

Job 41:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

One is so near to another, that no air can come between them.

Analysis

God's description of Leviathan's scales emphasizes their impenetrable nature. 'One is so near to another' (echad be-echad yiggash, אֶחָד בְּאֶחָד יִגְשָׁה) describes the tight joining of scales, while 'no air can come between them' (ve-ruach lo-yabo, וְרוּחַ לֹא־יָבֹא) emphasizes absolute seal—not even wind penetrates. The Hebrew 'ruach' (רוּחַ) means both wind and spirit, suggesting nothing material or immaterial can breach Leviathan's armor. This verse establishes the creature's invulnerability to natural attack, pointing to forces beyond human capacity to overcome. Theologically, Leviathan represents chaos and evil that only divine power can defeat. The impenetrable armor illustrates sin's power to shield the rebellious heart from conviction—until God Himself intervenes. This foreshadows Christ's victory over principalities and powers that appeared invincible (Colossians 2:15). What no human weapon can penetrate, God's word divides (Hebrews 4:12).

Historical Context

Ancient armor technology sought to create overlapping scales or plates that would deflect weapons while allowing flexibility. Leviathan's natural armor exceeded the best human military technology, emphasizing divine creative power surpassing human achievement. The description would resonate with soldiers who understood armor's life-or-death importance.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. What 'leviathans'—seemingly invincible problems or sins—in your life can only be defeated by God's direct intervention?
2. How does recognizing evil's real power increase rather than decrease your confidence in Christ's victory?
3. In what ways has God's word penetrated defenses in your heart that seemed impregnable?

Interlinear Text

בַּיְמִינֵיכֶם: יְבָא אֶל־רַוֵּת בְּאַפְתָּת בְּאַפְתָּת תְּבַאַפְתָּת
One One is so near that no air can come H996
H259 H259 H5066 H7307 H3808 H935

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