

Job 41:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?

Analysis

"Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?" Merely seeing Leviathan crushes hope of overcoming it. The Hebrew *tohalto* (תָּהַלְתּוּ, "his hope") proves *nikhzavah* (נִקְזָבָה, "deceptive/disappointing"). Visual encounter alone defeats human confidence. This teaches that some realities are so overwhelming that recognition of our inadequacy comes immediately upon perception. Proper response isn't attempting mastery but acknowledging limitations and trusting God who is not overwhelmed.

Historical Context

Ancient warriors and hunters cultivated courage facing dangerous creatures. Yet Leviathan's appearance alone defeated such courage. This taught that certain threats transcend human bravery or capability, requiring divine intervention. It prepared readers to recognize when situations exceed human resources.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. What overwhelming realities have crushed your confidence in human solutions, driving you to God?
2. How does immediate recognition of inadequacy become the doorway to experiencing divine adequacy?

Interlinear Text

מִרְאֵת יְהוָה תִּתְהַלֵּת וְנִכְזְבָה אֶל בְּגָד מִרְאֵת יְהוָה
H2005 Behold the hope of him is in vain H1571 H413 even at the sight
H8431 H3576 H4758

וְנִכְזְבָה

shall not one be cast down

H2904

From KJV Study • kjvstudy.org