

Job 41:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.

Analysis

God's discourse on Leviathan concludes with this devastating summary. 'He beholdeth all high things' (et-kol-gavoha yir'eh, אֶת־כָּל־גִּבּוֹהַּ יִרְאֶה) means Leviathan looks down on everything lofty or proud—nothing surpasses it in the created order. 'He is a king over all the children of pride' (hu melekh al-kol-benei-shachat, הוּא מֶלֶךְ עַל־כָּל־בְּנֵי־שַׁחַת) establishes the creature's sovereignty over the proud. The 'children of pride' can refer both to other proud creatures and to proud humans. This verse reveals pride's ultimate futility—even the most arrogant humans are subjects of Leviathan, who represents forces beyond human control. Yet the passage's purpose is to reveal that God controls even Leviathan. Therefore, human pride is doubly foolish: we're inferior to Leviathan, who is inferior to God. The verse culminates God's answer to Job: cease from pride, acknowledge your position, and trust divine governance. It anticipates James 4:6, 'God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.'

Historical Context

In ancient Near Eastern thought, chaos monsters represented the forces of disorder that gods battled to establish cosmic order. God's description of Leviathan as king over the proud establishes a hierarchy: proud humans are subject to chaos, which is subject to God. This refutes pagan theology where gods and chaos struggle as equals, affirming instead God's absolute sovereignty.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What areas of pride in your life make you a 'child of pride' subject to destructive forces beyond your control?
2. How does recognizing both your limitations and God's sovereignty produce the humility God desires?
3. In what specific ways is God calling you to repent of pride and trust His governance as Job finally does in chapter 42?

Interlinear Text

אֶת	כָּל	גֹּבֵהַ	יִרְאֶה	ה	וְאֵל	מֶלֶךְ	עַל	כָּל
H853	H3605	all high	He beholdeth	H1931	things he is a king	H5921	H3605	
		H1364	H7200		H4428			
	בְּנֵי		שָׁמַיִם:					
	over all the children		of pride					
	H1121		H7830					

Additional Cross-References

Ezekiel 29:3 (Kingdom): Speak, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, Pharaoh king of Egypt, the great dragon that lieth in the midst of his rivers, which hath said, My river is mine own, and I have made it for myself.

Psalms 73:6 (Parallel theme): Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

Job 26:12 (Parallel theme): He divideth the sea with his power, and by his understanding he smiteth through the proud.

Job 28:8 (Parallel theme): The lion's whelps have not trodden it, nor the fierce lion passed by it.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org