

The Lord Answers Job

Chapter Forty-One

- “If you want to learn something that will really help you, learn to see yourself as God sees you and not as you see yourself in the distorted mirror of your own self-importance...Plan as you like and arrange everything as best you can, yet you will always encounter some suffering whether you want to or not. Go wherever you will, you will always find the cross...God wants you to learn to endure troubles without comfort, to submit yourself totally to him, and to become more humble through adversity”-Thomas A Kempis
- “It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn your statutes.”-**Psalms 119:71**
- Paul testified that “a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.”-**2 Corinthians 12:2**

Job 41:1-7

“Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord? Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook? Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words? Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever? Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls? Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants? Can you fill his skin with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?”

The Great Leviathan

- This amazing creation of God was so powerful and mighty that a whole chapter is dedicated to him.
- **Leviathan** means “twisting one”.
- Many commentators and scholars believe both **Behemoth** and **Leviathan** to be mythical creatures that are used as a metaphor to describe God’s might and power.
- However, the Bible seems to describe **Behemoth** and **Leviathan** to be real animals that appear elsewhere in scripture apart from the mythical label.
- **Leviathan** is used more often in the Bible than **Behemoth**.

- “Even the beasts (Behemoth) of the field pant for you because the water brooks are dried up, and fire has devoured the pastures of the wilderness.”-**Joel 1:20**
- “You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.”-**Psalms 74:14**
- “There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to a play in it.”-**Psalms 104:26**
- “In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.”-**Isaiah 27:1**

- Isaiah points to all three names of Leviathan, who although a real animal, became a representation of Satan because of the beauty and power of this creature (Genesis 3; Revelation 12).
- God chose the mighty Leviathan in order to demonstrate to Job how powerless he was against this animal.
- Job's only answer to God's line of questioning would have been, "I can't".
- "Even as Job was powerless against Leviathan (as all men are), so he was also powerless against an unleashed Satan set against him. Only God could defeat Leviathan and Satan. "Satan may be typified here by behemoth and leviathan. Be that as it may, the question left with Job was this: 'Canst thou?' Thus he was called to the recognition of his own impotence in many directions, and at the same time to a remembrance of the power of God." – Morgan, G. Campbell

Job 41:8-11

“ Lay your hands on him; remember the battle you will not do it again! Behold, the hope of a man is false; he is laid low even at the sight of him. No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he who can stand before me? Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.”

Man Against Leviathan

- If a man was to **lay** a **hand** on Leviathan it would have been a **battle** that he would **remember** and not want to **do it again**.
- A single man did not **dare to stir him up** and would have had a false **hope** to overcome him because at the mere **sight** of Leviathan man is **laid low**.
- In the first section of chapter 41, verses 1-7, God asked Job if he could capture Leviathan, but upon seeing this creature men fall down probably with fear.
- If man respected and feared Leviathan then how much more should man respect and fear the creator Who made this monster.

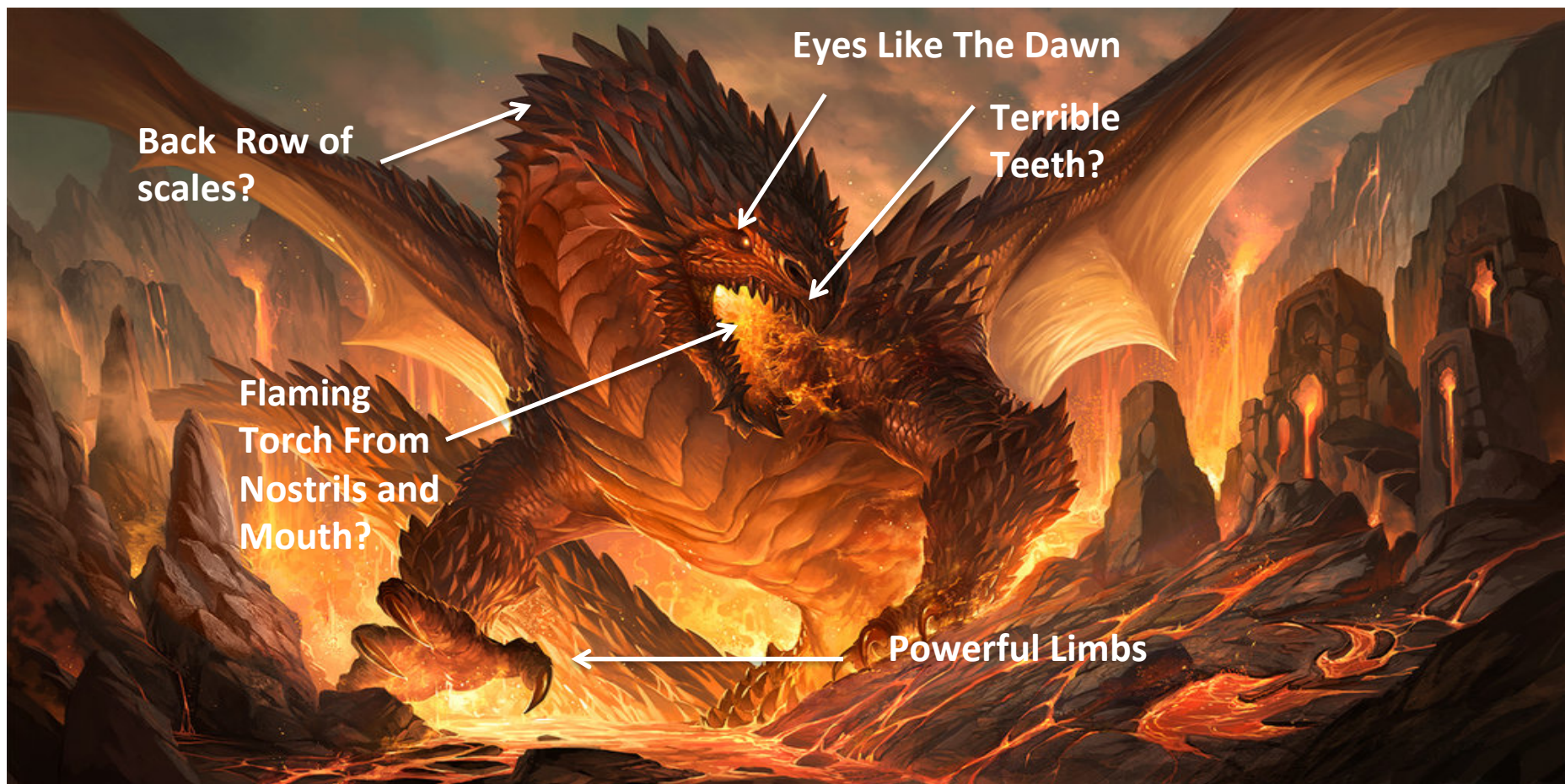
- God's point was since Job cannot challenge nor want to challenge Leviathan then how could he ever hope to **stand against** the God who made and rules Leviathan?
- This was another effective way of teaching Job about his position before God.
- A teaching in this portion of Scripture is that God has dominion and rule over the animal Leviathan who seems to symbolize Satan, a creature whom God also is sovereign over.

Job 41:12-21

“I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, or his mighty strength, or his goodly frame. Who can strip off his outer garment? Who would come near him with a bridle? Who can open the doors of his face? Around his teeth is terror. His back is made of rows of shields, shut up closely as with a seal. One is so near to another that no air can come between them. They are joined one to another; they clasp each other and cannot be separated. His sneezings flash forth light, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the dawn. Out of his mouth go flaming torches; sparks of fire leap forth. Out of his nostrils comes forth smoke, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes. His breath kindles coals, and a flame comes forth from his mouth.”

A Description Of Leviathan

- The description of Leviathan, **around his teeth is terror. His back is made of rows of shields** has proved to some that the mighty Leviathan is a crocodile.
- The proof is shallow at best because although a crocodile has terrifying teeth and rows of scales on his body he does not shoot flames from his **nostrils** and fire from his **mouth**.
- The description of Leviathan seems to be of an actual dragon.
- Legends of dragons date back as far as the ancient Sumerians and almost all cultures around the world have legends of great beasts called dragons.
- Are these merely mythological creatures, or are these legends founded upon real history?



Back Row of
scales?

Eyes Like The Dawn

Terrible
Teeth?

Flaming
Torch From
Nostrils and
Mouth?

Powerful Limbs

“Moreover, dinosaurs, in the form of flying reptiles, were a feature of Welsh life until surprisingly recent times. As late as the beginning of the present century, elderly folk at Penllin in Glamorgan used to tell of a colony of winged serpents that lived in the woods around Penllin Castle. As Marie Trevelyan tells us ‘The woods around Penllin Castle, Glamorgan, had the reputation of being frequented by winged serpents, and these were the terror of old and young alike. An aged inhabitant of Penllyne, who died a few years ago, said that in his boyhood the winged serpents were described as very beautiful. They were coiled when in repose, and ‘looked as if they were covered with jewels of all sorts. Some of them had crests sparkling with all the colours of the rainbow. When disturbed they glided swiftly, sparkling all over, to their hiding places. When angry, they flew over people’s heads, with outspread wings, bright, and sometimes with eyes too, like the feathers in a peacock’s tail’. He said it was ‘no old story invented to frighten children’, but a real fact. His father and uncle had killed some of them, for they were as bad as foxes for poultry. The old man attributed the extinction of the winged serpents to the fact that they were ‘terrors in the farmyards and coverts’”.-COOPER, After The Flood

Chinese Mud Dragon Fossil

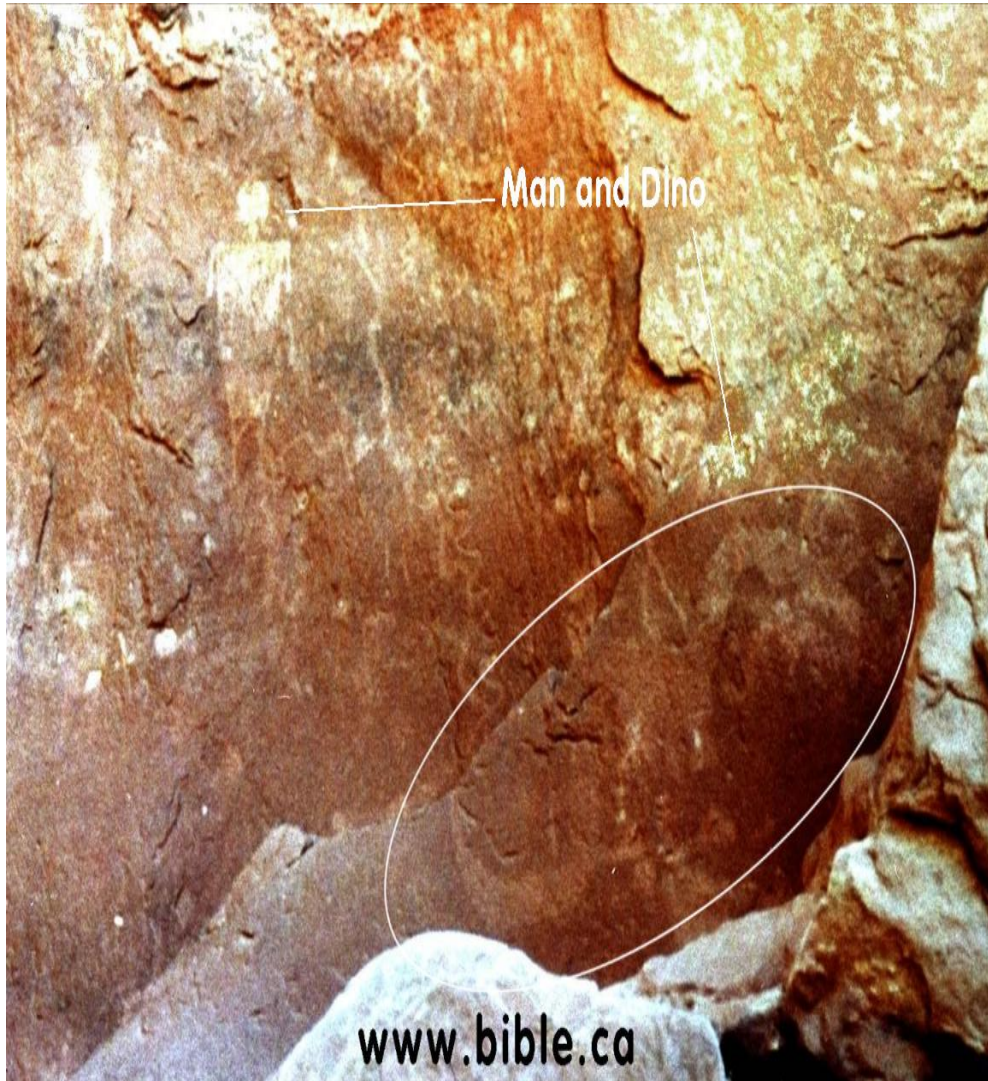


Medieval Decorations



St. George Slaying A Dragon

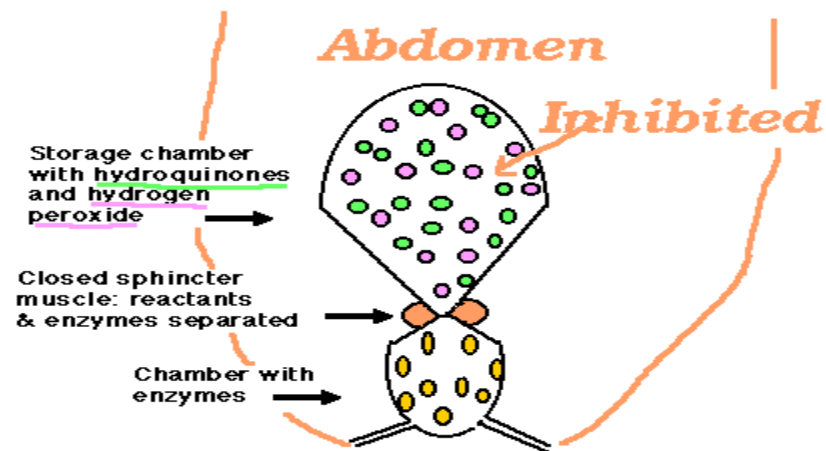
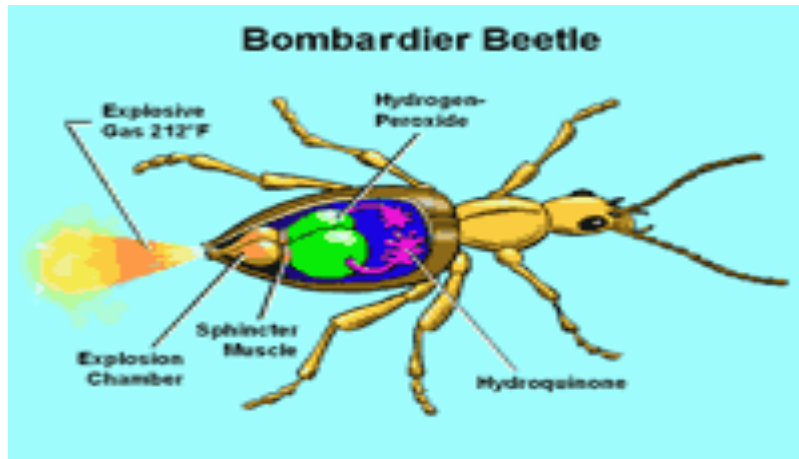




BOMBARDIER BEETLE



"Bombardier beetles [1/2" in size] store two separate chemicals (hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide) that are NOT mixed until threatened. When this occurs the two chemicals are squirted through 2 tubes, where they are mixed along with small amounts of catalytic enzymes. When these chemicals mix they undergo a violent “exothermic” chemical reaction. The boiling, [200 degrees Fahrenheit] foul smelling liquid partially becomes a gas and is expelled with a loud popping sound."



Job 41:22-34

“In his neck abides strength, and terror dances before him. The folds of his flesh stick together, firmly cast on him and immovable. His heart is hard as a stone, hard as the lower millstone. When he raises himself up the mighty are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves. Though the sword reaches him, it does not avail, nor the spear, the dart, or the javelin. He counts iron as straw, and bronze as rotten wood. The arrow cannot make him flee; for him sling stones are turned to stubble. Clubs are counted as stubble; he laughs at the rattle of javelins. His underparts are like sharp potsherds; he spreads himself like threshing sledge on the mire. He makes the deep boil like a pot; he makes the sea like a pot of ointment. Behind him he leaves a shining wake; one would think the deep to be white-haired. On earth there is not his like, a creature without fear. He sees everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride.”

The Strength Of Leviathan

- The section concludes by stressing Leviathan's fearless might and strength.
- If Job could not create fear in one of God's creatures then how foolish it was for Job to think he could bully God.
- **When he raises himself up the mighty are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves.**
- The weapons of man are useless against the strength of Leviathan.

- God chose both the Behemoth and the Leviathan to teach Job that he could not subdue, control, or manipulate these mighty creatures that He had made.
- "The argument to the superior strength of God is made, not to discourage men from trying to have dealings with God, but to enhance God's capability of managing the affairs of the universe so that men will trust Him."- Anderson, Francis
- "Animals independent of man (38:39—39:30) and animals dangerous and repulsive to man (40:15—41:34) were all a grand zoological exhibition to help Job sense that because he had nothing to do with making, sustaining, or even subduing them, it was unthinkable that he could question their Creator."-Zuck, Roy