Exposing the Leviathan Spirit

Job 41

The name “Leviathan” is found six times in Scripture.

Job 3:8; 41:1; Psalm 74:14; 104:26; Isaiah 27:1

Chapter 41 of Job is a chapter completely devoted to Leviathan

Tonight, we are going to ASK and hopefully ANSWER three basic questions in hopes of awakening us to this truth from Scripture

What is Leviathan?

Some have referred to Leviathan as a description of a crocodile.

However, as we will see, Leviathan is much more than some huge reptile swimming in the Nile.

Leviathan in Hebrew

The word, “Leviathan” means...

To “bend, twist, or coil together like a wreath”
We will come back to this later…

The name first appears in the book of Job.

Job is considered by many to be the oldest book in the Bible.

Many consider that Job lived during the time of Abraham and the patriarchs.

So, let’s look at the verses and see what we can make of them

Job 3:8 (ESV)
8 Let those curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.

Those who make curses desire to rouse Leviathan

Job 41:1 (ESV)
1 “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord?

The Lord begins by asking Job if he can tame Leviathan.

Psalm 74:14 (ESV)
14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

As an important note, the psalmist declares, “You crushed the HEADS of Leviathan”. As though the creature has more than one head!
In Psalm 74, the Psalmist is pleading with the Lord to rise and defend Israel.

In this verse, the Psalmist is declaring that, in creation, the Lord crushed the heads of the Sea Monsters (verse 13).

So he is asking the Lord to do it again for Israel

Psalm 104:26 (ESV)
26 There go the ships, and Leviathan, which you formed to play in it.

Here, we are informed that Leviathan resides in the seas and was created by God

Isaiah 27:1 (ESV)
1 In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Here Leviathan is called the “fleeing serpent”, the “twisting serpent”, and “the dragon that is in the sea”

THINGS TO NOTICE:

Those that call for curses do so to arouse Leviathan

Men make futile attempts to tame Leviathan but live in great fear of him
Leviathan has multiple head
The Lord has crushed his heads
Leviathan is a created being
Leviathan dwells in the sea
Leviathan is referred to as a serpent
Leviathan is referred to also as a dragon
The Lord will slay Leviathan

When we combine these verses with other verses in Scripture, it begins to become more clear...

Leviathan is referred to as a serpent

**Genesis 3:1 (ESV)**

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden’?”

The Lord has crushed his heads

**Genesis 3:15 (ESV)**

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Leviathan has multiple head
Revelation 12:3 (ESV)
3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

Revelation 13:1 (ESV)
1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

Revelation 17:3 (ESV)
3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

Leviathan dwells in the sea

Revelation 17:1–3 (ESV)
1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, “Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters, 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk.” 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.

Revelation 17:15 (ESV)
15 And the angel said to me, “The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.
The Lord will slay Leviathan

Revelation 12:7–10 (ESV)

7 Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon. And the dragon and his angels fought back, 8 but he was defeated, and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. 9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God.

So, we see, that Leviathan is none other than the serpent of old, that dragon, Satan

How and Where does Leviathan manifest?

First HOW

1. Aroused through curses

When Job wished the day of his birth had never happened, he called those who release curses to curse the day of his birth.
Job 3:8 (ESV)
8 Let those curse it who curse the day, who are ready to rouse up Leviathan.

When curses are released, Leviathan is aroused to bring them into being

2. He manifests through “twisting”

Isaiah 27:1 (ESV)
1 In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Leviathan twists things...

John 8:44 (ESV)
44 You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father’s desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

2 Corinthians 11:3 (ESV)
3 But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

Second, WHERE

As Job continued to make his complaints, we hear him
crying out that if he could just make his defense before God he knows he would be found innocent.

God called Job the most righteous man on earth.

But in the end, Job had his day before God, and realized more than he bargained for

In the last words of the Lord to Job, He spends 34 verses describing Leviathan

Job 41:1 (ESV)
1 “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord?

The Lord begins by asking Job if he can tame Leviathan.

Job 41:9 (ESV)
9 Behold, the hope of a man is false; he is laid low even at the sight of him.

Leviathan cannot be tamed and men live in fear of him

Job 41:10 (ESV)
10 No one is so fierce that he dares to stir him up. Who then is he who can stand before me?

The Lord continues by describing Leviathan’s strength

In verse 15 the Lord begins to give us a hint of WHERE

Job 41:15 (ESV)
15 His back is made of rows of shields, shut up closely as with a seal.

Where this verse says, “His back is made of…”

That is a Hebrew word that, in reality, means “His pride”.

So, a literal translation of verse 15 would be…

Job 41:15 (Literal)
“His pride is rows of shields being closed tightly as with a seal.”

Again, Isaiah shares with us the fall of Lucifer in Isaiah 14

Isaiah 14:12–14 (ESV)
12 “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! 13 You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; 14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’

Notice the FIVE “I will’s” in these verses

A minister by the name of George Parsons developed the following

Job 41:33–34 (ESV)
On earth there is not his like, a creature without fear. He sees everything that is high; he is king over all the sons of pride.”

1 Peter 5:5c (ESV)
5 ... “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

Pride in the heart of man is an open door for Leviathan to twist and move.

Matthew 16:23 (ESV)
23 But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

What was Job’s response to God after this?

Job 42:5–6 (ESV)
5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees you; 6 therefore I despise myself, and repent in dust and ashes.”

How is Leviathan defeated?

Isaiah 27:1 (ESV)
1 In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.
Revelation 12:11 (ESV)
11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

This verse tells us three things we must do to conquer Leviathan

We must cling to the Cross

We must confess the Cross

We must climb on the Cross

  Exposing the Leviathan Spirit
  Job 41

Q 1: What is Leviathan?

Q2: How and Where does Leviathan manifest?
Q3: How is Leviathan defeated?
Psalm 74:14 (ESV)
14 You crushed the heads of Leviathan; you gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.

Isaiah 27:1 (ESV)
1 In that day the LORD with his hard and great and strong sword will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, Leviathan the twisting serpent, and he will slay the dragon that is in the sea.

Job 41:1 (ESV)
1 “Can you draw out Leviathan with a fishhook or press down his tongue with a cord?

Job 40:25 (BHS/WIVU)

Revelation 12:3 (ESV)
3 And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems.

Revelation 13:1 (ESV)
1 And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems on its horns and blasphemous names on its heads.

Revelation 17:3 (ESV)
3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.
LEVIATHAN (Heb. liwyāṯān)
A primeval sea serpent representing chaos.

Leviathan appears in the Ugaritic texts as Lītānū. KTU 1.5 I, 1 describes how Baal smote Lītānū, “the twisting [cf. Arab. lawiyā] serpent, the tyrant with seven heads” (likewise Anat [KTU 1.3 III, 40–42], but lacking the name Lītānū). Ancient Near Eastern iconography consistently depicts the storm-god conquering the serpent.

Yahweh’s conquest of Leviathan in Ps. 74:14 (note the “heads”) is part of his creative activity (vv. 12–17). This connection underlies Job 3:8 as well: while cursing his birthday (in terms reversing the creation of Gen. 1) Job invokes “those who are skilled to rouse up Leviathan.” Job’s reference to Yahweh piercing “the fleeing serpent” (Job 26:13) also occurs in a creation context (cf. KTU 1.5 I, 1). In Ps. 104:26, however, the conquest motif is abandoned: Leviathan is simply one of God’s creatures, and a playful one at that. Levithan is discussed at length in Job 41:1–34. Many see the crocodile here, but his ability to breathe fire and smoke, the inability of humans to subdue him, and the overwhelming terror he instills all argue for a mythological creature Yahweh is able to subdue but Job cannot. In Isa. 27:1 the mythology comes full circle, with Yahweh defeating Leviathan (again) as a new creation in the eschatological age; the lexical contacts with KTU 1.5 I, 1 are particularly striking.

The “seven-headed dragon” is equated with Satan in Rev. 12:3, 9 and echoed in the seven-headed beast of 13:1; 17:3. Postbiblical Jewish literature envisions Leviathan, along with Behemoth, as the main course at the messianic banquet (1 En. 60:7–9, 24; 2 Esdr. 6:49–52; 2 Bar. 29:4).

LEVIATHAN is a transliteration of a Heb. word which occurs in only five passages in the OT. It is generally thought to be from a root lāwā, cf. Arab. lawā, ‘bend’, ‘twist’. Its literal meaning would then be ‘wreathed’, i.e. ‘gathering itself in folds’. Some scholars have suggested that it may be a foreign loan-word, possibly of Bab. origin. The context of its use in the OT indicates some form of aquatic monster. In Ps. 104:26 it is clearly of the sea and is generally thought to be the whale, although the dolphin has been suggested. It is used twice symbolically in Is. 27:1, referring to the empires of Assyria (the ‘fleeing’ serpent is the swift-flowing Tigris) and Babylonia (the ‘twisting’ serpent is the Euphrates). In Ps. 74:14 it occurs in reference to Pharaoh and the Exodus in parallel with
the Heb. tannîn, ‘sea or river monster’. This word occurs again in Ezk. 29:3–5 symbolically of Pharaoh and the Egyptians, where the description of its scales and jaws makes it clear that the crocodile is intended.

Leviathan is referred to twice in Job. In 3:8 it is generally held to be the dragon which, according to popular ancient mythology, was supposed to cause eclipses by wrapping its coils around the sun. The longest description of Leviathan occupies Jb. 41:1–34, and most scholars agree that here the creature is the crocodile (*ANIMALS). Some have objected that the crocodile would not have been described as unapproachable and that there is no reference in the OT to crocodiles in Palestine. However, the author probably had in mind the crocodile of the Nile, and the description of the creature’s invincibility is rhetorical. The only alternative interpretation of any significance regards Leviathan as a mythical monster, perhaps to be identified with the Bab. mother goddess Tiamat (father Apsu) who, in the Creation Epic, even in battle against Marduk ‘recites charms and casts spells’. The word is cognate with Ugaritic ltn, the seven-headed monster whose description as ‘the fleeing serpent, … the tortuous serpent’ smitten by Baal is so reminiscent of the language of Is. 27:1.

**Leviathan**

**Hebrew expression:** liwyatan  
**Pronunciation:** lihv yaw TAWN  
**Strong’s Number:** 3882

**KEY VERSES**

Job 3:8; 41:1; Psalms 74:14; 104:26; Isaiah 27:1

The creature called the Leviathan (liwyatan) appears in the Old Testament six times in five verses (Job 3:8; 41:1; Pss. 74:14; 104:26; Is. 27:1). It is often suggested, based upon Egyptian reliefs, that the Leviathan was similar to a crocodile—a four-legged reptile with a long tail. However, the figure of a serpent, a limbless hissing reptile, might be more appropriate. Etymologically, the word is derived from the root lwy. “to twist,” “to coil.” Although this root does not occur in the Old Testament with this meaning, it is found in another Semitic language, Arabic. Furthermore, Isaiah 27:1 and Psalm 74:14 are the sole biblical texts providing some description, portraying Leviathan as a many-headed, fleeing, and twisting serpent. This definition is supported by thirteenth century B.C. Ugaritic texts which use nearly the same imagery to describe this sea creature.

If the picture of a large, sinuous, and many-headed serpent is not strange enough, the role of this creature in both biblical and extra-biblical literature is simply fantastic. With the Leviathan, we are dealing with an ancient and mythical personification of chaos. The biblical text makes it clear that the Leviathan represents a primordial power, sometimes at
odds with Yahweh. On the one hand, these chaos monsters, the Leviathan and Behemoth (Job 40:15), were conquered by Yahweh during the creation of the world (Ps. 74:13; Isa. 51). On the other hand, we are informed that the Leviathan and Behemoth are a natural part of the created order (Job 40:15; Ps. 104:26). Although it was subdued at creation, chaos continues to exist in the world. However, it is also clear that chaos will cease existing on the “Day of Yahweh” (see Isa. 2; 27:1).

Why do Leviathan and Behemoth appear in the book of Job? The creatures are an integral part of Yahweh’s rhetoric in His speech from the whirlwind. In His climactic answer to Job (40:15–41:26), the Lord asserts that He created the chaos monsters, behemoth and liwyatan. Furthermore, He is the only one who has the power to subdue the creatures. Apparently in his consistent questioning, Job had overlooked two items: (1) chaotic events are a part of life; and (2) questioning God is a shortsighted endeavor. The first item is the only substantive answer God provides in the whole book. The key is the recognition that not all suffering is a reflection upon a person’s piety. Throughout the book, Job and his companions have consistently confused the realm of natural phenomena (which may result in “undeserved” suffering) with the realm of religion (such as punishment for iniquity or reward for piety).

Acceptance of this argument enables us to process the whirlwind of our lives. When the “Leviathan” wreaks havoc in our lives, we may conclude that it is not the result of some previously unknown sin. Rather, we may conclude that the present situation is part of the reality of the world which God created.

In LaVeyan Satanism, according to the author of The Satanic Bible, Anton Szandor LaVey, Leviathan represents the element of Water and the direction of West. The element of Water in Satanism is associated with life and creation, and may be represented by a Chalice during ritual. In The Satanic Bible, Leviathan is listed as one of the Four Crown Princes of Hell. This association was inspired by the demonic hierarchy from The Book of the Sacred Magic of Abra-Melin the Mage. The Church of Satan uses the Hebrew letters at each of the points of the Sigil of Baphomet.
Sigil of Baphomet to represent Leviathan. Starting from the lowest point of the pentagram, and reading counter-clockwise, the word reads "ץ". Translated, this is (LVIThN) Leviathan.[12] In Demonology, the Leviathan is one of the seven princes of Hell (envy) and its gatekeeper (see Hellmouth).

The Leviathan of the Middle Ages was used as an image of Satan, endangering both God's creatures—by attempting to eat them—and God's creation—by threatening it with upheaval in the waters of Chaos.[7] St. Thomas Aquinas described Leviathan as the demon of envy, first in punishing the corresponding sinners (Secunda Secundae Question 36). Peter Binsfeld likewise classified Leviathan as the demon of envy, as one of the seven Princes of Hell corresponding to the seven deadly sins. Leviathan became associated with, and may originally have referred to, the visual motif of the Hellmouth, a monstrous animal into whose mouth the damned disappear at the Last Judgement, found in Anglo-Saxon art from about 800, and later all over Europe.[8][9]