

Job 40:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens.

Analysis

"He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens." Behemoth rests in shade—under trees (tse'elim, טְאֵלִים), in reeds (qaneh, קָנֵה), and marshes (bits'ah, בִּתְשׁוּבָה). Despite its power, it needs rest and shade like other creatures. God designed even the mighty with limitations and needs. This teaches that power doesn't equal self-sufficiency; all creation remains dependent on God's provision. The mighty Behemoth still requires habitat, food, and rest—demonstrating universal creaturely dependence.

Historical Context

Ancient understanding recognized that even the most powerful animals had basic needs and limitations. Behemoth's need for appropriate habitat taught that strength doesn't eliminate dependence on proper environment and resources. This would humble any who thought power produced independence from natural limits.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How do your own limitations and needs remind you of dependence on God despite any strengths?
2. What areas of self-sufficiency need to be surrendered to recognition of creatureliness and dependence?

Interlinear Text

תְּמַתָּא	אָל יִמְ	וְשָׁבֵב	בְּסִתְרֵה	בְּנֵה	בְּאֶחָה
H8478	under the shady trees	He lieth	in the covert	of the reed	and fens
	H6628	H7901	H5643	H7070	H1207

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