

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, תְּשֵׁל), willows (arvey nachal, עֲרָבִי-נָחֶל) 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

עֲרָבִי עַל וְהַיְהּ אֶלְלָל אֶלְלָל אֶלְלָל אֶלְלָל

cover The shady trees him with their shadow compass him about the willows

H5526 H6628 H6752 H5437 H6155

תְּמַלֵּךְ:
of the brook

H5158

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