

# The Book of Job

## The Unsearchable Wisdom of God



**LESSON 14**  
**YAHWEH ANSWERS JOB, PT. 2**  
**JOB 40:6 – 41:34**

# Chiastic Outline of Job



A. Job's Afflictions (1–2)

B. Job's First Response (3)

C. 3 Cycles of Debate (4–27)

D. Wisdom Poem (28)

C'. 3 Major Speeches (29–41)

B'. Job's Second Response (42:1–9)

A'. Job's Prosperity (42:10–17)

# I. Introduction/Review



- Job is innocent
- Job holds on to faith
- Job is seeking justice
- God is not angry at Job
- God's answer satisfies Job

# I. Introduction/Review



- **God's First Speech**
  - A complex creation with amazing order
  - God's provision and protection for animals
  - All works without man's wisdom or involvement
- **God has the physical creation under control**
  - It exhibits His order, care, forethought, wisdom, skill

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### A. The Invitation to Rule (40:6 – 14)



**Job 40:6** Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind and said:

**7** “Dress for action like a man; I will question you, and you make it known to me.

**8** Will you even put me in the wrong? Will you condemn me that you may be in the right?

**9** Have you an arm like God, and can you thunder with a voice like his?

**10** “Adorn yourself with majesty and dignity; clothe yourself with glory and splendor.

**11** Pour out the overflowings of your anger, and look on everyone who is proud and abase him.

**12** Look on everyone who is proud and bring him low and tread down the wicked where they stand.

**13** Hide them all in the dust together; bind their faces in the world below.

**14** Then will I also acknowledge to you that your own right hand can save you.

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### A. The Invitation to Rule (40:6 – 14)



- The issue of justice is *finally* being addressed
  - **NASB Job 40:8** Will you really annul My judgment? Will you condemn Me that you may be justified ?
  - **KJV Job 40:8** Wilt thou also disannul my judgment?
- *Mishpat* = justice
  - **(Bildad) Job 8:3** Does God pervert justice?
- Does Job really think he could do better than God?

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### B. Behemoth and Leviathan Displayed



**40:15** “Behold, Behemoth, which I made as I made you; he eats grass like an ox.

**16** Behold, his strength in his loins, and his power in the muscles of his belly.

**17** He makes his tail stiff like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are knit together.

**18** His bones are tubes of bronze, his limbs like bars of iron.

**19** “He is the first of the works of God; let him who made him bring near his sword!

**20** For the mountains yield food for him where all the wild beasts play.

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### B. Behemoth and Leviathan Displayed



**21** Under the lotus plants he lies, in the shelter of the reeds and in the marsh.

**22** For his shade the lotus trees cover him; the willows of the brook surround him.

**23** Behold, if the river is turbulent he is not frightened; he is confident though Jordan rushes against his mouth.

**24** Can one take him by his eyes, or pierce his nose with a snare?



## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### B. Behemoth and Leviathan Displayed



- 41:1** “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord?
- 2** Can you put a rope in his nose or pierce his jaw with a hook?
- 3** Will he make many pleas to you? Will he speak to you soft words?
- 4** Will he make a covenant with you to take him for your servant forever?
- 5** Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you put him on a leash for your girls?
- 6** Will traders bargain over him? Will they divide him up among the merchants?
- 7** Can you fill his skin with harpoons or his head with fishing spears?
- 8** Lay your hands on him; remember the battle—you will not do it again!

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### B. Behemoth and Leviathan Displayed



**41:19** Out of his mouth go flaming torches; sparks of fire leap forth.

**20** Out of his nostrils comes forth smoke, as from a boiling pot and burning rushes.

**21** His breath kindles coals, and a flame comes forth from his mouth.

**22** In his neck abides strength, and terror dances before him.

**23** The folds of his flesh stick together, firmly cast on him and immovable.

**24** His *heart is hard as a stone*, hard as the lower millstone.

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### B. Behemoth and Leviathan Displayed



- **Job 41:25** When he raises himself up the mighty (Hebrew: *gods\**) are afraid; at the crashing they are beside themselves
- אֱלֹהִים **'el** in NASB 206X God (or God's), 19X god(s). Only 8X as power, might, etc.

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



1. Large animals, like the hippopotamus, crocodile, or whale.
2. Dinosaurs—a terrestrial one and one that dwells in the oceans.
3. Mythical creatures representing supernatural powers.

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



- Leviathan as a mythical/chaos creature:
  1. Uniquely does not fear man (cf. Gen 9)
  2. A way to address the problem of Satan in the closing chapters
  3. Chapter 3 – would Job dare rouse up Leviathan?

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



- Leviathan as a mythical/chaos creature:

4. Leviathan as enemy of gods in ANE literature, but most importantly, in the Bible

**Ps 74:12** Yet God my King is from of old, working salvation in the midst of the earth.

**13** You divided the sea by your might; you broke the heads of the sea monsters on the waters.

**14** You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

**15** You split open springs and brooks; you dried up ever-flowing streams.

**16** Yours is the day, yours also the night; you have established the heavenly lights and the sun.

**17** You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter.

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



- Leviathan as a mythical/chaos creature:

4. Leviathan as enemy of gods in ANE literature, but most importantly, in the Bible

**Isa 27:1** 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.

**2** In that day, “A pleasant vineyard, sing of it!

**3** I, the LORD, am its keeper; every moment I water it. Lest anyone punish it, I keep it night and day;

**6** In days to come Jacob shall take root, Israel shall blossom and put forth shoots and fill the whole world with fruit.

(Cf. Rev 12:1 – 10)

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



- Leviathan as a mythical/chaos creature:
  5. Leviathan is king over the sons of pride

**Job 41:34** He sees everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride.



## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



#### ESV

- **Job 41:9** Behold, the hope of a man is false; he is laid low even at the sight of him.
- **Job 41:10** No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he who can stand before me?
- **Job 41:11** Who has first given to me, that I should repay him? Whatever is under the whole heaven is mine.
- **Job 41:12** I will not keep silence concerning his limbs, or his mighty strength, or his goodly frame.

#### Garrett

- **41:9** Behold *his* expectation is false! *Should one* be overthrown at the very sight of him?
- **41:10** He is not so deadly should one [magically] invoke him. Who is he that would stand before me?
- **41:11** Who will approach me, that I should give satisfaction? “[Whatever exists] under all of heaven is mine.”
- **41:12** I will not be silent at *his blathering words of boasting, and at his claims to power and at his high evaluation of himself.*

# Job 41:12 – “limbs?” or “lies?”



- בַּד (bad) *alone, by itself, a part, besides.*
  - *Never translated as limbs except 2X in Job*
- בַּד bad (bad) n-m. *1. a brag or lie 2. also a liar.*
  - *As in Job 11:3*

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



- **Summary of Leviathan (so far)**
  - Mythical creature which represents Satan
  - God is speaking of His own attitude toward Leviathan
  - God can and will deal with this primary source of evil
  - Job needs to trust God for this

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



- Behemoth as a symbolic creature, representing “principalities and powers”—the totality of the forces of violence and danger, including moral evil, empires, violent men, and demons.
  1. **θηρίον** *therion* (thay-ree'-on) n. 1. a dangerous animal (Revelation 13:1 – 12)
  2. Nebuchadnezzar's Dream (Daniel 4)
  3. God made and uses Behemoth (Job 40:15, 19; Romans 13:1 – 4)
  4. Context of justice and identity of Leviathan

## II. The Moral Order and God's Justice

### C. Leviathan and Behemoth Explained



- God deals with Behemoth and Leviathan:
  - Through the cross of Christ (Col 2:15)
  - Eschatologically (in the end times)
    - ✦ Revelation 17:8 – 14
    - ✦ Revelation 19:19 – 20
    - ✦ Revelation 20:1 – 3; 7 – 10
  - The promise of Jesus for justice and His call for faith
    - ✦ Luke 18:7 -8