

Job 41:28

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble.

Analysis

God's catalog of ineffective weapons continues. 'The arrow cannot make him flee' (lo-yavrisennu ben-qeshet, לֹא-יַבְרִישֵׁנוּ בֶן-קֶשֶׁת) states that even projectiles shot from distance cannot drive Leviathan away. 'Slingstones are turned with him into stubble' (avnei-qela, אַבְנֵי-קֶלַע) describes stones from slings becoming like worthless chaff against the creature. Arrows and slings represented ranged warfare that allowed attacking from safety—yet even these fail. The progression from close combat (previous verses) to ranged weapons emphasizes that no human tactical advantage avails against Leviathan. Theologically, this teaches that we cannot defeat evil from a safe distance; spiritual warfare requires direct engagement under divine authority. It also reveals that our best efforts apart from God are transformed into worthlessness when facing spiritual opposition. Only in Christ do we have weapons mighty to pull down strongholds (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Historical Context

Arrows and slings were the primary ranged weapons of ancient warfare, allowing soldiers to engage enemies without close combat's dangers. David's defeat of Goliath with a sling (1 Samuel 17) demonstrated these weapons' potential effectiveness. Yet against Leviathan, even these celebrated weapons fail completely, emphasizing the creature's supernatural invulnerability.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. What spiritual battles are you trying to fight from a 'safe distance' that require direct engagement under God's authority?
2. How do your best efforts become 'stubble' when attempted in your own strength rather than God's power?
3. What does it mean to have weapons mighty through God for pulling down strongholds in your specific circumstances?

Interlinear Text

לֹא H3808	יִבְרִיחַ נֹו H1272	בֶּן H1121	קֶשֶׁת H7198	לְ קִשׁ H7179	נִהְפְּכוּ H2015
	cannot make him flee	The arrow		with him into stubble	are turned
לֹא H0	אֲבִי H68	קֶלַע: H7050			
	slingstones				

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