

Job 41:14

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about.

Analysis

"Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about." Leviathan's jaws ("doors of his face") and terrifying teeth (emah, אִיָּמָה, "terror/dread") emphasize deadly danger. Opening its mouth would be fatal. This demonstrates that intimate encounter with overwhelming power destroys the presumptuous. This teaches that some aspects of divine sovereignty and natural power must be approached with appropriate fear and distance, not casual familiarity.

Historical Context

Ancient hunters and warriors sometimes needed to approach dangerous animals' mouths to kill or capture them. Leviathan's "doors" remain permanently closed to human approach. This taught that certain boundaries must not be crossed, certain powers must not be challenged—humility requires respecting such limits.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What boundaries has God established that wisdom requires respecting rather than transgressing?
2. How does healthy fear of overwhelming realities produce safety rather than paralysis?

Interlinear Text

בָּלְתַּי י	פָּ נִיּוֹ	מִי	כֹּתֵהוּ	סְבִיב וְת	שֹׁנֵי יוֹ	אִמָּה:
the doors	of his face	H4310	Who can open	round about	his teeth	are terrible
H1817	H6440		H6605	H5439	H8127	H367

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org