

JOB

Please turn in your Bibles this evening to Job chapter 40 as we continue our study through the Word of God and we finish up this fascinating book. In our last study, starting in Job chapter 38, we saw God speak out of the whirlwind. God has been patient but now He steps in and He speaks forth His power, His might, something that Job did not have. In fact, He said that Job “**... darkens counsel By words without knowledge?**” Job 38:2.

And think about this, for some 36 chapters Job and his friends were trying to figure out the hows and whys of God and they missed it by a long shot. And you would think that God is now going to tell them why all this has happened to Job, but He doesn't. In these series of some 70 questions by God what God is going to do is show that even though you don't understand everything, and you don't, you need to trust in the Lord.

Now that is not really a comfort unless you know the attributes of God; that He is loving, that He is patient, that He is longsuffering and-so-on. You see, once you have that perspective you will not be lead off course. But for Job, he lost that perspective and he was blaming God for all that came upon him and that was wrong. So God is trying to get him refocused, He is trying to get him to look up instead of looking at all that has come upon his life and to trust in the One who loves him so much, ***GOD!***

With that as our background, let's begin reading in Job chapter 40, starting in verse 1 and see what the Lord has for us as we study through His Word. And again, keep in mind that God is speaking to Job, all the others have fled from this storm, and God continues to speak to Job through this whirlwind!

JOB 40**VERSES 1-2**

1. God is putting Job on the spot you might say. He is asking Job, “Are you trying to instruct me? Are you trying to correct what I am doing? Do you really think that I got this wrong?” God is trying to show Job who He is and who Job is and Job is not God. And I think after hearing from God in Job chapters 38 and 39 Job was in awe of God and as we will see, he is broken before God. He understood who God was and who he was!

2. Now don't be too hard on Job because we do this in our own lives. Think about it, when we pray we might say, “Lord, this is what needs to be done.” Really, aren't we telling God what He needs to do? Absolutely and that is absolutely wrong. God knows what is best and thus, we need to leave it up to Him because I will guarantee you that we will always take the easy way out and sometimes God wants us to go through the valley of the shadow of death! Don't tell God what to do, let Him know what is on your heart and pray that His will is done in a situation. It is not my will that is to be done, but His. May we not forget that!

3. Now let's see what Job has to say, how he will answer the Lord's question. And as you will see, it is not going to be long and drawn out because he has recognized that there is only one God and it is not Job!

VERSES 3-5

1. As we have seen, Job had much to say before he had this encounter with God. Now why did he have so much to say before? I think it was because his eyes were focused on his situation. But now that God has his attention and his eyes are focused upon God, he has very little to say. He rightly recognized his error and he saw himself in the light of God and now he is ready to listen to God. It is as Proverbs 10:19 says, **“In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.”**

Remember the words of Isaiah as he saw the Lord, **“In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!’ And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: ‘Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The Lord of hosts.’”** Isaiah 6:1-5.

You see, when you truly have an encounter with God, who is holy, you will see yourself as you really are and that is what we see here with Isaiah and with Job. In fact, before you can even be saved you have to see yourself as a sinner separated from God. You have to humble yourself before Him and then, as you grow in the Lord you realize how much of a sinner you are compared to a holy God!

2. Now, as we have seen, Job's whole tone changed but why? Did his circumstances change? No they did not! He was still in misery, he was still in pain, he had lost almost everything that he once had. Then what changed in his life? Now he realized that God was not his enemy, God had not forsaken him, but God loved him and knew what was best for his life. His perspective is upward and not outward. It is upon God and not upon the circumstances that he was facing and if we understand that, nothing will move us from the course that God has for our lives!

VERSES 6-7

1. The Lord uses the same idea as He did back in Job 38:3 calling for Job to brace himself, prepare himself because there is more that he needs to learn out of all this. God was not done showing Job who He is and He was now going to show Job through creation, the wonders of what He did and He will challenge Job through all this. It is as Trapp wrote, "Resume new strength, and prepare yourself for a second encounter; for I have not yet done with you."

VERSES 8-14

1. As you read this you might be thinking that God is being hard on Job but He is not. He wants Job to take a good look at where he was at, what he was saying, the way he felt about God and himself. And what God is going to show Job is that there are many things that he doesn't know, not only why this is happening to him!

Now to do this God challenged Job to do these things that only God can do. As Job recognized his inability, it reminded him of his proper place before God. And that is important not only for Job but for all of us!

2. And I believe the climax here is that because Job could not do these things that God can do, then neither can he save himself! You see, God was trying to shake Job up and He wants Job to see that there is only One Creator and One Savior!

3. What the Lord spoke to Job is still important for us to understand today because there still is only One Creator and One Savior! We can't save ourselves, never could and we will never be able to! Peter tells us in Acts 4:12, "**Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**" Clarke sums it up for us like this, "In other words: Salvation belongeth unto the Lord; no man can save his own soul by works of righteousness which he *has* done, *is* doing, or *can* possibly do, to all eternity. Without Jesus every human spirit must have perished everlastingly. Glory be to God for his unspeakable gift!" Amen to that!

VERSES 15-24

1. Before we get to what this Behemoth is, notice what God said here. He is telling Job that He not only created this massive Behemoth, but also little Job! God wants Job to understand that He is the Creator and Job is not. And this tells me that Job and Behemoth lived together, they were around at the same time or why would God tell Job to look at a mythical or extinct creature. He wouldn't!

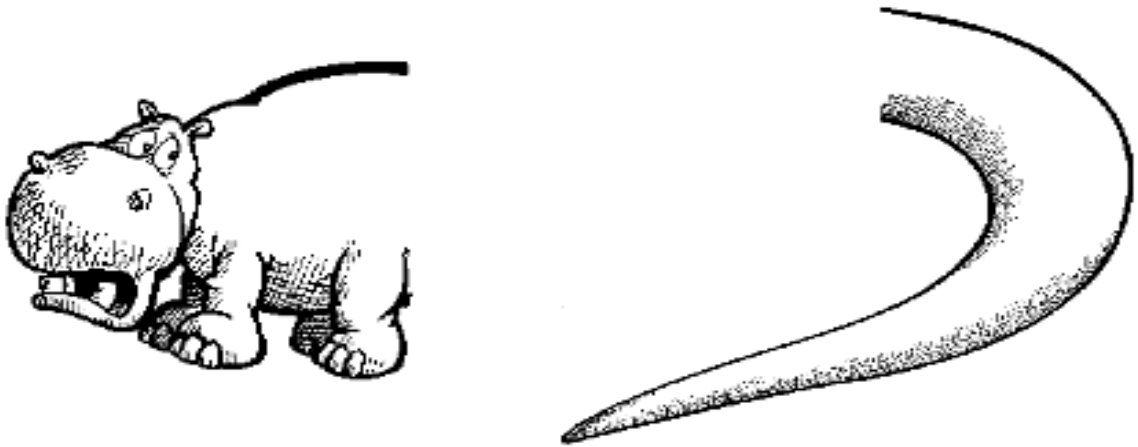
2. Now that brings us to the big question, “Who or what is Behemoth?” My Bible has a footnote saying that this Behemoth is “A large animal, exact identity unknown.” Some may translate it as being an elephant, rhinoceros, water buffalo, or hippopotamus, which are all wrong, and I will show you why.

First of all this creature lived with man, was created with man. It was a land animal that also lived in the water, the marsh. It was also an herbivore or ate grass. It was also a massive creature that had a tail like a cedar tree. Now knowing that and what the tails of the various animals we mentioned are like, they can all be excluded. It was the largest animal known to Job and it was powerful.

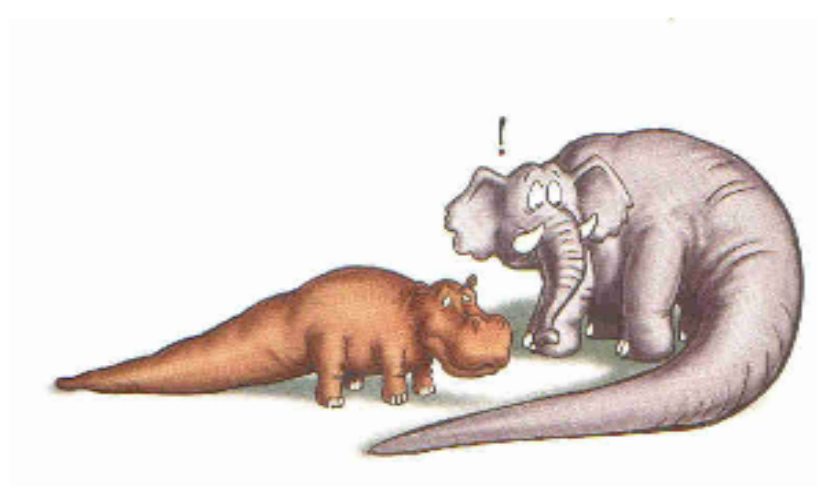
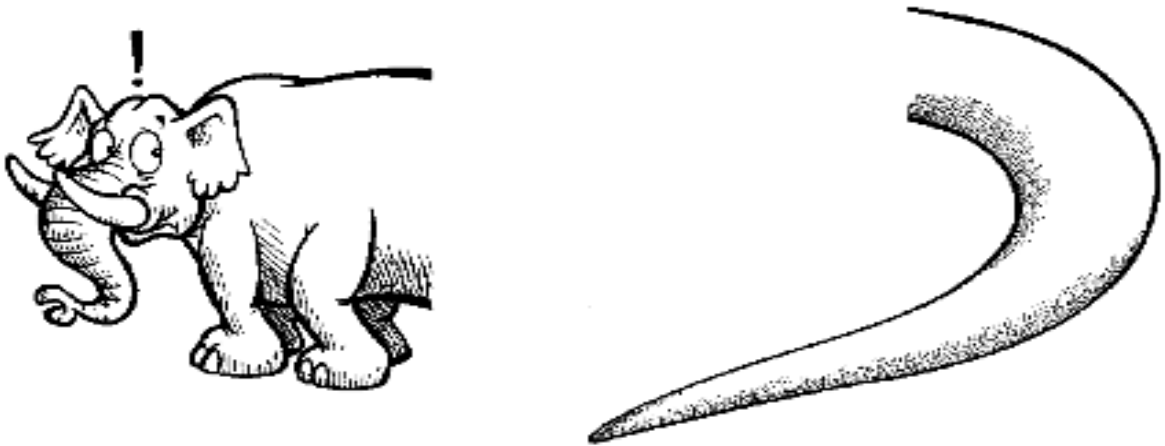
Can we know what this was then? I do think we can know what this animal is, and I think it is a dinosaur. Then why do many Bibles say in their footnotes that it is a hippo or elephant or water buffalo instead of a dinosaur? Because man and dinosaurs did not live together, at least that is what evolutionists say and thus, the only other explanation is to make it a hippo or some other large animal to fit the picture, and it doesn't work, not even close!

It is almost comical when you think about the tail of Behemoth and the tail of a hippo or an elephant. And it is also sad because these people reject that God created this dinosaur on the sixth day of creation, the same day He created man! Look at this picture and you tell me if what they are saying fits the facts.

Hippos do **not** have tails like cedar trees !



Elephants do **not** have tails like a cedar tree!



Now please understand that I can't say this with 100% accuracy, but it seems from the description that is given that the Behemoth was a Brachiosaurus. This dinosaur was huge, measuring some 75 feet in length and 41 feet in height and weighing in at about 89 tons. So as you read what the Lord said to Job, you can picture this huge dinosaur as he rested in the waters, feeding on vegetation.

Now here is the problem for some. Evolutionists believe that dinosaurs evolved around 235 million years ago, long before man evolved. Then, around 65 million years ago they became extinct, some believe they turned into birds, but that is one big bird, no pun intended! According to evolutionists, man came on the scene about 1.8 million years ago. So they are saying, basically that there is about 65 million years between the extinction of the dinosaur and the emergence of man!

Like it or not, and I do like it, we do have some evidence that man and dinosaurs did live together, there was not 65 million years between them as evolutionists say. In the Paluxy River Valley, near Glen Rose Texas, we have dinosaur footprints side-by-side with human footprints. The Dallas Crime Lab Forensic Department came to the conclusion that the human footprints were indeed human, without a doubt.

There are also cave drawings that look like dinosaurs and thus, they drew what they saw not what was extinct some 65 million years ago. And please, the earth is not even a million years old, creation occurred some 6,000 years ago but I will use there timeframe to show you how foolish this is.

An example of Native American rock art carved into the walls of Grand Canyon was discovered in 1879 by E. L. Doheny and documented in 1924 by a scientific expedition which included Dr. Charles W. Gilmore, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, United States National Museum. The resulting publication reported as “fact” that “some prehistoric man made a pictograph of a dinosaur on the walls of this canyon. . . .” *Doheny Scientific Expedition*, p.5. Recently someone used it as a target practice and you can see a bullet hole at the base of the tail. It shows just how old the etchings must be since the fresh bullet mark cuts through the thick “rock varnish.”

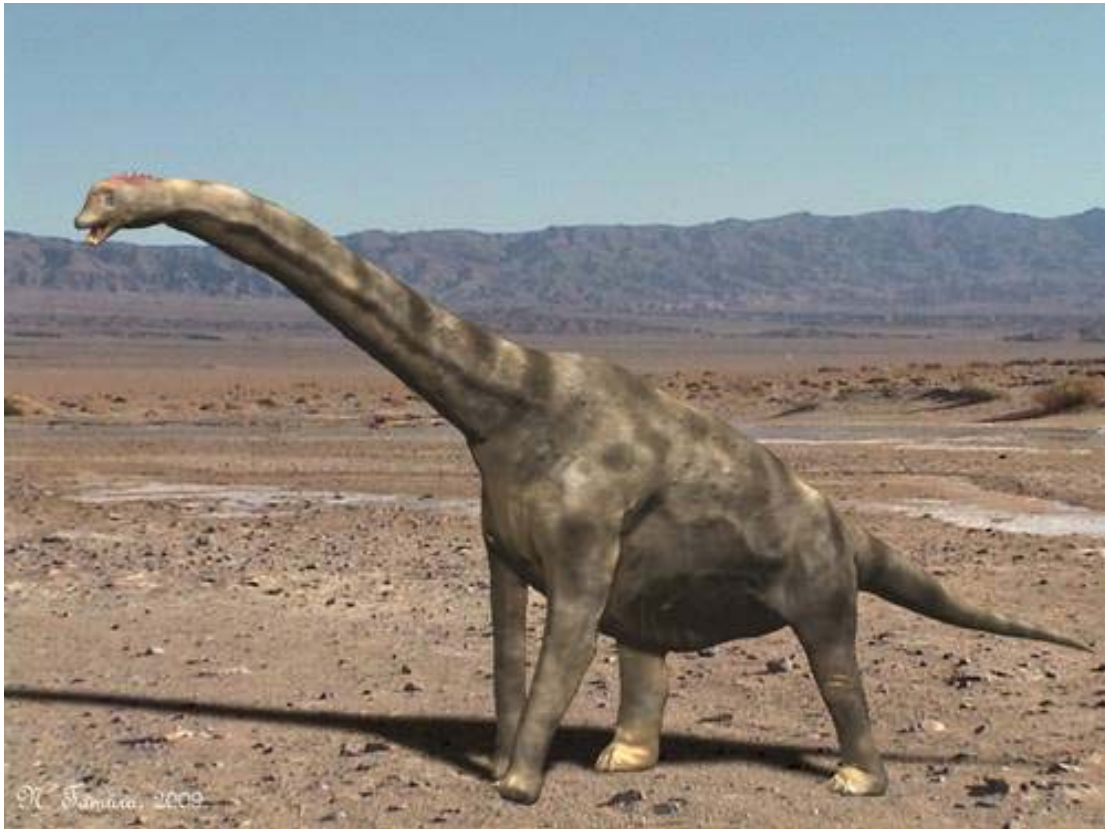


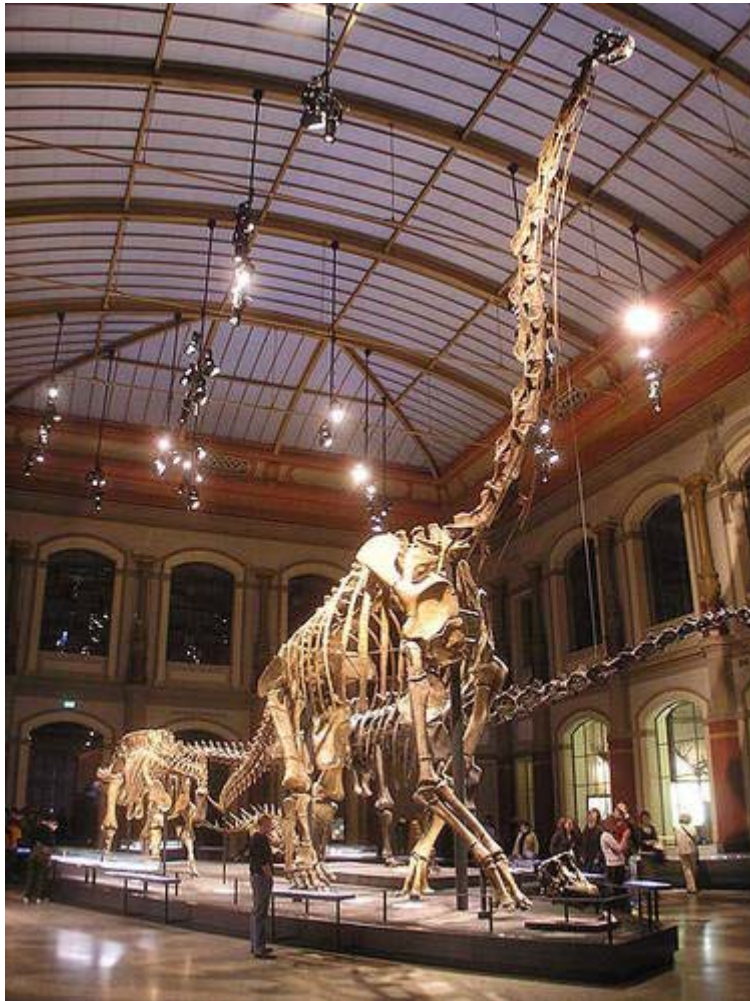
Let me show you one more. As you look at this picture you not only see a dinosaur but you see a man with him. This most likely is a picture of a brachiosaurus or what was called Behemoth. The park literature attributes the petroglyphs or prehistoric rock drawing to the Anasazi who inhabited the area from approximately A. D. 400 to A. D. 1300.



Then what happened to the dinosaurs? Like I have said, many plants, animals, all kinds of creatures have become extinct because the environment could not sustain them. After the flood things were much different, there was not that lush vegetation anymore throughout the world. And yes, some dinosaurs survived and there are even reports of some living in the jungles today, but most are extinct! And many plants and animals are in danger or have become extinct even in our day.

So I believe that dinosaurs and man lived together some 6,000 years ago and this behemoth that God spoke of was probably a brachiosaurs. Keep in mind that the Brontosaurus is not a real dinosaur, they put the wrong head on him! Here are some pictures of a brachiosaurs or behemoth.





3. Now you may think that my explanation for Behemoth is wild, wait to you hear what this creature known as Leviathan is all about in chapter 41.

JOB 41

VERSES 1-11

1. Again we see the Lord trying to get Job to focus upward and He does this by pointing out the Leviathan, a creature that Job was fully aware of. And God is saying to Job that if he cannot even contend with this creature Leviathan, how in the world will he be able to contend with God who created him! You see, God is trying to get Job to put God in his position and Job in his. God's point with this description of Leviathan is to show Job just how powerless he is against this creature. There is nothing that Job can do against this mighty monster.

Now who is this creature? In one of my Bibles the footnote tells me that Leviathan was "a large creature, identity unknown." Some of your Bibles may say that he is a crocodile or even a whale. Some feel it is just a mythical creature, it was not real or it is speaking of Satan, but I don't believe that is what the Lord is saying here. Yes, we may be able to see a picture of Satan emerge from this description, but make no mistake about it, this is a real creature that God created and we will see in a few minutes what this creature is all about, who I think he is.

VERSES 12-21

1. Now here is the key to who Leviathan is, at least for me. Besides having lots of teeth and scales like armor, he has something that separates him from any creature that is living today. This creature is able to breathe fire out of his mouth. Thus, Leviathan most likely is a fire breathing dragon that lives in the sea. Now for some of you that is hard to believe. But do you believe that there is a creature that can defend itself by sending forth a stream of noxious spray that shoots forth at the boiling point of water, leaving its predator gasping behind? This creature is known as the bombardier beetle. We also have fireflies, electric eels and-so-on, that if someone had to try and explain them, they may find it hard to believe.

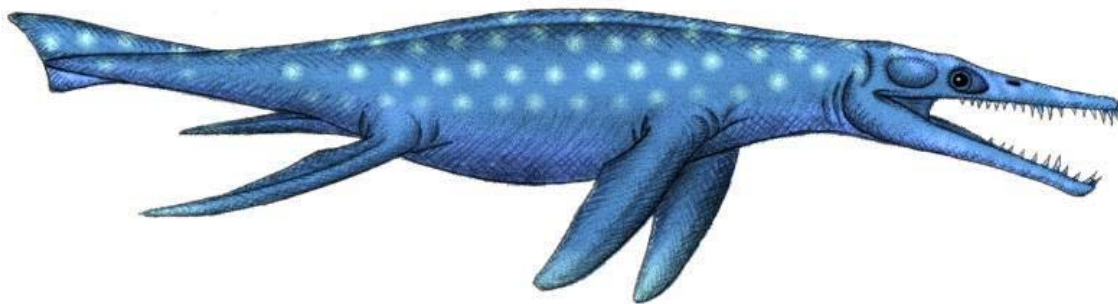
I think that Leviathan is a dinosaur who breathes fire out of his mouth like a dragon and he lived in the water. And think about all the ancient legends about fire-breathing dragons, could they be real? It is possible. As you look at the fossil remains of some dinosaurs they have some very strange breathing passages in their skulls that may be chambers from which to produce fire from. Again, think again of this bombardier beetle and how it can explode noxious gas from its back end to ward off predators – no comments guys! Look at the firefly and the electric eel; don't write something off just because you don't see it today. God is very clear on what this creature could do and He should know because He created Leviathan!

And like I have said, I don't think that all dinosaurs are extinct. Some have survived the cataclysmic changes that took place after the flood. Many make fun of the Loch Ness Monster that has been reported for the last 1,400 years with over 3,000 sightings. Back in 1977, off the coast of New Zealand, a Japanese fishing crew hauled into their boat a creature that was 30 feet long with a husky neck some 5 feet long, weighing some 4,000 pounds. This dead creature that they studied and took pictures of looks very much like a dinosaur known as the Plesiosaur's. And this creature looks very similar to the Loch Ness monster. The only problem is that this creature was supposed to be extinct some 65 million years ago. But it seems that some are still alive today! So I believe that Leviathan was a fire breathing dragon that lived in water.

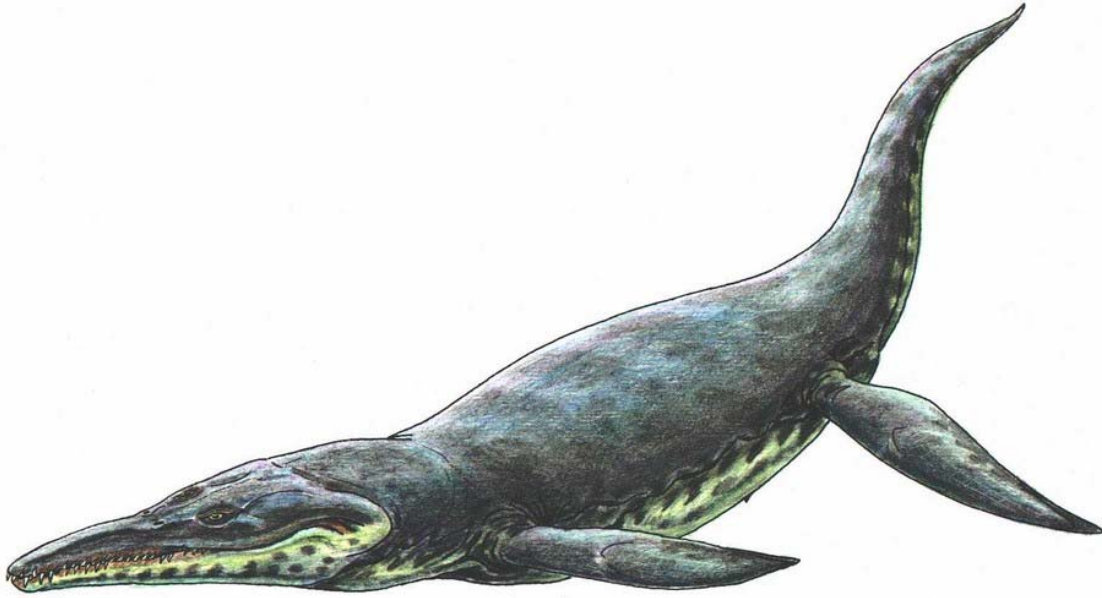
It is possible that Leviathan comes from the large marine reptile known as *kronosaurus queenslandicus*, which is a type of plesiosaur, like what many feel Loch Ness is. This creature, the *kronosaurus* measured over 42 feet in length and according to one author, "Its skull was flat-topped and massively long, measuring 9 feet/2.7m – almost a quarter of the total body length, and therefore substantially larger and more powerful than that of the greatest carnivorous dinosaur, *Tyrannosaurus*." And believe it or not, there is another plesiosaur that is even bigger, maybe 40 percent larger than this one, with estimates of its overall length being 55 to 66 feet in length and a weight of 50 tons!

Of this creature, Leviathan, Adam Clarke wrote, "The Septuagint has *Axeis de drakonta*? 'Canst thou draw out the DRAGON?' The Syriac and the Arabic have the same." It is interesting that they chose "dragon" as the word to translate the Hebrew into Greek in describing this creature, but that is what it sounds like, a fire breathing dragon that lives in the sea!

Here are some pictures of what this creature, Leviathan may have looked like. Keep in mind that fossils don't tell us what the skin was like; it only shows us what the skeletal features were.



<http://home.alphalink.com.au/~dannj/kronos.htm>



<http://www.examiner.com/creationism-in-national/kronosaurus-photo>

VERSES 22-34

1. I believe that this creature that God is describing is the one He created on day five of that creation week, when He created the sea animals and the birds of the air. I believe that this was a real creature or what would be the point in God speaking like this if he was just mythical or to represent Satan as some believe. Job did not even have enough power to deal with this creature and yet he wants to deal with God. It is a wake up call for Job.

2. Now in saying that, when you come to last verse of this chapter the wording changes and it seems that the dragon that God is speaking of is the dragon found in the book of Revelation, Satan! We are told in Revelation chapter 12, **“And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads and ten horns, and seven diadems on his heads. His tail drew a third of the stars of heaven and threw them to the earth. . . . And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”** Revelation 12:3-4, 7-9. And it could be that God is giving us a picture of Satan in this creature called Leviathan but make no mistake about it, Leviathan was real and Job was aware of this creature that lived in the sea and breathed fire from his mouth!

Let’s look at a few things to show you how this could also point to Satan, the one who brought all this upon Job.

- Out of his mouth go burning lamps or fiery darts (v. 19). Notice what we are told of Satan in Ephesians 6:16, **“above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”** Satan does launch fiery darts at us and our faith is able to quench them!
- His heart is hard as a stone (v. 24). Throughout Scripture, when people turn against God, they are described as those with hard hearts.
- In the Book of Revelation, Satan is referred to as a dragon and will be cast into the lake of fire, where he will make the deep to boil like a pot (v. 31).

- Satan is indeed the king over all the children of pride (v. 34), for pride was his own downfall as Isaiah 14:12-17 tells us, **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, And consider you, saying: ‘Is this the man who made the earth tremble, Who shook kingdoms, Who made the world as a wilderness And destroyed its cities, Who did not open the house of his prisoners?’”** You will also see this of Lucifer or Satan in Ezekiel 28:12-19. It was pride that brought him down and it is pride that brings us down. Apart from Christ we are children of Satan and not children of God!

3. There are several Bible passages that speak of Leviathan or this sea serpent.

- Psalm 74:12-14 refers to Leviathan as a sea serpent, and that God broke the head of the Leviathan long ago, perhaps at the creation.
- Psalm 104:26 also refers to Leviathan as a sea creature.
- Isaiah 27:1 speaks of the *future* defeat of Leviathan, also associating it with a *twisted serpent* that lives *in the sea*.
- Isaiah 51:9 and Psalm 89-8-10 also speak of a serpent associated with the sea that God defeated as a demonstration of His great strength, and identifies this serpent with the name *Rahab*, meaning *proud one*.
- Job 26:12-13 also refers to God’s piercing defeat of a fleeing serpent associated with the sea.

4. Now, as we move into chapter 42 we will see Job speak and confess his lack of understanding before God. He is learning to trust in the Lord and not his own emotions or feelings!

JOB 42**VERSES 1-3**

1. Job recognizes his error. He saw that he spoke without knowledge. And he now sees God in the correct light, which places him in the right light. The God who can master Behemoth and Leviathan (Job 40 and 41) can also accomplish every purpose in Job's life, including the mysterious meaning behind the twists and turns. Leviathan means "twisting one."

You see, it is one thing to hear God but quite another thing to encounter God. It was this encounter that Job had with God that caused him to see himself as a sinner and he will repent of his sin. Remember Isaiah's encounter with God, we read it earlier this evening and this encounter with God lead to the following response by Isaiah. "**... 'Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.'**"

Isaiah 6:5.

2. Now I think Psalm 131 sums up what Job is expressing here. In Psalm 131 we are told, **“Lord, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me. Surely I have calmed and quieted my soul, Like a weaned child with his mother; Like a weaned child is my soul within me. O Israel, hope in the Lord From this time forth and forever.”**

3. And now we will see the repentance of Job. He saw his error as God opened his eyes and now he will repent. That is godly sorrow because godly sorrow leads to repentance, it leads to a change in our life. It is a change back to God!

VERSES 4-6

1. Here we see the repentance of Job and the idea here, with these words, **“I abhor myself”** can be rendered, “I reject what I have said.” In other words, Job was not saying that he had sinned like his friends had accused him but he is repenting of the words that he said about the Lord and his life. He now saw this as wrong and this godly sorrow led to repentance, a changed heart! In his sermon, *Job Among the Ashes*, Charles Spurgeon suggested several things that Job repented of. He wrote,

- Job repented of the terrible curse he had pronounced upon the day of his birth.
- Job repented of his desire to die.
- Job repented of his complaints against and challenges to God.
- Job repented of his despair.
- Job repented that his statements had been a “darkening of wisdom by words without knowledge”; that he spoke beyond his knowledge and ability to know.

When you think about this, this truly is the key to the book of Job. He had heard about God but now Job truly sees God and who God is and Job sees himself as he truly is. And do not forget that Job was the most righteous man on the earth and yet, in the presence of God he was nothing. Man is very prideful today, he thinks he can do whatever he wants and that is the most foolish thing in the world. God will allow you to go down that path if you want, but in the end His plan and purpose will be fulfilled! What a lesson Job has learned and Job would have never gone down this path on his own, but God knew what Job needed and He sent Job down this path and in the end his faith grew! That is so true even in our own lives, we might not like it, but God knows what is best for us!

VERSES 7-9

1. Notice that God rebukes these friends of Job because they did not represent God correctly and God held them accountable for their actions. They reduced God to a cause-and-effect God, and took away His sovereignty. We too must represent God correctly in all we do and all we say - we are His representatives.

Now I thought these guys were not around and yet we see them here now! I think the storm had passed and these guys returned as the Lord finished speaking to Job. And now the Lord speaks to them and rebukes them for their empty words they spoke concerning Job!

2. Now why does God signal out Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar and yet He leaves out Elihu, who also rebuked Job? Some feel that Elihu was correct in what he was telling Job, but as you read his words, he was basically saying the same thing that Job's three friends had said. Keep in mind that Elihu was younger and maybe God was rebuking his words by ignoring what he said to Job. Silence speaks volumes here and there is no commending Elihu for what he said and that is why I feel he too was wrong and maybe because of his age, God just ignored his words!

3. There are two important points that we see here with Job and Job's friends. First of all Job was the one who was to intercede before God for his friends and he did not respond by saying, "Lord, you heard what they were saying to me and about me, get them!" No, Job interceded for them and I think that is an important lesson for us. Paul, in Galatians 6:1 tells us, "**Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.**" That is what Job did and that is what we are called to do!

You see, we are not to destroy or condemn the person nor are we to condone their sin, but there is a balance. Then what are we to do? We are to restore them to the faith. They transgressed, they sinned either willfully or unintentionally and thus they don't need excuses, they are not to be ignored, but they are to be restored.

Paul uses the Greek word KATARTIZO (kat-ar-tid'-zo) for "**restore**" and it carries with it the idea of "to put in order" or "to restore to its former condition." It was used as a medical term to set a broken or displaced bone or in Mark 1:19 it is used of the apostles mending their nets.

Now, to set a broken bone means you have to get close to that person in need, you have to touch them. It may cause them some pain as you reset the bone but the idea is always a healing not destruction. It is done in love not hatred. To mend a net you have to physically touch that net and repair it, so too with someone who has fallen into a trespass. Job interceded for them before God. It is as Spurgeon wrote, “Job was permitted to take a noble revenge, I am sure the only one he desired, when he became the means of bringing them back to God. God would not hear them, he said, for they had spoken so wrongly of his servant Job, and now Job is set to be a mediator, or intercessor on their behalf: thus was the contempt poured upon the patriarch turned into honor.”

Not only that but we see the response of Job’s three friends, that they did not try to make excuses for their error, they accepted what God said and they did what God had told them to do. That truly is a repentant heart. Many times people will kick and scream and try to justify their sin, but not here and God did restore them!

4. Now here in verse 9 the Hebrew, the word “**accepted**” can be translated “lifted up.” Job was down, depressed, discouraged, and God lifted Job’s head, causing Job to look into the eyes of God. The end result, as we will see, is joy and hope are returning to Job. As Psalm 3:3 says, “**But You, O LORD, are a shield for me, My glory and the One who lifts up my head.**” And as James 4:10 tells us, “**Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.**” A great lesson for us to learn!

VERSES 10-11

1. When was Job set free from this bondage he was in? When did God bless or restore Job? This is interesting to me. God freed Job from this bondage you might say when he prayed for his friends who blasted him. Why did God do it that way? I think Job had some bitterness, some anger towards his friends as we have seen. But to pray for them he had to let go of that bitterness. You see, *LOVE* was the key, and it was not based on the fact that his friends deserved it, because they didn't. It was based on the fact that God had told Job to love them as He loves them and he did! God wants to bless us, but what are we holding onto? What bitterness, or anger, or whatever is causing God's blessings from being bestowed upon us?

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 5:43-48, **“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.”** God wants us to love people with that unconditional love and if we refuse to, then hatred and bitterness will cloud our vision of God!

2. Now as we get to verse 11 we see Job's friends and relatives return to him. Talk about your fair weather friends and relatives. After Job is restored, they come to his side. But when he sat upon the dung hill they could not be found. Many Christians do the same. They are not willing to be around during the difficult times but when the blessings flow, it seems that they come out of the woodwork. May we be there in good and bad times to just be a friend to those around us! It is as Solomon said in Proverbs 17:17, "**A friend loves at all times, And a brother is born for adversity.**" May we be that kind of friend!

VERSES 12-17

1. When you compare this with chapter 1 you will find that Job was blessed with twice as many animals. In regards to his children, it seems that he only has the same number of children, but the reality is he has twice as many, for 7 sons and 3 daughters are with the Lord.
2. And here is something that you might not have seen, one of Job's daughters became a very famous aunt, of course it was Aunt Jemimah! Sorry, but I can only do that once every 15 years or so.

3. Let's put this in perspective for a minute. When did all these trials begin for Job? We are not sure but the Septuagint tells us that Job lived a total of 240 years and that would mean he was 100 years old when these trials began and he lived 140 years after the trials were over! And thus, we are told that he died "**Old and full of days.**" What that means is that Job lived a full life and so can we. I am not talking about longevity of life but a life that is full of the Lord and that fullness overflows and touches the lives of those around us. You can live a very short life but you can use it mightily for the Lord and be more full of days you might say than someone who lives to be 80 or 90 years old!

4. Now here's the thing. What was the answer to Job's question? God never does answer it but He gives him something even more important. He gave Himself to Job. You see, if we can rest totally in God, trust in Him and what He is doing in our life, then it really doesn't matter what comes upon us. We don't need to know the how's and whys of God, for we can rest in Him if we trust in Him! That is what Job found out. It is as Morgan wrote, "In this great Book there is no solution of problems. There is a great revelation. It is that God may call men into fellowship with Himself through suffering; and that the strength of the human soul is ever that of the knowledge of God."

5. Let's look at some lessons we can glean from this book of Job.

- Trails and difficulties prepare us for eternity! What I mean by that is that God is working in us, stretching our faith, causing us to trust in Him more and more and that is a good thing!
- Satan is silenced by our submission to God's sovereign will! Think about that, Satan was tempting Job to sin and Job did not sin against God and Satan failed and God was glorified because Job loved God in spite of what happened to him! God did not buy Job off with blessings so that Job would love Him and we must remember that! We need to love Him unconditionally, no matter what may come our way and that will drive Satan crazy!
- As we go through suffering we have a better picture of ourselves and of God! You see, as Job went through this trial he saw himself as he really was and then He saw God in His power and glory. That is what brought comfort to Job, not in how good he was but how great God's love is toward him! "Trials and testing are worth it because they allow me to see myself in my vileness and the Lord in His holiness."
- Sufferings we go through produce compassion in our own lives! Job recognized that fact and he had compassion on his friends who were not very nice to him! Paul put it like this in II Corinthians 1:3-5, "**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.**" It is easier for us to have compassion on others when we have gone through some great difficulties and trails in our own life!
- Suffering also teaches us humility! When Job was humbled who did he see? He saw the Lord and that is very true in our own lives. Humiliation brings us revelation, we see God for who He is when we see ourselves as we truly are.
- Suffering comes to an end, and it brings a happy ending to what we have faced. What if I am never healed? What if my marriage is never restored? What if my child is never brought back to life? What if . . .? No matter what happens in this life the end is really not the end, it is truly the beginning because one day we will go to be with our Lord, the one who loves us and the one whom we love. As Paul said in II Corinthians 3:18, "**But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**" Notice, from glory to even greater glory!

5. I hope you have been blessed as we have gone through the book of Job and I want to close this evening with these words from Clarke as he wrote, “The greatest, the most important purposes were accomplished by this trial. Job became a much better man than he ever was before; the dispensations of God’s providence were illustrated and justified; Satan’s devices unmasked; patience crowned and rewarded; and the church of God greatly enriched by having bequeathed to it the vast treasury of divine truth which is found in the BOOK OF JOB.” The God that worked in the life of Job is the same God who is working in each of our lives today. May we never forget that!