

Job 41:32

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He maketh a path to shine after him; one would think the deep to be hoary.

Analysis

God's description of Leviathan's wake concludes His questioning. 'He maketh a path to shine after him' (acharaiv ya'ir natib, אָכְרֵי יָאִיר נָתִיב) describes the luminous trail left in the creature's wake. 'One would think the deep to be hoary' (yachshob tehom le-seivah, יָחְשֹׁב תְּהוֹם לְשִׁיבָה) suggests the churned water appears white or gray like an old person's hair. This bioluminescent or turbulent wake emphasizes Leviathan's visibility and impact—the creature cannot be hidden or ignored. The shining path also metaphorically represents evil's visible trail and consequences. Sin leaves evidence, marking its passage with destruction. Yet the verse also suggests glory—the path shines, commanding attention and even admiration for the creature's power. This paradox reflects how evil can appear glorious while remaining destructive, requiring spiritual discernment to recognize its true nature.

Historical Context

Ancient sailors reported phosphorescent wakes behind sea creatures, particularly in tropical waters where bioluminescent organisms create glowing trails. This natural phenomenon would appear supernatural to observers, enhancing Leviathan's mystique. The white, churned water behind large aquatic animals was also well documented, creating visible paths across otherwise uniform seas.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'shining paths' of sin in your life leave visible evidence you've tried to ignore?
2. How do you discern between what appears glorious but is actually destructive?
3. In what ways does recognizing the visible consequences of evil increase your vigilance against temptation?

Interlinear Text

לשִׁבָּה: תֵּה וָמַת בְּנֵת יְהָוָה יְמִינֵי אֶת־בְּרִי
after to shine He maketh a path him one would think the deep to be hoary
H310 H215 H5410 H2803 H8415 H7872

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