

Leviathan, Rahab and Behemoth

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Leviathan in ancient Mesopotamian, Babylonian, Sumerian and Ugaritic texts is a mythical sea creature which represents chaos and disorder that was tamed or conquered by the gods. We find this in such tales as the Babylonian account of Marduk battling the sea serpent Tiamat or Baal defeating Yam or Lotan.

Similar pictures are made of YHWH (Adonai) defeating Leviathan.

Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters. Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness. Thou didst cleave the fountain and the flood: thou driedst up mighty rivers. – Psalm 74:13-15

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. – Isa. 27:1

The earliest mention of Leviathan is in the book of Job, which is the oldest penned book in the Bible; not even Genesis is older than Job.

41 Canst thou draw out leviathan with an hook? or his tongue with a cord which thou lettest down?

² Canst thou put an hook into his nose? or bore his jaw through with a thorn?

- ³ Will he make many supplications unto thee? will he speak soft words unto thee?**
- ⁴ Will he make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?**
- ⁵ Wilt thou play with him as with a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens?**
- ⁶ Shall the companions make a banquet of him? shall they part him among the merchants?**
- ⁷ Canst thou fill his skin with barbed irons? or his head with fish spears?**
- ⁸ Lay thine hand upon him, remember the battle, do no more.**
- ⁹ Behold, the hope of him is in vain: shall not one be cast down even at the sight of him?**
- ¹⁰ None is so fierce that dare stir him up: who then is able to stand before me?**
- ¹¹ Who hath prevented me, that I should repay him? whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine.**
- ¹² I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.**
- ¹³ Who can discover the face of his garment? or who can come to him with his double bridle?**
- ¹⁴ Who can open the doors of his face? his teeth are terrible round about.**
- ¹⁵ His scales are his pride, shut up together as with a close seal.**
- ¹⁶ One is so near to another, that no air can come between them.**
- ¹⁷ They are joined one to another, they stick together, that they cannot be sundered.**
- ¹⁸ By his neesings a light doth shine, and his eyes are like the eyelids of the morning.**
- ¹⁹ Out of his mouth go burning lamps, and sparks of fire leap out.**
- ²⁰ Out of his nostrils goeth smoke, as out of a seething pot or caldron.**
- ²¹ His breath kindleth coals, and a flame goeth out of his mouth.**
- ²² In his neck remaineth strength, and sorrow is turned into joy before him.**
- ²³ The flakes of his flesh are joined together: they are firm in themselves; they cannot be moved.**
- ²⁴ His heart is as firm as a stone; yea, as hard as a piece of the nether millstone.**

- ²⁵ When he raiseth up himself, the mighty are afraid: by reason of breakings they purify themselves.**
- ²⁶ The sword of him that layeth at him cannot hold: the spear, the dart, nor the habergeon.**
- ²⁷ He esteemeth iron as straw, and brass as rotten wood.**
- ²⁸ The arrow cannot make him flee: slingstones are turned with him into stubble.**
- ²⁹ Darts are counted as stubble: he laugheth at the shaking of a spear.**
- ³⁰ Sharp stones are under him: he spreadeth sharp pointed things upon the mire.**
- ³¹ He maketh the deep to boil like a pot: he maketh the sea like a pot of ointment.**
- ³² He maketh a path to shine after him; one would think the deep to be hoary.**
- ³³ Upon earth there is not his like, who is made without fear.**
- ³⁴ He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.**

The Bible was not written in a cultural void, it was written with in a Middle Eastern context and in order to properly understand Scripture, we must take such into consideration.

Despite representing the mythical sea beast of chaos, the legend very well could have been inspired by a real life sea creature; just as mermaids were built upon accounts of sailors seeing the manatee. Leviathan very well could have been the deep sea dinosaur Thalatosuchain, Kronosaurus, Dakosaurus or Liopleurodon, which fits well the description given in Job 41. It is just not plausible to agree with scholars who claim it was a crocodile or hippopotamus.

A similar picture can be seen in the “New Testament” book of Revelation. Revelation 12:3, 13:1 and 17:3 are perfect descriptions of the Babylonian dragon; Tiamat.

And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads... And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy... So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.

Another name for Leviathan is Rahab, which means; violence, spacious, pride and arrogance.

Thou rulest the raging of the sea: when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm. – Psa. 89:9-10

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon? Art thou not it which hath dried the sea, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over? – Isa. 51: 9-10

It all relates back to bringing order to the chaos as found in Genesis 1:1-3.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light...

Another ancient mythical creature representing chaos and disorder on land is Behemoth as found in Job 40:15-24.

Behold now behemoth, which I made with thee; he eateth grass as an ox. Lo now, his strength is in his loins, and his force is in the navel of his belly. He moveth his tail like a

cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together. His bones are as strong pieces of brass; his bones are like bars of iron. He is the chief of the ways of God: he that made him can make his sword to approach unto him. Surely the mountains bring him forth food, where all the beasts of the field play. He lieth under the shady trees, in the covert of the reed, and fens. The shady trees cover him with their shadow; the willows of the brook compass him about. Behold, he drinketh up a river, and hasteth not: he trusteth that he can draw up Jordan into his mouth. He taketh it with his eyes: his nose pierceth through snares.

Some scholars erroneously attribute this creature an elephant, rhinoceros or hippo, which again is a far stretch because none of these animals has even had a tale that swung like a cedar tree. However, some herbavoric dinosaurs did and such are the ones the book of Job was likely referring too; Diplodocus formerly known as the Brontosaurus, Apatosaurus or even a stegosaurus.

One may argue that dinosaurs were not around when human beings were. Not true, there have been fossilized human and dinosaur footprints found side by side which confirm what Creationists such as Ken Ham and Kent Hovind (www.answersingenesis.org, and www.drdino.com) believe, that dinosaurs and humans lived at the same time. Dinosaurs are nothing more than very large reptiles. Due to the former hyperbaric chamber the earth was encased in prior to the Flood of Noah, and due to their longevity they grew to enormous heights. Some may wonder how such gigantic creatures could have been taken on the ark, if at all. They can if he took babies, which are no bigger than today's lizards. After the flood dinosaurs slowly died out due to the radical atmospheric and environmental change loss of the hyperbaric chamber and they didn't live as long or grow as large after the Flood.