

Job 41:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone.

Analysis

"His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone." Leviathan's heart—libo (לִבּוֹ)—is hard as stone, specifically the lower millstone (pelek tachtit, פֶּלֶק תַּחְתִּית), the hardest part. This emphasizes unyielding nature. Unlike humans whose hearts should be soft toward God, Leviathan's hard heart serves its created purpose—unwavering strength. This teaches that the same attribute may be virtue or vice depending on context and calling.

Historical Context

Millstones, especially lower ones bearing upper stone's weight, required extreme hardness. This comparison emphasized Leviathan's unyielding nature. Ancient readers would understand this represented maximum hardness available in their experience.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you distinguish when hardness is appropriate strength versus sinful resistance to God?
2. What areas require firm resolve (proper hardness) versus soft responsiveness (proper tenderness)?

Interlinear Text

לְבוֹ	יָצַד וְקָמוֹ	אֶבֶן	יָצַד וְקָמוֹ	כֶּפֶל לֶח	תַּחְתִּית:
His heart	is as firm	as a stone	is as firm	as a piece	of the nether
H3820	H3332	H68	H3332	H6400	H8482

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