

Dinosaurs, Dragons & Demons: Jewish & Christian Views of Creation – July 2021
With Dr. Leonard Greenspoon and Dr. Anthony Le Donne via Jewish Federation of Omaha

BEHEMOTH

Job 40:15 Take now behemoth, whom I made as I did you;
 He eats grass, like the cattle.
16 His strength is in his loins,
 His might in the muscles of his belly.
17 He makes his tail stand up like a cedar;
 The sinews of his thighs are knit together.
18 His bones are like tubes of bronze,
 His limbs like iron rods.
19 He is the first of God's works;
 Only his Maker can draw the sword against him.
20 The mountains yield him produce,
 Where all the beasts of the field play.
21 He lies down beneath the lotuses,
 In the cover of the swamp reeds.
22 The lotuses embower him with shade;
 The willows of the brook surround him.
23 He can restrain the river from its rushing;
 He is confident the stream will gush at his command.
24 Can he be taken by his eyes?
 Can his nose be pierced by hooks?

LEVIATHAN

Job 40:25 Can you draw out Leviathan by a fishhook?
 Can you press down his tongue by a rope?
26 Can you put a ring through his nose,
 Or pierce his jaw with a barb?
27 Will he plead with you at length?
 Will he speak soft words to you?
28 Will he make an agreement with you
 To be taken as your lifelong slave?
29 Will you play with him like a bird,
 And tie him down for your girls?
30 Shall traders traffic in him?
 Will he be divided up among merchants?
31 Can you fill his skin with darts
 Or his head with fish-spears?
32 Lay a hand on him,
 And you will never think of battle again.

Job 41:1 See, any hope [of capturing] him must be disappointed;
One is prostrated by the very sight of him.
2 There is no one so fierce as to rouse him;
Who then can stand up to Me?
3 Whoever confronts Me I will requite,
For everything under the heavens is Mine.
4 I will not be silent concerning him
Or the praise of his martial exploits.
5 Who can uncover his outer garment?
Who can penetrate the folds of his jowls?
6 Who can pry open the doors of his face?
His bared teeth strike terror.
7 His protective scales are his pride,
Locked with a binding seal.
8 One scale touches the other;
Not even a breath can enter between them.
9 Each clings to each;
They are interlocked so they cannot be parted.
10 His sneezings flash lightning,
And his eyes are like the glimmerings of dawn.
11 Firebrands stream from his mouth;
Fiery sparks escape.
12 Out of his nostrils comes smoke
As from a steaming, boiling cauldron.
13 His breath ignites coals;
Flames blaze from his mouth.
14 Strength resides in his neck;
Power leaps before him.
15 The layers of his flesh stick together;
He is as though cast hard; he does not totter.
16 His heart is cast hard as a stone,
Hard as the nether millstone.
17 Divine beings are in dread as he rears up;
As he crashes down, they cringe.
18 No sword that overtakes him can prevail,
Nor spear, nor missile, nor lance.
19 He regards iron as straw,
Bronze, as rotted wood.
20 No arrow can put him to flight;
Slingstones turn into stubble for him.
21 Clubs are regarded as stubble;
He scoffs at the quivering javelin.
22 His underpart is jagged shards;
It spreads a threshing-sledge on the mud.
23 He makes the depths seethe like a cauldron;
He makes the sea [boil] like an ointment-pot.

- 24 His wake is a luminous path;
He makes the deep seem white-haired.
- 25 There is no one on land who can dominate him,
Made as he is without fear.
- 26 He sees all that is haughty;
He is king over all proud beasts.

Psa. 104:25 There is the sea, vast and wide,
with its creatures beyond number,
living things, small and great.

26 There go the ships,
and Leviathan that You formed to sport with.

Is. 27:1 In that day the LORD will punish,
With His great, cruel, mighty sword
Leviathan the Elusive Serpent—
Leviathan the Twisting Serpent;
He will slay the Dragon of the sea.

GENESIS 1

Gen. 1:1 When God began to create heaven and earth— 2 the earth being unformed and void, with darkness over the surface of the deep and a wind from God sweeping over the water— 3 God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, a first day.

Gen. 1:6 God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the water, that it may separate water from water.” 7 God made the expanse, and it separated the water which was below the expanse from the water which was above the expanse. And it was so. 8 God called the expanse Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

Gen. 1:9 God said, “Let the water below the sky be gathered into one area, that the dry land may appear.” And it was so. 10 God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering of waters He called Seas. And God saw that this was good. 11 And God said, “Let the earth sprout vegetation: seed-bearing plants, fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation: seed-bearing plants of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that this was good. 13 And there was evening and there was morning, a third day.

Gen. 1:14 God said, "Let there be lights in the expanse of the sky to separate day from night; they shall serve as signs for the set times—the days and the years; 15 and they serve as lights in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth." And it was so. 16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to dominate the day and the lesser light to dominate the night, and the stars. 17 And God set them in the expanse of the sky to shine upon the earth, 18 to dominate the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God saw that this was good. 19 And there was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

Gen. 1:20 God said, "Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and birds that fly above the earth across the expanse of the sky." 21 God created the great sea monsters, and all the living creatures of every kind that creep, which the waters brought forth in swarms, and all the winged birds of every kind. And God saw that this was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, "Be fertile and increase, fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." 23 And there was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

Gen. 1:24 God said, "Let the earth bring forth every kind of living creature: cattle, creeping things, and wild beasts of every kind." And it was so. 25 God made wild beasts of every kind and cattle of every kind, and all kinds of creeping things of the earth. And God saw that this was good. 26 And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth." 27 And God created man in His image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fertile and increase, fill the earth and master it; and rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, and all the living things that creep on earth."

Gen. 1:29 God said, "See, I give you every seed-bearing plant that is upon all the earth, and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit; they shall be yours for food. 30 And to all the animals on land, to all the birds of the sky, and to everything that creeps on earth, in which there is the breath of life, [I give] all the green plants for food." And it was so. 31 And God saw all that He had made, and found it very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.