

# Word Studies

We believe the Bible is the Word of God and that it is inspired and infallible as originally transmitted. It is not a book of fiction, allegory, or myths. Therefore when we read of creatures God describes such as the Behemoth, the Leviathan, and the Unicorn we must believe them to have been creations of God that we as yet know little or nothing about.

Many of the commentators on Job postulate that “behemoth” is a hippopotamus and the “leviathan” is a crocodile. Some of our students take issue with that since the “behemoth” has a large tail – that does not fit a hippo. They suggested it is more likely a brontosaurus.

Also, the leviathan is described in detail including fire and smoke in Job 41:18-21. Therefore we are forced to look elsewhere for the identity of these created beings. Therefore this leviathan is more like a fire-breathing dragon than a crocodile. What are your thoughts?

The point God is making is not proving or disproving any mythical creature but to say that Job knows little about 1) Creation of earth and skies 2) Creation of animals 3) Creation of prehistoric creatures that he has only heard about. THEREFORE, since he knows little of his physical world how much less does he know about the spiritual realm of God himself?

God is saying, “Stop speculating about God’s intents and purposes.”

*Behemoth*  
*Leviathan*  
*Unicorn*

When you study these words you must follow the Hebrew and Greek original words to get it right. For instance, if you follow the word “dragon” alone your search may lead you astray.

## *Behemoth*

The word behemoth is only used once in Scripture and that in Job 40:15-24. In Strong's concordance of Hebrew words it is <0930>. The plural of the word is simply cattle <0929> but this is a reference to one particular grass eating mammal that is the biggest of God's creatures. Job 40:19

## *Leviathan*

The word "leviathan" is used in several places throughout Scripture. It's Hebrew Strong's number is <03882>. It is sometimes translated as dragon. In Isaiah 27 it is called the "piercing serpent" and the "crooked serpent" and the dragon that is in the sea.

Many commentators think this to be a crocodile but from the description in [#Job 41:1-34](#) this is patently absurd. It appears to be a large fire breathing animal of some sort. Just as the **bombardier beetle** has an explosion producing mechanism, so the great sea dragon may have an explosive producing mechanism to enable it to be a real fire breathing dragon. The idea of a fire breathing monster of the sea is found in every culture on earth. It seems to be a story like creation of Adam and Eve, the Flood that have been maintained in human memory through oral tradition and stories passed on from generation to generation.

If you don't believe God could create a fire-breathing dragon consider the **bombardier beetle** that produces a toxic substance that heats to 100 degrees and produces heat and pressure that spews the toxic substance up to a distance of 20 feet.

Job 3:8 Let them curse it that curse the day, who are ready to raise up their mourning [<03882>](#).

Job 41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan [<03882>](#) with an hook? or his tongue with a cord *which* thou lettest down?

Psalms 74:14 Thou brakest the heads of leviathan [<03882>](#) in pieces, *and* gavest him *to be* meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.

Psalms 104:26 There go the ships: *there is* that leviathan [<03882>](#), *whom* thou hast made to play therein.

Isaiah 27:1 In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan [<03882>](#) the piercing serpent, even leviathan [<03882>](#) that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that *is* in the sea.

## *Dragon*

Since leviathan is also described as a dragon it might be helpful to follow the Scriptural reference to “dragon.” In Hebrew is the word <08577> and can mean snake, serpent, dragon, sea monster, etc. In the New Testament the Greek word for dragon is <1404> *drakon*. It is used exclusively in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 12:3 And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.

Revelation 12:4 And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:13 And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man *child*.

Revelation 12:16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.

Revelation 12:17 And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 13:2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as *the feet* of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

Revelation 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who *is* like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Revelation 13:11 And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon.

Revelation 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs *come* out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Revelation 20:2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,

## Unicorn

Although the unicorn does appear in Job 39:9-10 the NIV incorrectly translates it as “wild ox.” It is not wild ox in Hebrew. It is the “unicorn.” In our minds a unicorn is allegedly a mythical creature with a great single horn in its head. This Biblical unicorn is not to be confused with the modern concept of a winged white or pink horse with a twisted horn in its head accompanied by rainbows and stars. The biblical unicorn is a wild animal of great strength with a single powerful horn in its head. It would be more like a rhinoceros than a horse.

The Biblical unicorn in Hebrews is <07214> *emrehamē* or literally a “horned ram.”

Numbers 23:22 God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn  
<07214>.

Numbers 24:8 God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn  
<07214>: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce *them* through with his arrows.

Deuteronomy 33:17 His glory *is like* the firstling of his bullock, and his horns *are like* the horns of unicorns <07214>: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they *are* the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they *are* the thousands of Manasseh.

Job 39:9 Will the unicorn <07214> be willing to serve thee, or abide by thy crib?

Job 39:10 Canst thou bind the unicorn <07214> with his band in the furrow? or will he harrow the valleys after thee?

Psalms 22:21 Save me from the lion's mouth: for thou hast heard me from the horns of the unicorns  
<07214>.

Psalms 29:6 He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn  
<07214>.

Psalms 92:10 But my horn shalt thou exalt like *the horn of* an unicorn <07214>: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

Isaiah 34:7 And the unicorns <07214> shall come down with them, and the bullocks with the bulls; and their land shall be soaked with blood, and their dust made fat with fatness.