

1 Explanations

Introduction

Behemoth

<http://biblehub.com/commentaries/job/40-15.htm>

This account would not agree well with the elephant, whose residence is not among marshes and fens, but on solid ground.

the hippopotamus does not frequent mountains, neither does it exactly eat grass like an ox

the description of the "tail" of the behemoth Job 40:17 does not well accord with the hippopotamus.

<https://answersingenesis.org/dinosaurs/could-behemoth-have-been-a-dinosaur/>

In Job 40, the Lord is infallibly describing a real historical creature, called 'Behemoth'. No known living animal, such as the elephant or hippopotamus, fits the passage adequately. A detailed analysis of the key clause Job 40:17a suggests that the most natural interpretation is that the tail of Behemoth is compared to a cedar for its great size. Consequently, the most reasonable interpretation is that Behemoth was a large animal, now extinct, which had a large tail. Thus some type of extinct dinosaur should still be considered a perfectly reasonable possibility according to our present state of knowledge.

<http://paleo.cc/paluxy/behemoth.htm>

In regards to verse 15, sauropods were vegetarians, but they included many species, and some variation in their dentition and likely diets. Most are thought to have fed mainly on cycads, conifers, and other "rough" tree and shrub foliage. However, since grasses had developed by the later part of the Mesozoic, it's possible that some late Cretaceous sauropods included grasses in their diet

...

Verse [2]2 also seems to undermine a sauropod hypothesis. Besides extending the picture of an animal frequently in the water, it seems to refer to a one easily covered by shore trees. The NASB renders the passage as: "Under the lotus plants he lies down, the willows (reeds) of the brook surround him." As Greg Neyman notes, "It is difficult to imagine the Argentinosaurus, [a large sauropod] at 100 feet long, and a height of 70 feet when standing (sitting, probably 20 feet tall), resting under the short limbs of a lotus plant (or, tree), nor would he be able to take cover in reeds only a few feet tall."

But the Behemoth is stated to "eat grass like an ox" (Job 40:15), yet a dinosaur eating leaves with a long neck would surely have had this aspect pointed out.

Leviathan

1 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. - Isaiah 27:1 KJV

also lxx for Job 41:1

Job 41:19

Out of his mouth go burning lights;
Sparks of fire shoot out.
Nkjv

Job 41:5
Will you play with him as with a bird,
Nkjv

In the ancient Greek Septuagint and Latin Vulgate, he also rests on a huge pile of gold, “all the gold¹ of the sea under him is an immense quantity of clay” (Job 41:31/21).

<http://biblehub.com/commentaries/job/41-1.htm>

orca=killer whale or crocodile

Job 41:14 Who can open the doors of his face, With his terrible teeth all around?

Job 41:15 His rows of scales are his pride, Shut up tightly as with a seal;

Job 41:32 He leaves a shining wake behind him; One would think the deep had white hair.

Job 41:33 On earth there is nothing like him, Which is made without fear.

25 This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. 26 There the ships sail about; There is that Leviathan Which You have made to play there. - Psalm 104:25-26 NKJV

<http://www.prehistoric-wildlife.com/species/s/sarcosuchus.html>

11m in length has 2m height

dinosaur with fire coming out:

<http://www.truthingenesis.com/2013/02/20/were-there-really-fire-breathing-dragons/>
Parasaurolophus dinosaur (“Some of the dinosaurs had these big humps on their heads that were enlargements of their sinus passages. They are hollow and connected to the nasal passages of the dinosaur. Some call them the hollow-headed dinosaurs.”)
and t-rex

<http://creation.com/behemoth-and-leviathan>

Sarcosuchus imperator seems to be a better candidate: a monstrous crocodile covered by some kind of armour plates (like roof tiles). It could weigh up to 10 tonnes and reach a length of 12 m. It had an unusual bulging body cavity at the end of its snout. This could have been used for mixing gasses that were ignited there (this is like a crocodile)

¹ The reading of “gold” in place of the usual rendering “sharp” in English Bibles is due to the source Hebrew word meaning “to sharpen, cut into” but used elsewhere for gold as being dug, “cut” out, (Strong's Concordance, H2742).

Job 41:31 He makes the deep boil like a pot; He makes the sea like a pot of ointment.

Job 41:34
He beholds every high thing;

Seas seventh of land

“Finally, it is interesting to note that the shape of western history was influenced somewhat by 4 Ezra [=2 Esdras]. In 6:42, Ezra speaks of God’s creation being composed of seven parts, six of which are dry ground while the seventh is watery. Although this is not of course the case, Christopher Columbus quoted this verse as part of his appeal for financial assistance from the Spanish sovereigns in order to embark on a westward rather than eastward voyage to India—a successful appeal which resulted in his discovery of the ‘New World’.” (Longenecker, 1995, p. 112)

9 Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry [land] appear"; and it was so. ... 13 So the evening and the morning were the third day. [Gen 1:9, 13 NKJV]

21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that [it was] good. ... 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day. [Gen 1:21, 23 NKJV]

“On the third day you commanded the waters to be gathered together in a seventh part of the earth; six parts you dried up and kept so that some of them might be planted and cultivated and be of service before you. ...

“On the fifth day you commanded the seventh part, where the water had been gathered together, to bring forth living creatures, birds, and fishes; and so it was done. ... Then you kept in existence two living creatures; the one you called Behemoth and the name of the other Leviathan. And you separated one from the other, for the seventh part where the water had been gathered together could not hold them both. And you gave Behemoth one of the parts that had been dried up on the third day, to live in it, where there are a thousand mountains; but to Leviathan you gave the seventh part, the watery part; and you have kept them to be eaten by whom you wish, and when you wish.” (Apocrypha, 2 Esdras [4 Ezra] 6:42, 47-52)

The meaning of these great beasts can be gathered by considering that the creation narrative actually relates to how the portable ‘temple-tent’ called the ‘Tabernacle’ of the ancient Israelites was furnished. “Solomon’s kingdom was surrounded by cultures which linked the story of the creation to the erection of temples, and there are canonical texts which could be explained in this way. Various attempts have been made to relate the commands given to Moses [Bible, Exodus 40] and the account of

the seven days in Genesis 1”². One such account linking Genesis 1 to the Tabernacle is the following:

“... the Tabernacle in its separate parts also corresponded to the heaven and the earth, that had been created on the first day. As the firmament had been created on the second day to divide the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above, so there was a curtain [veil] in the Tabernacle to divide between the Sanctuary and the Holy of Holies. As God created the great sea on the third day, so did He appoint the laver [basin] in the sanctuary to symbolize it, and as He had on that day destined the plant kingdom as nourishment for man, so did He now require a table with bread in the Tabernacle. The lampstand Menorah in the Tabernacle corresponded to the two luminous bodies, the sun and the moon, created on the fourth day; and the seven branches of the lampstand corresponded to the seven planets, the Sun, Venus, Mercury, the Moon, Saturn, Jupiter, and Mars. Corresponding to the birds created on the fifth day, the Tabernacle contained the Cherubim, that had wings like birds. On the sixth, the last day of creation, man had been created in the image of God to glorify his Creator, and likewise was the high priest anointed to minister in the Tabernacle before the Lord and Creator.”³

The laver/basin was much larger in Solomon’s temple, 10 cubits in diameter and 5 cubits tall (i.e. 4½m diameter and 2¼m tall); *significantly, it was called ‘The Sea’* (Bible, 1 Kings 7:23).

Using standard mathematics we get that the surface area of this bronze ‘Sea’ basin is 85.70 square cubits⁴.

1 cubit=45cm or 1.5 feet, so 85.7cubits squared= 17.4m squared, 192.8 ft squared
600 cubits squared= 121.5 m squared, 1350 ft squared

The temple was 60 cubits in length, 20 cubits for the holy of holies, 10 cubits for the vestibule (although other interpretations are possible).

So the main part of the Temple, the sanctuary, had a surface area of 20×30=600 square cubits. It is therefore of the highest interest to note that one seventh of 600 is 85.71. This is for practical purposes the surface area of the ‘Sea’ basin, *thereby implying that the idea of the waters being one seventh of the land refers to the waters being the bronze ‘Sea’ and the land being the sanctuary of Solomon’s Temple!*⁵

² (Barker, The Great High Priest, 2003, pp. 193-4)

³ (Ginzberg, 1909, vol. 3, ch. 2, 'The Erection Of The Tabernacle Commanded'; 2003, p. 639) The terms ‘the holy’, ‘the most holy’, and ‘candlestick’ have been replaced with ‘the Sanctuary’, ‘the Holy of Holies’, and ‘lampstand Menorah’ respectively.

⁴ The ‘Sea’ was “ten cubits from one brim to the other; it was completely round ... [the brim] was a handbreadth thick” (1 Kings 7:23, 26). I measure about 4½ of my handbreadths from my (inside) elbow to my finger tips, which would give a handbreadth being $\frac{2}{9}$ th of a cubit, $1 \div 4.5 = 2 \div 9 \approx 0.222$; similarly it has been estimated that the brim, being also a handbreadth thick, was 10cm thick (Pohle & Dowley, 2003, p. 10) and 10cm is $\frac{2}{9}$ th of the estimated length of a cubit of 45cm. From this its radius is $10 \div 2 + 0.222 = 5.222$ cubits. So its surface area is given by ‘pi r squared’=85.70 square cubits (using the ancient approximation pi=22÷7).

⁵ This idea was first aired on the Monachos Forum:

The Behemoth and Leviathan identified

The key to understanding the identity of the Behemoth lies in the meaning of its name. This is because “While the word *behemoth* is usually the plural form of [the Hebrew] *behemah* (animal), and merely refers to animals in the plural, here it is a singular form”⁶. In other words, as we say ‘trousers’ (in the plural) for a single item, so the name Behemoth actually means ‘animals’.

The bronze ‘Sea’ was not the only ‘water feature’ for the Temple: “The symbolism in the psalms suggests that there was a fountain or spring in the holy of holies, and the temple visionaries described living water flowing from the throne”⁷. Indeed, “Water flowing from the holy of holies became an important part of the Christian vision. When Justinian built his great restored temple in Jerusalem, in every respect like the temple of Ezekiel’s vision⁸, there was a water cistern under its eastern end, presumably to provide a fountain in the holy of holies”⁹.

The basin pictured is curved whereas it should include a square section, “The laver was not entirely round, as might be inferred from Scripture (Bible, 1 Kings 7:23): the upper two-fifths were round; but the lower three were square”¹⁰. As the ‘Sea’ was 5 cubits tall, this would imply that the top 2 cubits (90cm) were round but that the bottom 3 cubits (1.35m) were square. Further, the dimensions of the lower part are given as “three cubits high by ten cubits square, which equal one hundred square cubits”¹¹, so the lower part was 10×10 cubits square when looking from above. However, a square section of 10×10 cubits would mean that *the lower part of the bronze ‘Sea’ was fashioned to be like the Holy of Holies*, itself 10×10×10 cubits for the Tabernacle. In particular a fountain could be located within the bronze ‘Sea’ and yet be described as being in the Holy of Holies because the lower area symbolically duplicated the Holy of Holies.

Also:

26 "With it you shall anoint the tabernacle of meeting and the ark of the Testimony;
27 "the table and all its utensils, the lampstand and its utensils, and the altar of incense;
28 "the altar of burnt offering with all its utensils, and the laver and its base.
29 "You shall consecrate them, that they may be most holy; whatever touches them must be holy. - Exodus 30:26-29 NKJV
they are all most holy=a holy of holies

We can learn about the Leviathan’s link to the sea by reading two old books, both found in the Dead Sea Scrolls (2nd century BCE to 1st century CE) and once

<http://www.monachos.net/conversation/topic/202-genesis-truth-and-metaphor/page-5#entry35560>

⁶ (Slifkin, 2011, p. 189)

⁷ (Barker, Our Great High Priest. The Church as the New Temple, 2012, p. 5)

⁸ The Christians built the church the ‘Nea’ (‘New Church’) like the temple in Ezekiel’s vision because his restored temple building “represents the Third Temple that is yet to come” (Baskin, 2011, p. 169 under entry ‘Ezekiel’). The Christians were making a statement of supremacy over Judaism.

⁹ (Barker, Creation, 2010, p. 255)

¹⁰ (1906 Jewish Encyclopedia, ‘Brazen Sea’ - ‘In Rabbinical Literature’)

¹¹ (Rashi) on 1 Kings 7:26.

considered scripture by some early Church writers, and still today by the Ethiopian Orthodox Church: “And on that day were two monsters parted, a female monster named Leviathan, to dwell in the abysses of the ocean over the fountains of the waters. But the male is named Behemoth, who occupied with his breast a waste wilderness named ‘the land of Nod’¹², on the east of the garden where the elect and righteous dwell” (Pseudepigrapha, 1 Enoch 60:7-8), and “the mouths of the fountains of the great deep, seven mouths in number” (Pseudepigrapha, Jubilees 5: 24). Here the Leviathan dwells “over the fountains of the waters” of the ocean and these fountains have seven heads or mouths. (The ‘garden’ is the temple with its trees and flowers, and the bronze ‘Sea’ was east of the temple.)

However, the fountain is not the only thing with more than one head: “You divided the sea by Your strength; You broke the heads of the sea serpents in the waters. You broke the heads of Leviathan in pieces, And gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness” (Bible, Psalm 74:13-14). So the one animal Leviathan has more than one head. Indeed a mythical vision in the Bible describes such creatures, significantly with seven heads just like the fountain mentioned before, “a great, fiery red dragon having seven heads ... So the serpent [i.e. dragon] spewed water out of his mouth like a flood” (Bible, Revelation 12:3,15). *In other words the Leviathan was a seven-headed fountain in the bronze ‘Sea’, positioned above the Behemoth/‘twelve oxen’.*

25 This great and wide sea, In which [are] innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great. 26 There the ships sail about; [There is] that Leviathan Which You have made to play there. [Psa 104:25-26 NKJV]

However, if the Leviathan was a fountain of water, how can fire be said to come out of its mouth? It was shown earlier that the bottom part of the bronze ‘Sea’ was fashioned to be like the Holy of Holies. As such was there a counterpart to the seven-headed water fountain? Yes, there was a seven-branched lampstand called the Menorah which was placed just outside the Holy of Holies. In fact, the Dead Sea Scrolls speak of a “fountain ... of bright flames”¹³. So the fire of the flames of the lampstand is the fire from the dragon’s mouth, and ‘lamps’ is exactly how its breath is described, “Out of his mouth go forth lamps” (Bible, Job 41:19).

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¹² “read ‘the land of Naid[=Nod]’ after LXX, Genesis 4:16”, (1906 Jewish Encyclopedia, 'Leviathan and Behemoth' - 'In Apocryphal Literature').

¹³ (Barker, Revelation, 2000, p. 22)

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