

Job 40:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth.

Analysis

"Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth." Behemoth's massive water consumption—"drinking up a river" hyperbolically emphasizes its size. It doesn't "hasten" (yachpoz, יָכְפֹז, "hurry/be anxious")—it trusts (batach, בָּתָח) in abundant supply. Even the Jordan River seems insufficient. This demonstrates that God creates and sustains creatures with enormous needs, teaching that He provides adequately for all scales of requirement. If God sustains Behemoth, He will sustain you.

Historical Context

The Jordan River represented significant water supply in arid Palestine. Suggesting a creature could "drink it up" emphasized extraordinary size. Ancient audiences would be awed by God's ability to create and sustain such massive creatures. This assured readers that God's provision matches any scale of need.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does God's provision for creatures with massive needs encourage trust in His provision for you?
2. What enormous needs tempt you to anxiety rather than trusting God's adequate supply?

Interlinear Text

בְּ	רִשְׁעָה	לֹא	בְּ	רִבְעָה	וְ	בְּ	חַדְשָׁה	בְּ
H2005	Behold he drinketh up	a river	H3808	and hasteth	not he trusteth		H3588	
	H6231	H5104		H2648		H982		
בְּ	רִשְׁעָה	לֹא	בְּ	רִבְעָה	וְ	בְּ	חַדְשָׁה	בְּ
	H1518	H3883		H413	into his mouth		H6310	

Additional Cross-References

Genesis 13:10 (Parallel theme): And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

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