

Job 41:31

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment.

Analysis

God describes Leviathan's effect on water. 'He maketh the deep to boil like a pot' (yartiach ke-sir metsulah, יַרְתִּיחַ כְּסִיר מְצוּלָה) depicts violent water disturbance from the creature's movement. 'Maketh the sea like a pot of ointment' (yam yasim kamergachah, יָם יָשִׁים בְּמֶרְקָחָה) suggests the water becomes like mixed or churned perfume—roiling, bubbling, transformed. The dual imagery of boiling pot and churned ointment emphasizes both violent disturbance and the mixing of previously calm waters. Theologically, Leviathan represents chaos challenging God's ordering of creation—the sea that God set boundaries for (Job 38:8-11) becomes turbulent again. Yet God's control over Leviathan demonstrates His ultimate authority even over chaos. The verse anticipates Revelation's sea of glass before God's throne—chaos finally stilled (Revelation 4:6). Christ's calming of the literal sea demonstrates His Leviathan-controlling power (Mark 4:39).

Historical Context

The sea represented chaos and danger in ancient Near Eastern thought, often personified as divine enemies God defeated in creation (Psalm 74:13-14). Leviathan's ability to make the sea boil connects it to this chaos mythology while establishing God's sovereignty over it. Ancient mariners feared sea disturbances that could capsize ships, making this imagery particularly terrifying.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. What 'seas' in your life—areas of chaos and disturbance—need God's authoritative calming?
2. How does Christ's authority over both literal seas and spiritual chaos encourage you in current turmoil?
3. In what ways do you need to trust God's control over Leviathan-like forces that seem to create chaos in your ordered life?

Interlinear Text

יָרָת יָם	כֶּסֶּר יָר	מְצוֹלָה	יָם	יֵשׁ יָם	כְּמִרְקָחָהּ:
to boil	like a pot	He maketh the deep	the sea	he maketh	like a pot of ointment
H7570	H5518	H4688	H3220	H7760	H4841

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