

Psalm 104:26

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein.

Analysis

Ships travel the sea, and leviathan (livelyatan) plays there. God made both human commerce and mysterious sea creatures. Leviathan, elsewhere a fearsome symbol of chaos (Job 41, Ps 74:14), here frolics playfully. God is so sovereign that even chaos monsters are His playthings. This demonstrates ultimate divine authority—what terrifies humans amuses God. Christ's calming the storm and walking on water (Matt 14:25-33) similarly showed authority over what humans fear. The Reformed doctrine of God's sovereignty assures believers no force threatens God's purposes.

Historical Context

Leviathan likely refers to a large sea creature, possibly a whale or crocodile, but symbolized primordial chaos in ancient Near Eastern thought. Presenting it as God's playmate dramatically emphasizes divine sovereignty.

Related Passages

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. What 'leviathans' (overwhelming problems or fears) in your life does God have under complete control?
2. How does God's sovereignty over chaos strengthen your confidence when circumstances seem out of control?

Interlinear Text

הַ	יָ	לְ	אֲ	תִּ	שָׁ	םָ
H8033	the ships	H1980	There go	H3882	there is that leviathan	H2088
H591						H3335
לְ	שָׁ	לְ	תִּ	לְ	תִּ	לְ
to play	H0					
H7832						

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 107:23 (Parallel theme): They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;

Isaiah 27:1 (Parallel theme): In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Psalms 74:14 (Parallel theme): Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.