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Journeying with Job. Part 18

Taming Leviathan

Text: Job 41:12-34

Steve Irwin was an Australian naturalist and animal handler specializing in crocodiles. He was nicknamed the Crocodile Hunter. He would jump into the water and wrestle crocs, cage them and relocate them. Ironically, Steve Irwin died at the age of 44, after being harpooned by an eight-foot-wide stingray’s tail, during a dive on the Great Barrier Reef.

In June 2016, Lane Graves was at a Disney resort with his parents and sister, when an alligator emerged from a lagoon and snatched the two-year-old, killing him.

These two stories remind us that some creatures are not pets. Rather, they are massive reminders of the power in the animal kingdom and the *weakness*, no, the *puniness* of humanity.

Let’s tuck that observation away as we look at this 41st chapter of Job.

Divine retribution: That principle, stated simply, says God punishes the wicked and rewards the righteous. All three friends imply that Job's suffering is a clear sign that Job has sinned.

**Eliphaz**- Job 4:7-9

**Bildad**- [Job 8:4](https://biblia.com/bible/nasb95/Job%208.4)- Job’s children were killed because of their sin.

5-7- Job, if you would get right, God would act in your behalf.11-22- Surely Job has done something to bring this suffering on.

**Zophar**- 11:4-6

The point of this passage may be that just as the beast is overwhelming and cannot be handled by Job, so is suffering. It is a massive undertaking, this suffering experience. It cannot be handled by a mere mortal. We don’t have enough strength to take it on. I remind us all that one of the outcomes of the journey with Job ought to be a fresh appreciation for the role of humility in the life of the godly person. The more I see, the more hardship I experience, the more difficulty I encounter, the more I see my stature. I am small, when compared to the grandeur of this life.

Job 41:26-28 speaks of six weapons used to tame Leviathan:

1. sword
2. spear
3. dart
4. javelin
5. Arrow
6. Sling stone

Q: What is the point of this?

A: God is sovereign and controls the affairs of humanity ...AND all the created order. This includes the big creatures...and Job!! Just as the behemoth and Leviathan are subject to God and cannot be domesticated (Job 41:1-2), Job must bow to the God who reigns. *Leviathan* comes from a word meaning “the twisted animal”.

This text is a warning against arrogance, irreverence and ignoring human limitation.

Job can no more tame the sea and land monster than he can change his circumstances by his own reasoning. God’s questions to the limited Job are almost funny.

“Are you going to make Leviathan a creature that fetches?” (4)

“Will Leviathan be your pet?” (5)

“Will you sell Leviathan to your homies?” (6)

The creatures, according to 40:19a, are the beginnings of the ways of God. Our admission of our inability to tame the monsters is the beginning of our submission to the God who is greater than them all (Isaiah 27:1; Psalm 74:14; Psalm 104:26).

Haven’t we all tried to tame the behemoth and domesticate Leviathan? Haven’t we tried to make the sea monsters obey us?

Let us bow before the God who is greater than the sea and the creatures it contains. We can’t *tame* Leviathan but we can learn to respect the power Leviathan represents.

Amen