

The Glory of God in Creation

(5) Saturday: Job 38. 9 – 39.30 – Behemoth & Leviathan

The previous section (in yesterdays talk) reminds us that the subject of these chapters is salvation (40.14) – The Lord has said that if a man is as God is – all powerful and wise – then he may be able to save himself – but the opposite is being established – man – all of us – are deluded about our wisdom, strength and righteousness – Job has now begun to see this (v4 – behold I am vile) as seen yesterday – but the Lord has 2 further creatures to drive the point home – and has saved the best and greatest until last. Was Job not sufficiently affected and humbled – it appeared so, but the Lord knows our hearts – we are very stubborn and proud – we must be brought to point of full submission to Him:

V15 – **Behold now Behemoth** Behold – the Lord is telling Job to stop, to take in the wonder of this animal – not just look at, or think about – but take in all his being – a thing of wonder. Let it dawn on the mind what an awesome animal this was.

What was it? Some debate – some say a hippo but the language seems too extravagant – in particular the tail (v17 – he moveth his tail like a cedar) – hippo has a small tail – many believe this was one of the very large dinosaurs – the biggest ones were herbivores – weighing up to 40 tons. He has great strength – a hippos is strong, but an elephant probably stronger – why select a hippo – this magnificent creature was immensely strong (v19 - his bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron) and he is described as “the chief of the ways of God” (v19)

Ch 41 – **Leviathan** The Hebrew word speaks of twisting and coiling – a serpentine sea creature – that none dared to approach. Some think it is a crocodile – but again the language and detail suggest something altogether bigger and more fearsome – crocodiles can be killed – but this creature cannot be harmed – you cannot tame or befriend it. Again, very likely to be one of the now extinct huge sea creatures. The Lord uses it to speak of His own superiority and invincibility (v10 – 11) – “Who then is able to stand before me..... whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine” – remember the Lord is using these creatures to show His own superiority, invincibility and authority in all things.

This animal makes the deep to boil (v31) and leaves a trail in his wake – as the water shimmers and churns as he passes - - and v33 “upon the earth is not his like” – this is the Lord’s final example of his created animals – and we see in Ch 42 the final desired and appropriate response from Job – what of us – how do we compare – are we unmoved, out of touch with our need – not seeing awesome God of Heaven and Earth – or are we humbled – ready to bow the knee – knowing He is not only all powerful and supreme, but merciful and kind – look at how he has dealt with Job – He had true spiritual welfare in view though all his experiences.

READ 41.1 – 6 – Job’s wonderful confession – now finally fully realises who God is – he had only heard of Him – but now has seen Him (v5) = what of us – we have heard of Him – but will we see Him with the eye of faith and repent of our sin before a pure and holy God - Then was Job more blessed than ever before – and so may it be with each one.

