

~LEVIATHAN (253)

[Hebrew, *liw-ya-than*]

- This **Hebrew** word occurs six times in the Bible. It is believed to come from a root word meaning **wreath**, hence the name indicates something that is **wreathed**, or **gathered into folds**. The word is transliterated in most Bible translations.
- Since, with the exception of;
- Let cursers of the day execrate it, those ready to awaken **Leviathan**. (**Job 3:8**)
- The references mention water in connection with it, **Leviathan** appears to signify some form of aquatic creature of great proportions and strength, although not necessarily of one specific kind.
- As for this sea so great and wide, there, there are moving things without number, living creatures, small as well as great. (**Psalms 104:25**)
- There the ships go, as for **Leviathan**, him you have formed to play about in it. (**Psalms 104:26**)
- Describes it as cavorting in the sea where ships travel, and for this reason many suggest that the term here applies to some type of whale. Though whales are rare in the Mediterranean, they are not unknown there, and parts of two whale skeletons can be found in a museum at Beirut in Lebanon.
- **An American Translation** here says, **crocodile**, instead of **Leviathan**. Additionally, the word **sea**, *yam* by itself is not determinative inasmuch as in **Hebrew** it can refer to a large inland body of water such as the Sea of Galilee, Sea of Chinnereth.
- And the boundary must go down from Shepham to Riblah on the east of Ain, and the border must go down and strike upon the eastern slope of the sea of Chinnereth. (**Numbers 34:11**)
- And the Arabah as far as the sea of Chinnereth toward the east and as far as the sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, to the east in the direction of Beth-jeshimoth, and toward the south under the

slopes of Pisgah. (**Joshua 12:3**)

- **Nile**
- **And the water will certainly be dried up from the sea, and the river itself will become parched and actually run dry. (**Isaiah 19:5**)**
- **Euphrates.**
- **Therefore this is what Yehowah has said; Here I am conducting your legal case, and I shall certainly execute vengeance for you. And I will dry up her sea, and I will make her wells dry. (**Jeremiah 51:36**)**
- **The description of **Leviathan** at;**
- **Can you draw out **Leviathan** with a fishhook, or with a rope can you hold down its tongue? (**Job 41:1**)**
- **Can you put a rush in its nostrils, or with a thorn can you bore its jaws? (**Job 41:2**)**
- **Will it make many entreaties to you, or will it say soft words to you? (**Job 41:3**)**
- **Will it conclude a covenant with you, that you may take it as a slave to time indefinite? (**Job 41:4**)**
- **Will you play with it as with a bird, or will you tie it for your young girls? (**Job 41:5**)**
- **Will partners barter for it? Will they divide it up among tradesmen? (**Job 41:6**)**
- **Will you fill its skin with harpoons, or its head with fish spears? (**Job 41:7**)**
- **Put your hand upon it. Remember the battle. Do not do it again. (**Job 41:8**)**
- **Look! ones expectation about it will certainly be disappointed. One will also be hurled down at the mere sight of it. (**Job 41:9**)**

- **None is so audacious that he should stir it up. And who is it that can hold his ground before me? (Job 41:10)**
- **Who has given me something first, that I ought to reward him? Under the whole heavens it is mine. (Job 41:11)**
- **I shall not keep silent about its parts or the matter of its mightiness and the grace of its proportions. (Job 41:12)**
- **Who has uncovered the face of its clothing? Into its double jaw who will enter? (Job 41:13)**
- **The doors of its face who has opened? Its teeth round about are frightful. (Job 41:14)**
- **Furrows of scales are its haughtiness, closed as with a tight seal. (Job 41:15)**
- **One to the other they fit closely, and not even air can come in between them. (Job 41:16)**
- **Each one to the other they are stuck together, they grasp one another and cannot be separated. (Job 41:17)**
- **Its very sneezings flash forth light, and its eyes are like the beams of dawn. (Job 41:18)**
- **Out of its mouth there go lightning flashes, even sparks of fire make their escape. (Job 41:19)**
- **Out of its nostrils smoke goes forth, like a furnace set aflame even with rushes. (Job 41:20)**
- **Its soul itself sets coals ablaze, and even a flame goes forth out of its mouth. (Job 41:21)**
- **In its neck lodges strength, and before it despair leaps. (Job 41:22)**
- **The folds of its flesh do cling together, they are as a casting upon it, immovable. (Job 41:23)**
- **Its heart is cast like stone, yes, cast like a lower millstone. (Job 41:24)**

- Due to its rising up the strong get frightened, due to consternation they get bewildered. (Job 41:25)
- Overtaking it, the sword itself does not prove equal, nor spear, dart or arrowhead. (Job 41:26)
- It regards iron as mere straw, copper as mere rotten wood. (Job 41:27)
- An arrow does not chase it away, the slingstones have been changed for it into mere stubble. (Job 41:28)
- A club has been regarded by it as mere stubble, and it laughs at the rattling of a javelin. (Job 41:29)
- As pointed earthenware fragments are its underparts, it spreads out a threshing instrument upon the mire. (Job 41:30)
- It causes the depths to boil just like a pot, it makes the very sea like an ointment pot. (Job 41:31)
- Behind itself it makes a pathway shine, one would regard the watery deep as gray-headedness. (Job 41:32)
- Upon the dust there is not the like of it, the one made to be without terror. (Job 41:33)
- Everything high it sees. It is king over all majestic wild beasts. (Job 41:34)
- Aptly fits the **crocodile**, and the sea of;
- Everything high it sees. It is king over all majestic wild beasts. (Job 41:34)
- May refer to a river such as the Nile or another body of fresh water. It should be noted, however, that some crocodiles, as the Nile crocodiles, *Crocodylus niloticus*, are found along the seacoast and at times go out into the sea some distance from land.
- (Psalms Chapter 74) describes God's record of salvation for his people, and;

- You yourself stirred up the sea with your own strength. You broke the heads of the sea monsters in the waters. (**Psalms 74:13**)
- You yourself crushed to pieces the heads of **Leviathan**. You proceeded to give it as food to the people, to those inhabiting the waterless regions. (**Psalms 74:14**)
- Refer symbolically to his deliverance of Israel from Egypt. Here the term, **sea monsters** Hebrew, *than-ni-nim'*, plural of *tan-nin'*, is used as a parallel expression to **Leviathan**, and the crushing of the heads of **Leviathan** may well refer to the crushing defeat administered to Pharaoh and his army at the time of the Exodus. The Aramaic Targums here give the strong ones of Pharaoh in place of the heads of **Leviathan**.
- Speak, and you must say; This is what the Sovereign Lord Yehowah has said; Here I am against you, O Pharaoh, king of Egypt, the great sea monster lying stretched out in the midst of his Nile canals, that has said; My Nile River belongs to me, and I, I have made it for myself. (**Ezekiel 29:3**)
- And I will put hooks in your jaws and cause the fish of your Nile canals to cling to your scales. And I will bring you up out of the midst of your Nile canals and all the fish of your Nile canals that cling to your very scales. (**Ezekiel 29:4**)
- And I will abandon you to the wilderness, you and all the fish of your Nile canals. Upon the surface of the field you will fall. You will not be gathered up nor be collected together. To the wild beasts of the earth and to the flying creatures of the heavens I will give you for food. (**Ezekiel 29:5**)
- Where Pharaoh is likened to a great sea monster in the midst of the Nile canals, also;
- Son of man, lift up a dirge concerning Pharaoh the king of Egypt, and you must say to him, As a maned young lion of nations you have been silenced. And you have been like the marine monster in the seas, and you kept gushing in your rivers and kept muddying the waters with your feet and fouling their rivers. (**Ezekiel 32:2**)
- In that day Yehowah, with his hard and great and strong sword,

will turn his attention to **Leviathan**, the gliding serpent, even to **Leviathan**, the crooked serpent, and he will certainly kill the sea monster that is in the sea. (**Isaiah 27:1**)

- Apparently employs **Leviathan**, **LXX**, the dragon, as a symbol of an empire, an organization that is international in scope and that is dominated by one who himself is referred to as **serpent** and **dragon**.
- So down the great dragon was hurled, the original serpent, the one called Devil and Satan, who is misleading the entire inhabited earth, he was hurled down to the earth, and his angels were hurled down with him. (**Revelation 12:9**)
- The prophecy is one of restoration for Israel, and therefore Yehowah's turning attention to **Leviathan** must include Babylon. However,
- And it must occur in that day that Yehowah will beat off the fruit, from the flowing stream of the River to the torrent valley of Egypt, and so you yourselves will be picked up one after the other, O sons of Israel. (**Isaiah 27:12**)
- And it must occur in that day that there will be a blowing on a great horn, and those who are perishing in the land of Assyria and those who are dispersed in the land of Egypt will certainly come and bow down to Yehowah in the holy mountain in Jerusalem. (**Isaiah 27:13**)
- Consider Assyria and Egypt as well. So, **Leviathan** here evidently refers to an international organization or empire that is in opposition to Yehowah and his worshipers.