

Job 40:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about.

Analysis

"The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about." Vegetation provides Behemoth shelter—trees give shadow (tsel, לַצֵּל), willows (arvey nachal, עֲרֵבֵי-נָחַל) surround it. Even the mighty need protection. God designed ecosystems where the powerful receive benefit from the weak (trees). This demonstrates interdependence in creation—no creature is entirely self-sufficient. It teaches humility: strength doesn't eliminate need for support from God's provided resources.

Historical Context

Ancient observers would note the irony—massive Behemoth protected by relatively fragile vegetation. This illustrated that God's design creates mutual dependencies across creation. The strong need the weak; all need God. This ecological wisdom would encourage viewing creation as integrated system rather than hierarchy of independent entities.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do you need "weak" things or people, recognizing interdependence rather than independence?
2. What support systems has God provided that your strength tempts you to disdain or ignore?

Interlinear Text

יִסֹּף הוּ	צֶלֶל יִם	צֶלֶל וְ	יִסֹּב וְהוּ	עֲרֵבִי
cover	The shady trees	him with their shadow	compass him about	the willows
H5526	H6628	H6752	H5437	H6155
נָחַל:				
of the brook				
H5158				