

Job 40:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play.

Analysis

"Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play." Behemoth grazes peacefully in mountains—harim (הָרִים) provide its food. Other animals "play" (yesachaqu, יִשְׂחָקוּ) nearby without fear. This massive creature lives peacefully within God's created order despite its power. God designed even the most formidable creatures to fit harmoniously into ecosystems. This demonstrates that power under divine governance produces order, not chaos. It anticipates the peaceable kingdom (Isaiah 11:6-9) where strength serves rather than threatens.

Historical Context

Ancient peoples often viewed powerful animals as threats to order. God reveals that even Behemoth, despite overwhelming strength, participates peacefully in creation. This taught that divine design integrates all creatures—even the most powerful—into harmonious systems. It assured readers that God's governance produces order from potential chaos.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does Behemoth's peaceful coexistence with smaller creatures model proper use of power?
2. What strength has God given you that should be exercised peaceably within His established order?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	ב וּל	הָרִים	וַיֵּצֵא	ל וְ	כָּל
H3588	food	Surely the mountains	bring him forth	H0	H3605
	H944	H2022	H5375		
	חַי ת	ה שָׂדֵה	יִשְׁחַקוּ	שֵׁם:	
	where all the beasts	of the field	play	H8033	
	H2416	H7704	H7832		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 104:14 (Parallel theme): He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that he may bring forth food out of the earth;

Psalms 104:26 (Parallel theme): There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.