Job 41:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

> Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?

Analysis

"Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?" Leviathan cannot be bound by covenant (berit, בְּרִית) or enslaved as a servant (eved, עֶבֶד). It remains free, untamed, beyond human authority. God designed certain aspects of creation to resist domestication, preserving wildness that demonstrates divine sovereignty. This teaches that not everything should be brought under human control; some things glorify God precisely by remaining beyond human dominion.

Historical Context

Ancient societies relied on domesticated animals and covenant relationships. Leviathan's resistance to both demonstrated that God preserves aspects of creation exclusively under His control. This humbled human pretensions to comprehensive mastery over nature and circumstances.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What areas are you trying to domesticate or control that God intends to remain wild and free?
2. How does accepting certain things beyond your control paradoxically increase your freedom and peace?

Interlinear Text

הֲיִכְרֹ֥ת	בְּרִ֖ית	עִמָּ֑ךְ	תִּקָּחֶ֥נּוּ	לְעֶ֖בֶד
Will he make	a covenant	H5973	with thee wilt thou take	him for a servant
H3772	H1285		H3947	H5650

עוֹלָֽם:
for ever
H5769

Additional Cross-References

Exodus 21:6 (Parallel theme): Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

Deuteronomy 15:17 (Parallel theme): Then thou shalt take an aul, and thrust it through his ear unto the door, and he shall be thy servant for ever. And also unto thy maidservant thou shalt do likewise.