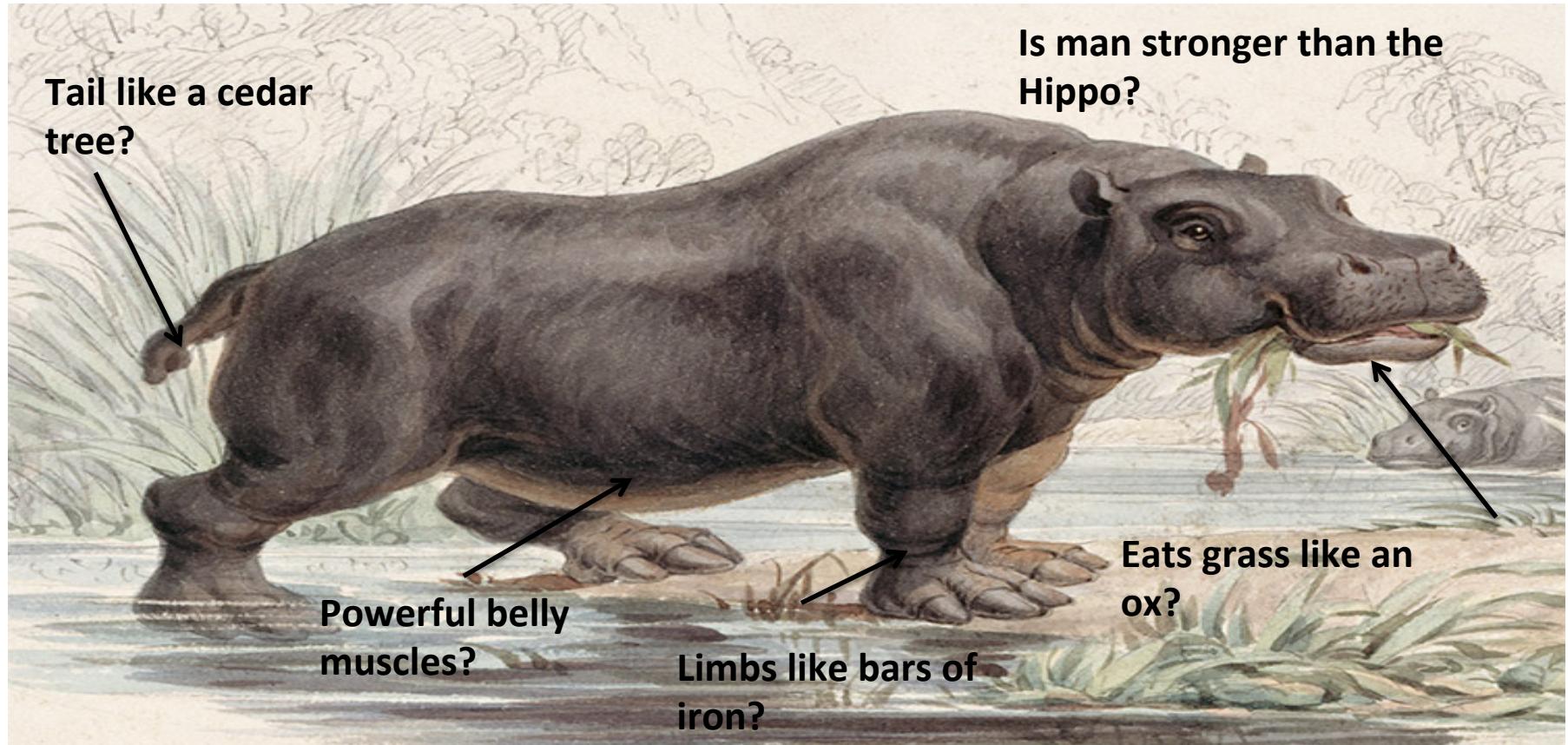


Creation Timeline

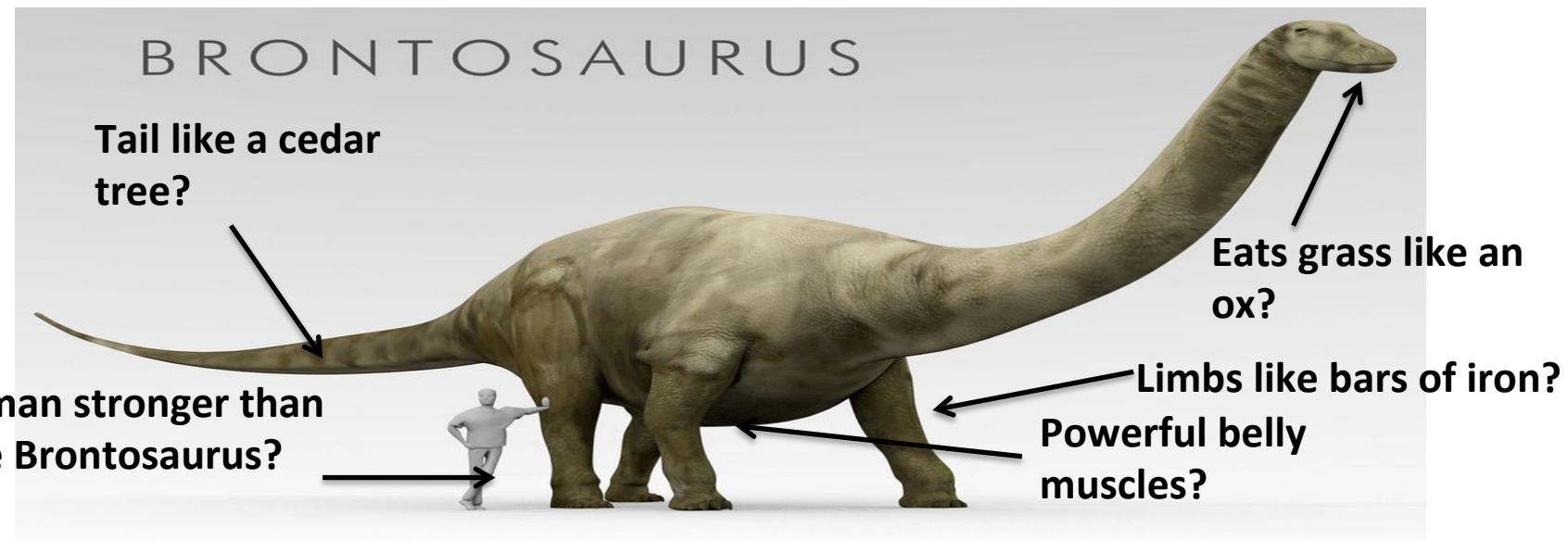


- The exact identity of the **Behemoth** is debated. Some believe the **Behemoth** to be a hippopotamus, or an elephant, or a water buffalo. The hippopotamus is the favorite translation.
- “Hippopotamus” means “river horse” and is considered to be one of the largest, strongest, and most dangerous land creatures in the world.
- NIV: "Possibly the hippopotamus or elephant"
- NASV: "the hippopotamus"
- NKJV: "A large animal, exact identity unknown"

Does this look like the Behemoth in Job 40?



Does This Resemble the Behemoth?



Brontosaurus also known as Apatosaurus was 70-90 feet long and weighed 25-38 tons

- God has painted a clear picture for Job.
- If Job was not stronger than this fellow creature, then how could he ever contend with the God who created the Behemoth?
- Job probably knew the animal that God was referring but may have never considered that God made this powerful animal.
- God intended to humble Job by reminding him of his very limited power as a man compared to the Behemoth.