

Job 41:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear.

Analysis

The catalog of useless weapons concludes with close combat arms. 'Darts are counted as stubble' (ke-qash nechshevu totach, כִּקְשׁ נְחֹשְׁבוּ תוֹתַח) describes how Leviathan regards clubs or javelins as mere chaff. 'He laugheth at the shaking of a spear' (yis'chaq le-ra'ash kidon, יִשְׁחַק לְרָעַשׁ כִּידוֹן) depicts the creature's contempt for even the threatening gesture of brandished weapons. The verb 'laugheth' (sachaq, שָׁחַק) suggests scorn and derision—Leviathan mocks human military threats. This anthropomorphization emphasizes the vast gulf between human power and this divine creation. Theologically, the verse warns against presumption—approaching spiritual enemies with human confidence leads to defeat and mockery. It also reveals God's perspective on human pride: our mightiest achievements are laughable to Him when employed in rebellion. Yet the verse also offers hope: the God who created Leviathan to laugh at human weapons can easily defeat all enemies on our behalf.

Historical Context

Spears were the primary weapon of ancient infantry, and their shaking (brandishing) before battle was intended to intimidate enemies. Warriors would clash spears against shields while shouting to inspire fear. Leviathan's laughter at this display completely reverses the expected power dynamic, showing human intimidation tactics failing against this creature.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What spiritual intimidation tactics do you employ that are actually laughable to the enemy you face?
2. How does recognizing God's power over what mocks human strength encourage you in spiritual warfare?
3. In what areas of life do you need to stop relying on your 'spear shaking' and trust God's power instead?

Interlinear Text

כְּקֶשֶׁת	נִחְשָׁב וְ	תוֹתָח	יִשְׁחָק	לְבַשׁ	פִּידוֹן:
as stubble	are counted	Darts	he laugheth	at the shaking	of a spear
H7179	H2803	H8455	H7832	H7494	H3591

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org