

Job 41:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?

Analysis

"Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?" God asks if Job can capture Leviathan using fishing methods—hook in nose or thorn through jaw. The Hebrew *chach* (חך, "hook/ring") and *choach* (חין, "thorn/hook") suggest futility of human techniques. Leviathan, whether representing crocodile, whale, or symbolic chaos-creature, remains beyond human control. This teaches that God alone governs forces that overwhelm human capacity. Recognizing what we cannot control should produce humble trust in God who can.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern mythology featured Leviathan or similar sea monsters representing primordial chaos (Ugaritic Lotan, Babylonian Tiamat). Unlike pagan myths where gods struggled against such forces, Yahweh presents Himself as effortlessly sovereign over Leviathan. This distinguished biblical faith—God faces no threatening rivals.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What "leviathans" in your life—overwhelming chaotic forces—must you entrust to God's control?
2. How does God's effortless sovereignty over chaos encourage trust amid life's storms?

Interlinear Text

הֲתִשָּׁ יָדִים	אֶמְלֹךְ	בְּאַפִּי	וּ בְּחֹרֶן	תִּקֶּבֶט	לִחְיֹיוֹ:
Canst thou put	an hook	into his nose	through with a thorn	or bore	his jaw
H7760	H100	H639	H2336	H5344	H3895

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 37:29 (Parallel theme): Because thy rage against me, and thy tumult, is come up into mine ears, therefore will I put my hook in thy nose, and my bridle in thy lips, and I will turn thee back by the way by which thou camest.