LESSONS FROM JOB.
HEBRAIC PERSPECTIVES
OF THE IMAGES OF...

LEVIATHAN AND
BEHEMOTH
Amanda Buys’ Spiritual Covering

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LESSONS FROM JOB ... HEBRAIC PERSPECTIVES OF THE IMAGES OF LEVIATHAN AND BEHEMOTH

WE ARE CALLED TO WAR

There is no doubt that as free men, those who have crossed over into their destiny as Sons / Daughters of Abraham, we have been called to war until such time as there is rest in the Land.

What does it mean to be free?

Abraham made a choice to leave the gods of this world and move to the Land that God showed him. The children of Israel made a choice to leave the fleshpots of Egypt and move to the Land of Canaan that God had shown to Moses.

We make a choice to leave the gods of this world, in whatever form they may take in our lives in these modern times, to walk into a life of obedience to God’s Commandments.

Whichever it is, whether:

〜 It is crossing the Jordan into Israel,
〜 Crossing the Reed Sea into the wilderness,
〜 Or taking the Mikveh1 to transform from the “old man” to the new man,

These are all spiritual journeys that lead you into the terms of a Covenant relationship with God.

What does it mean to be a warrior?

In a very simple form, it is the characteristics, attributes, and training needed to overcome any of the obstacles that stand in your way to achieve the goal. Warfare is NOT a recipe. Individual plans are constructed to suit the terrain, the opposition and so on. One of the most critical attributes of a warrior is the ability to strategize.

1 For more information, please see Understanding Water (Mikvah) Baptism And The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit J2F 4 [http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=171](http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=171)
As part of the history of the time when the children of Israel enter into Canaan, we are told of the various Canaanite tribes that had, over time taken up residence there. Each one of these tribes, had some or other unique feature, defensive structure or strategy, whether it’s the high walls of the city-Jericho, or the complex maze of Ai, or the sheer weight of numbers, it really does not matter. You will read that in each case, a specific / unique battle strategy was adopted by Joshua that led to victory.

Paul’s principle of first in the natural, before realization in the Spiritual is a fundamental model that must be understood in all interpretation matters.

1 Corinthians 15:45-49 45 So it is written [in Scripture], “The first man, Adam, became a living soul (an individual);” the last Adam (Christ) became a life-giving spirit [restoring the dead to life]. 46 However, the spiritual [the immortal life] is not first, but the physical [the mortal life]; then the spiritual. 47 The first man [Adam] is from the earth, earthy [made of dust]; the second Man [Christ, the Lord] is from heaven. 48 As is the earthly man [the man of dust], so are those who are of earth; and as is the heavenly [Man], so are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthly [the man of dust], we will also bear the image of the heavenly [the Man of heaven].

Paul sets out the guiding principles:

We cannot expect a change in the Spiritual domain unless we occupy the same space in the Physical domain (unless you are comfortable to find your way around the earthly Tabernacle, you will not know how to function as a priest in the Heavenly Tabernacle made of Living Stones.)

We will NOT understand the Spiritual ramifications of any action unless we understand the effects of the principle of “cause and effect” as it plays out in the Physical Domain. It is here on earth that we can apply some Biblical principal; take note of the results that may arise, and to be able to institute remedial actions.

Who / What is this enemy of today?

The Canaan invasion was clearly defined as a number of tribes of pagans that lived in a very specific part of land - a clear border. In other words, we went to war in physical terms.

While there are very specific enemy tribes noted on the taking of the Land, we are expected to look at the “type of attack” in order to identify the “type of warfare” that we would have to defeat that specific enemy.

The idea is not a one on one comparison, as an analysis of the various battles will highlight the fact that various of the enemy would consolidate together at one site to form a particular attack strategy.
The “New Testament” invasion is targeted at the enemy in the second heaven\(^2\), the so-called demonic structure. It is therefore clear that this battle has now become a spiritual one - no less vicious or dangerous, but certainly not one for the naked eye to see.

Once again, we need to understand the enemy principle that various groupings of the enemy hierarchy will come together at different times for different battles.

Paul describes this enemy as follows:

**Ephesians 6:11-12** 11 Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes and the strategies and the deceits of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places.

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**Leviathan and Behemoth**

Many believers who are active as spiritual warriors in this field, quote the passage from the Book of Job that describes *Leviathan and Behemoth*, and attempt to find a description of Leviathan and Behemoth that defines the “enemy”, which Paul fails to identify.

These mystical creatures then become the means to describe an “enemy” that needs to be dealt with. It is a common thought pattern. We do not like things that do not have boundaries / size and so on.

**But is that really what Leviathan and Behemoth are all about?**

Let us deal with *some of the confusion* that is found in the literature, (and we will see that these two “things” have been used to develop a number of theories):

1. Some say that these are mythological images that have been created to reveal a connection to pagan religions.

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\(^2\) For more information on the three heavens, please see The Three Heavens [http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=462](http://www.kanaanministries.org/downloads/?did=462)
Pagan religions and many of the ancient myths that are passed from one generation to the next include mystical animals.

Common sense tells us this is nonsense!!

**Job 40:15**  Behold now, Behemoth, which I created as well as you; He eats grass like an ox.

As we see that the Word of God says, “God made this creature”… this implies that it was created sometime during the six days of creation!!

**2. Some say these are symbolic interpretations.**

In Jewish mysticism, they thought that it was a “fish” which has great illuminating properties but will become the banquet for the righteous in Heaven. (Talmud Baba Bathra 75a)

In some Christian circles, Leviathan is interpreted as the image of Satan - more specifically … the principality of PRIDE and envy.

Common sense tells us this is nonsense!!

1. **Firstly**, it is a creature made by God, that mankind could not compete with, but which is no match for God. This makes it a substantial part of creation, and we should be quick to reject any talks of symbolism.

2. **Some say that these are literal animals that we should identify with.**

And it is here that mankind has really made the weirdest of connections. If we understand that God made these creatures, and if we then want to make a comparison with the known creation, we should at least make sure that our conclusions would stand the test of reasonability.

From about the Middle-Ages we start to see the idea that:

**Behemoth = Elephant, or later on the Hippopotamus**

a) Behemoth has a tail like a cedar (**Job 40:17**)

   Yet today it is common talk that this refers to the Hippo, which only has a six-inch tail.

b) Behemoth is the largest of the ways of God (**Job 40:19**)

   The Hippo is only 6-7 feet tall.

c) Behemoth cannot be apprehended by man (**Job 40:19**)
Yet it is common knowledge that the Hippo has been hunted since the earliest of times.

**Leviathan = Whale or later on the Crocodile.**

a) Leviathan flashes forth light. *(Job 41:18-21)*

The crocodile has dull grey-colored eyes.

b) Leviathan raises himself up *(Job 41:25/34)*

The crocodile have very short legs and cannot stand up at all.

c) Leviathan is too mighty to be apprehended by man *(Job 41:1-2)*

The crocodile has been easily hunted since the earliest of times.

It is clearly not necessary to carry on with this type of analysis. There is simply no way to represent these two creatures directly with some of the known animals that God had created. We should be able to reject this hypothesis quite quickly.

**LET US SEE WHAT THE WORD SAYS!**

We do not have many Scriptures that define these two creatures. I have quoted all of those known verses so that we can gain a better understanding.

**What do we know?**

- ✔ They are creatures made by God.
- ✔ They are formidable warlike creatures.
- ✔ Man (at that time) did not have the ability to destroy them.
- ✔ One seems to be a land animal, while the other is a water lover.

**Behemoth**

*Job 40:15-24* 15 “Behold now, **Behemoth**, which I created as well as you; He eats grass like an ox. 16 “See now, his strength is in his loins And his power is in the muscles and sinews of his belly. 17 “He sways his tail like a cedar; The tendons of his thighs are twisted and knit together [like a rope]. 18 “His bones are tubes of bronze; His limbs are like bars of iron. 19 “He is the first [in magnitude and power] of the works of God; [Only] He who made him can bring near His sword [to master him]. 20 “Surely the mountains bring him food, And all the wild animals play there. 21 “He lies down under the lotus plants, In the hidden shelter of the reeds in the marsh.
"The lotus plants cover him with their shade; The willows of the brook surround him. 23 "If a river rages and overflows, he does not tremble; He is confident, though the Jordan [River] swells and rushes against his mouth. 24 “Can anyone capture him when he is on watch, Or pierce his nose with barbs [to trap him]?

Leviathan

**Please note the following verses from Job are from the Complete Jewish Bible:

Job 41:1-34

Job 41:1-9 And Livyatan! Can you catch him with a fishhook or hold his tongue down with a rope? 2 Can you put a ring in his nose or pierce his jaw with a barb? 3 Will he entreat you at length? Will he speak with you softly? 4 Will he agree with you to be your slave forever? 5 Will you play with him as you would with a bird or keep him on a string to amuse your little girls? 6 Will a group of fishermen turn him into a banquet? Will they divide him among the merchants? 7 Can you fill his skin with darts or his head with fish-spears? 8 If you lay your hand on him, you won't forget the fight, and you'll never do it again! 9 Look, any hope [of capturing him] is futile.

(The Hebrew word used here 3576 carries the meaning that you would be a liar if you said that you had won in battle against this beast) - one would fall prostrate at the very sight of him.

Job 41:10-19 10 No one is fierce enough to rouse him, so who can stand up to me? 11 Who has given me anything and made me pay it back? Everything belongs to me under all of heaven. 12 I have more to say about his limbs, his strong talk, and his matchless strength. 13 Who can strip off his [scaly] garment? Who can enter his jaws? 14 Who can pry open the doors of his face, so close to his terrible teeth? 15 His pride is his rows of scales, tightly sealed together – 16 one is so close to the next that no air can come between them; 17 they are stuck one to another, interlocked and impervious. 18 When he sneezes, light flashes out; his eyes are like the shimmer of dawn. 19 From his mouth go fiery torches, and sparks come flying out.
(The Hebrew word used here “ma’lat” 4422 - and carries the meaning of:
  to cause to escape,
  to be delivered,
  to go away in haste ... An Arabian proverb “sparks about your head”
  means to go away with ones head, to preserve ones life].

Job 41:20-25 20 His nostrils belch steam like a caldron boiling on the fire.
  21 His breath sets coals ablaze; flames pour from his mouth. 22 Strength
  resides in his neck, and dismay dances ahead of him [as he goes]. 23 The
  layers of his flesh stick together; they are firm on him, immovable. 24 His
  heart is as hard as a stone, yes, hard as a lower millstone. 25 When he rears
  himself up, the [1] gods are afraid, beside themselves in despair. [2]

(The Hebrew word used for ‘gods’ is 410 and carries the meaning of:
  god-like one,
  mighty men,
  mighty things in nature.

The reason for the despair is found in the description of the destruction - the
Hebrew word 7667 is used which means:

  crushing/breach,
  ruin,
  fracture.

Job 41:26-34 26 If a sword touches him, it won’t stick; neither will a spear, or
  a dart, or a lance. 27 He regards iron as straw and bronze as rotten wood. 28
  An arrow can’t make him flee; for him, slingstones are so much chaff. 29
  Clubs count as hay, and he laughs at a quivering javelin. 30 His belly is as
  sharp as fragments of pottery, so he moves across the mud like a threshing-
  sledge. 31 He makes the depths seethe like a pot, he makes the sea [boil]
  like a perfume kettle. 32 He leaves a shining wake behind him, making the
deep seem to have white hair. 33 On earth there is nothing like him, a
  creature without fear. 34 He looks straight at all high things. He is king over all
  proud beasts.

Isaiah 27:1 (CJB) On that day ADONAI, with His great, strong, relentless
sword, will punish Leviathan the fleeing serpent, the twisting serpent
Leviathan; He will slay the sea monster

Psalm 74:12-14 12 Yet God is my King of old, Working salvation in the midst
  of the earth. 13 You divided the [Red] Sea by Your strength; You broke
  the heads of the sea monsters in the waters. 14 You crushed the heads of
  Leviathan (Egypt); You gave him as food for the creatures of the wilderness.
SUMMARY

Let’s review where we are... It is something God created, therefore it is real. It does not seem to exist today, so that we can match the descriptions to things that we know.

But is there evidence of creatures that existed in time past?

THE DINOSAUR STORY

We have more than ample evidence of these massive creatures that lived many years ago.

Their sheer physical size would make of them the ‘terror’ that is described in Job.

Equally, no man, without the modern day weapons would have been able to attack / defend himself against these creatures.

The existence of the bones = a real creature = means that they must have been created by God.

Behemoth

- Lives on land and in the swamp.
- Is a mighty warrior that is unafraid of all others.
- Eats plants.

A THREE-horned dinosaur named TRICERATOPS lived on land, ate plants (a strict vegetarian), and was able to dominate the land.

3Triceratops is a genus of herbivorous ceratopsid dinosaur that first appeared during the late Maastrichtian stage of the late Cretaceous period, about 68 million years ago (Mya) in what is now North America. It is one of the last known non-avian dinosaur genera, and became extinct in the Cretaceous–Paleogene extinction event 66 million years ago.[1]

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3 Taken from https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triceratops
The term *Triceratops*, which literally means "three-horned face", is derived from the [Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language) τρί- (*trí-*) meaning "three", κέρας (*kéras*) meaning "horn", and ὄψ (*ops*) meaning "face".[2][3]

Bearing a large bony [frill](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triceratops) and three [horns](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Triceratops) on its large four-legged body, and possessing similarities with the modern [rhinoceros](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhinoceros), *Triceratops* is one of the most recognizable of all dinosaurs and the best known ceratopsid. It shared the landscape with and was probably [preyed upon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrannosaurus) by the fearsome [Tyrannosaurus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrannosaurus),[4] though it is less certain that the two did battle in the manner often depicted in traditional museum displays and popular images.

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**Leviathan**

- Lives on land and sea
- Is a mighty warrior, unafraid of others
- Is a meat eater
We have a number of possible dinosaurs that could fit this description:

The **Spinosaurus**, about 50 feet long and weighing in at 7-9 tons.

The **Afrovenator**, about 30 feet long, with 3 claws on each hand.

4 The **Tyrannosaurus**, about 40 feet long and weighing 7 tons like other *tyrannosaurids*. *Tyrannosaurus* was a *bipedal* *carnivore* with a massive skull balanced by a long, heavy tail. Relative to its large and powerful hind limbs, *Tyrannosaurus* fore limbs were short but unusually powerful for their size and had two clawed digits. Although other theropods rivaled or exceeded *Tyrannosaurus rex* in *size*, it was the largest known tyrannosaurid and one of the largest known land predators. In fact, the most complete specimen measures up to 12.3 m (40 ft) in length,[3] up to 4 metres (13 ft) tall at the hips, [4] and up to 6.8 metric tons (7.5 short tons) in weight.[5] By far the largest carnivore in its environment, *Tyrannosaurus rex* may have been an *apex predator*, preying upon *hadrosaurs*, *ceratopsians*, and possibly sauropods,[6] although some experts have suggested the dinosaur was primarily a *scavenger*.

4 Taken from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrannosauridae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyrannosauridae)
The debate about whether *Tyrannosaurus* was an apex predator or scavenger was among the longest ongoing feud in paleontology; however, most scientists now agree that *Tyrannosaurus rex* was an opportunistic carnivore, acting as both a predator and a scavenger.[7] It is estimated to be capable of exerting one of the largest bite forces among all terrestrial animals.[8]

The *Liopleurodon*, about 30 feet long, and weighing 10 tons. A real sea creature

The *basilosaurus*, about 60 feet long, and weighing 50-75 tons.
Basilosaurus ("king lizard")[1] is a genus of early whale that lived 40 to 34 million years ago in the Late Eocene.[2] The first fossil of *B. cetoides* was discovered in the United States and was initially believed to be some sort of reptile, hence the suffix -"saurus", but it was later found to be a marine mammal.[3] Richard Owen wished to rename the creature Zeuglodon ("yoked tooth"), but, per taxonomic rules, the creature's first name remained permanent. Fossils of *B. isis* have been found in Egypt and Jordan.[4] *B. drazindai* was described based on a single vertebra found in Pakistan.[5]

And finally,

The Megalodon, a shark type animal, over 60 feet long, with teeth that were 7 inches long and that ate Whales.

Megalodon (/ˈmɛɡələdɒn/ ME-gə-la-don; meaning "big tooth", from Ancient Greek: μέγας (megas) "big, mighty" and ὀδόντος (odoúntos), "tooth"—whose stem is odont-, as seen in the genitive case form ὀδόντος, odóntos)[1] is an extinct species of shark that lived approximately 15.9 to 2.6 million years ago, during the Cenozoic Era (middle Miocene to end of Pliocene).[2]

The taxonomic assignment of *C. megalodon* has been debated for nearly a century, and is still under dispute. The two major interpretations are Carcharodon megalodon (under family Lamnidae) or Carcharocles megalodon (under the family Otodontidae).[3] Consequently, the scientific name of this species is commonly abbreviated *C. megalodon* in the literature.

*C. megalodon* is regarded as one of the largest and most powerful predators in vertebrate history,[4] and likely had a profound impact on the structure of marine communities.[5] Fossil remains suggest that this giant shark reached a maximum length of 18 metres (59 ft).[4] and also affirm that it had a cosmopolitan distribution.[3]

[Once described as “toletal anatomy”]
Reconstructed megalodon skeleton on display at the Calvert Marine Museum.

Gottfried and colleagues further estimated the schematics of megalodon's entire skeleton.[9] To support the beast's dentition, its jaws would have been massive, stouter, and more strongly developed than those of the great white, which possesses a comparatively gracile dentition. The jaws would have given it a "pig-eyed" profile.[6] Its chondrocranium would have had a blockier and more robust appearance than the great white.[6] Its fins were proportional to its larger size.[6] Scrutiny of the partially preserved vertebral megalodon specimen from Belgium revealed that C. megalodon had a higher vertebral count than specimens of any known shark. Only the great white approached it.[6]

Using the above characteristics, Gottfried and colleagues reconstructed the entire skeleton of C. megalodon, which was later put on display at the Calvert Marine Museum at Solomon's Island, Maryland in the United States.[6][26][42] This reconstruction is 11.5 metres (38 ft) long and represents a young individual. The team stresses that relative and proportional changes in megalodon skeletal features are ontogenetic in nature in comparison to that of great white, as they occur in great whites while growing.[6] Fossil remains of C. megalodon confirm that it had a heavily calcified skeleton while alive.[24]

QUESTIONS:

😊 Were there creatures as scary as described to Job? It seems so...

😊 Why are they extinct? We don’t know …

A WAY FORWARD

God is speaking to Job about an attitude of the heart, about a commitment to serve Him with his whole heart (it’s not about spiritual warfare in the community).

God is testing Job to see if he has truly laid down his own life, has really dealt with the old man that Paul describes for us so well.
Job 1:8-12 (CJB) ADONAI asked the Adversary, "Did you notice my servant Iyov, that there's no one like him on earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and shuns evil?" 9 The Adversary answered ADONAI, "Is it for nothing that Iyov fears God? 10 You've put a protective hedge around him, his house and everything he has. You've prospered his work, and his livestock are spread out all over the land. 11 But if you reach out your hand and touch whatever he has, without doubt he'll curse you to your face!" 12 ADONAI said to the Adversary, "Here! Everything he has is in your hands, except that you are not to lay a finger on his person." Then the Adversary went out from the presence of ADONAI.

So if this is a test of character then we should look at the elements that God wants to test for.

What is it that HE wants to see and make sure is not “inside” of our soul / spirit-man.

We are told that Leviathan = PRIDE

Job 41:34 (CJB) “He looks straight at all high things. He is king over all proud beasts.”

As we study the following points and Scriptures, we will come to see that PRIDE has a destructive nature. More than that, it has the ability to spread its lethal message just like a cancer, until many have been infected. The consequences are ruined friendships, broken marriages, and war between nations.

The degree of unhappiness, war, needless destruction and human rights violation’s that we read in the press daily, is a clear demonstration that pride is reigning, and ruling.

There are five references to Leviathan in the Word of God. The most extensive reference is found in the Book of Job, chapter 41. The other references include Job 3:8, Psalm 74:14, Psalm 104:25-26 and Isaiah 27:1. Remember, Leviathan is referred to as a king over all the children of pride (Job 41:34).

The world system of performance, the fact that the strong will inherit power, is developed from a very young age. (You only have to look at the 50m race with the under 10’s to see the glory for one and the rejection and hurt for all others).

There is a reason that Paul teaches about the Fruit of the Holy Spirit. We need these attributes in great quantities. And that is especially true of the Fruit of SELF CONTROL.
Job 41:1 Or Leviathan, wilt thou find a hook that will draw him to land, a line that will hold his tongue fast.”

This question implies that there is no hook or line that is able to draw Leviathan out of the deep to land. Not only does Leviathan live in the depths, but he is so strong and powerful as to break any line or hook that man would use to snare him and draw him out.

The point made to us is that we don't have a line or hook to conquer pride in our lives. Pride is such a strong, deeply rooted spirit that it is impossible to hook him and draw him out. The beginning of humility is recognizing our limitations and inability, and our dependence upon the Lord. A humble man recognizes his need for the Lord in everything he does.

The greatest battle you will ever fight is against Pride. Leviathan is an awesome foe. Don't underestimate his strength and power. Once you enter into battle with this spirit, you will remember the struggle. The Lord is giving us a picture of pride and showing us our inability to do battle with him. How desperately we need to depend upon the Lord. We are too weak to fight the enemy without the Lord's help. We must submit and humble ourselves under the Lord to experience victory.

"Never get into strife or contention with a proud person." Pride will cause you to argue, fight, and be contentious. There is no rest if you find yourself in battle with someone controlled by Leviathan.

Contentious and argumentative people are controlled by Leviathan.
Definition of PRIDE

The quality or state of being proud; inordinate self-esteem; an unreasonable conceit of one’s own superiority in talents, beauty, wealth, rank, etc., which manifests itself in lofty airs, distance, reserve, and often in contempt of others. Those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

A sense of one’s own worth, and abhorrence of what is beneath or unworthy of one; lofty self-respect; noble self-esteem; elevation of character; dignified bearing; proud delight; - in a good sense.

Proud or disdainful behavior or treatment; insolence or arrogance of demeanor; haughty bearing and conduct; insolent exultation; disdain.

That of which one is proud; that which excites boasting or self-gratulation; the occasion or ground of self-esteem, or of arrogant and presumptuous confidence, as beauty, ornament, noble character, children, etc.

Show; ostentation; glory.
Pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war.

Definition of HAUGHTY

1. Having or showing arrogance
2. Noble or exalted

The word haughty is defined by Merriam-Webster as “blatantly and disdainfully proud.” The word is always used in the Bible in the evil sense of “arrogant, disdainful and setting oneself above others”; it is often set in contrast to being humble.

In Proverbs 6:16-19 is a list of “six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to Him.” The first one listed is “haughty eyes,” followed by such things as a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a false witness, and feet quick to run to evil.

Haughty eyes are said to be sin in Proverbs 21:4, along with a proud heart. To have haughty eyes is to have an arrogant demeanor; it’s an overall attitude of one’s heart that causes one to scorn or “look down on” others. The haughty person sets himself above others, and ultimately above God.

5 Merriam-Webster http://www.merriam-webster.com/
6 Merriam-Webster http://www.merriam-webster.com/
Some principle points to consider:

A) Pride is an Abomination

**Proverbs 21:4**  “Haughty and arrogant eyes and a proud heart, The lamp of the wicked [their self-centered pride], is sin [in the eyes of God].

**Proverbs 16:5**  Everyone who is proud and arrogant in heart is disgusting and exceedingly offensive to the Lord; Be assured he will not go unpunished.

God draws a line in the sand:

There is a limit. Anyone who has a proud heart is walking in SIN. From here on, you are in a place where not only can you destroy your own life but you can also find yourself in an “exile”.

**Characteristics of a prideful man:**

- **Puffed up** - unduly high opinion of oneself
- **Superiority** - a condescending attitude about others
- **Ungrateful spirit**, which leads to all manner of man-made doctrines

A wonderful example of a Godly man who became full of pride due to his closeness in the walk with the Messiah, is the story of Peter who professes to be able, to stand with the Messiah in his own strength and with pride, yet denies Him THREE times as soon as he is put on the spot by a young lady.

**Matthew 26:33-35, 69-75**  33 Peter replied to Him, “Though they all fall away because of You, I will never fall away!” 34 Jesus said to him, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, this night, before a rooster crows, you will [completely] deny Me three times.” 35 Peter said to Jesus, “Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You!” And all the disciples said the same thing. 69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard, and a servant-girl came up to him and said, “You too were with Jesus the Galilean.” 70 But he denied it before them all, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” 71 And when he had gone out to the gateway, another servant-girl saw him and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” 72 And again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” 73 After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them too; for even your [Galilean] accent gives you away.”
74 Then he began to curse [that is, to invoke God's judgment on himself] and swear [an oath], "I do not know the man!" And at that moment a rooster crowed. 75 And Peter remembered the [prophetic] words of Jesus, when He had said, "Before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly [in repentance].

1 Timothy 6:3-5 3 If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine and teaching which is in agreement with godliness (personal integrity, upright behavior), 4 he is conceited and woefully ignorant [understanding nothing]. He has a morbid interest in controversial questions and disputes about words, which produces envy, quarrels, verbal abuse, evil suspicions, 5 and perpetual friction between men who are corrupted in mind and deprived of the truth, who think that godliness is a source of profit [a lucrative, money-making business—withdraw from them].

B) God is far away from the proud.

As we analyze these verses, we find that pride will destroy all relationships, not only friendships, and marriages, but at some stage it gets so bad, that it impacts your relationship with God.

It is not hard to understand why... We are to love God with all of our hearts AND to love our neighbor as ourself.

As soon as the relationships become strained, or worse still destroyed, we are on dangerous ground.

Psalm 138:6  Though the Lord is exalted, He regards the lowly [and invites them into His fellowship]; But the proud and haughty He knows from a distance.

Proverbs 3:7  Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord [with reverent awe and obedience] and turn [entirely] away from evil.

1 Corinthians 3:21  So let no one boast in men [about their wisdom, or of having this or that one as a leader]. For all things are yours.

James 4:6-10 6 But He gives us more and more grace [through the power of the Holy Spirit to defy sin and live an obedient life that reflects both our faith and our gratitude for our salvation]. Therefore, it says, "God is opposed to the proud and haughty, but [continually] gives [the gift of] grace to the humble [who turn away from self-righteousness]." 7 So submit to [the authority of] God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him] and he will flee from you. 8 Come close to God [with a contrite heart] and He will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; and purify your [unfaithful] hearts, you double-minded [people].
9 Be miserable and grieve and weep [over your sin]. Let your [foolish] laughter be turned to mourning and your [reckless] joy to gloom. 10 Humble yourselves [with an attitude of repentance and insignificance] in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you [He will lift you up, He will give you purpose].

CHARACTERISTICS OF A PRIDEFUL PERSON

Anger outbursts, using this behaviour style to rule and reign. Making people afraid of speaking out or expressing an opinion, about anything.

Perfectionistic / Superiority behaviours, making use of a condescending attitude, and style to ridicule others.

Un-teachable spirit - always having the last word, having an opinion on every single matter under the sun.

Resisting authority, taking part in actions of subversive behaviour to undermine others, spreading rumors and gossiping.

Independence, a exceptionally strong desire to be on their own, to be the ruler of the gang at all times.

Intolerance of criticism, normally accompanied with a angry, violent response.

Thirst for self-praise.

Self-centeredness, the final test... “I did it my way”.
C) Pride always leads to a fall.

The following verses will show us that the consequence of continual pride, is that we will be expelled from the presence of God...we will be outside of the “camp”.

**Proverbs 16:18**  *Pride goes before destruction, and arrogance before failure.*

**Proverbs 18:12**  *Before being ruined, a person’s heart is proud; before being honored, a person must be humble.*

**Proverbs 15:25**  *The Lord will tear down the house of the proud and arrogant (self-righteous), But He will establish and protect the boundaries [of the land] of the [godly] widow.*

**1 Peter 5:5-6**  *Likewise, you who are less experienced, submit to leaders. Further, all of you should clothe yourselves in humility toward one another, because God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble he gives grace. 6 Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, so that at the right time he may lift you up.*

**James 4:6**  *But the grace He gives is greater, which is why it says, “God opposes the arrogant, but to the humble He gives grace.”*

We look at some people that are very prideful, and see that they seem to flourish, it seems that they go from strength to strength.

We then ask: “Is God’s WORD true...?” It is. We need to understand that God’s timing is prefect.

What will happen, will happen in God’s time... (we have no idea whether the person is about to change, or whether he is working on the generational download of his family or...?, and therefore we must leave this in God’s Hands.)

But we have a clear Biblical example. Nowhere is this more clearly stated for us than the description of Satan being thrown out of Heaven.

Here we see that the root **cause of the rebellion, is pride, and the consequence is exile:**
You had the full measure of perfection and the finishing touch [of completeness], Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the Garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The ruby, the topaz, and the diamond; The beryl, the onyx, and the jasper; The lapis lazuli, the turquoise, and the emerald; And the gold, the workmanship of your settings and your sockets, Was in you. They were prepared On the day that you were created

You were the anointed cherub who covers and protects, And I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked in the midst of the stones of fire [sparkling jewels] You were blameless in your ways From the day you were created Until unrighteousness and evil were found in you.

Through the abundance of your commerce You were internally filled with lawlessness and violence, And you sinned; Therefore I have cast you out as a profane and unholy thing From the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the stones of fire.

Your heart was proud and arrogant because of your beauty; You destroyed your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I lay you before kings, That they might look at you. You profaned your sanctuaries By the great quantity of your sins and the enormity of your guilt, By the unrighteousness of your trade. Therefore I have brought forth a fire from your midst; It has consumed you, And I have reduced you to ashes on the earth In the sight of all who look at you.

All the peoples (nations) who knew you Are appalled at you; You have come to a horrible and terrifying end And will forever cease to be.”

BEHEMOTH

Behemoth: Something of oppressive or monstrous size or power (Webster).

A BEHEMOTH IS ANY SYSTEM THAT IS LARGE ENOUGH IN SIZE OR POWER TO OPPRESS MULTITUDES OF PEOPLE.

It can be a religious, political, cultural, or economic system. Behemoths are erected by the enemy to keep the Gospel out and multitudes of people in darkness.

Job 40:16 16 See now, his strength is in his loins, and his power is in the sinews of his belly.
This verse talks about the strength of Behemoth's loins. "Loins" represent the ability to reproduce and have offspring. Reproduction is a key to having dominion. Whatever or whomever is able to reproduce will eventually have dominion and the ability to subdue.

**THE STRENGTH OF BEHEMOTH IS HIS ABILITY TO REPRODUCE HIMSELF AND SUBDUE THOSE UNDER HIS POWER.**

The New English Bible states, "He is the chief of God's works, made to be **tyrant** over his peers."

The key word here is **tyrant**. Behemoth is a tyrant. Religious, political or economic systems that are Behemoths become tyrannical and oppressive. They become controlling and dominating.

Behemoth can become violent when attacked. He uses fear and intimidation to maintain his control.

The Taylor translation of Job 40:14 says, "How ferocious he is among all God's creation, so let whoever hopes to master him bring a sharp sword."

**FALSE HUMILITY**

We can also surmise that Behemoth = FALSE HUMILITY.

I realize that the interpretation is subject to scrutiny, as the WORD does not spell anything out clearly. It is very large, and very strong… “sinews are tightly wound” / “limbs like **bars of iron**”.

1. It has **ranking**….. "**First** amongst the works of God"

2. It has a dark side… “In the **secrecy** of the reeds and marshes”/ “lotus tree **conceals**”.

3. It has a certain “**ruler-ship**”, “Food is brought to him”.

4. It is made for war… “It is furnished with a **sword**” even though it’s the largest of creatures that fears nothing!!

As God is testing Job’s heart / commitment, this creature must reflect something that Man could become and be something that God does not approve of.

False humility is really the stepping-stone to counterfeit worship. God has set out the pattern of worship that He desires. The pattern starts with the lifestyle where we live a life with God / Tabernacle in the very center of everything.

Every family was to send the first-born son to serve as a priest in the Tabernacle… Every family would be represented at the Heart of God.
The seven Feasts are mandatory times that everyone would draw near to God to celebrate our redemption, our freedom, our legacy of living in the Land of promise.

Our tithes and first-fruit offerings would become “holy / clean” by our declaration of obedience, and would be used to reveal to the world, God’s Hand of blessing on His children.

Man however, more often that not, thinks that he can do things his way. Small changes are made - just a different day, just a new place, just a little more comfortable, etc... Soon we are far away from God’s pattern of worship.

This “new” way becomes the norm / the culture / any not long afterwards, you will find that any one who thinks to follow the Biblical pattern is regarded as a false prophet / a legalist … strange!!!

And yet, in God’s Eyes it’s this deviation from His way, that is considered to be the “strange fire”. Paul warns us about this way of doing things. He says; stay away, do not touch!!
Colossians 2:18-23 18 Let no one defraud you of your prize [your freedom in Christ and your salvation] by insisting on mock humility and the worship of angels, going into detail about visions [he claims] he has seen [to justify his authority], puffed up [in conceit] by his unspiritual mind, 19 and not holding fast to the head [of the body, Jesus Christ], from whom the entire body, supplied and knit together by its joints and ligaments, grows with the growth [that can come only] from God. 20 If you have died with Christ to the [a]elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were still living in the world, do you submit to rules and regulations, such as, 21 “Do not handle [this], do not taste [that], do not [even] touch!”? 22 (these things all perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men. 23 These practices indeed have the appearance [that popularly passes as that] of wisdom in self-made religion and mock humility and severe treatment of the body (asceticism), but are of no value against sinful indulgence [because they do not honor God].

The two-step process:

A. Man takes delight in false humility

Man starts to function in a certain way. These characteristics or behaviour patterns will over time form the value system that will want to “make” their own rules for worship.

A few examples are:

Spiritual words / concepts are used to either defend some ungodly action, or worse still to motivate for its acceptance. (Hitler used the church’s teaching on the Jews to begin the Holocaust).

People will be quick to publicize their goods deeds / or the sacrifices that they are making. False humility can be called marketing in the spiritual domain. (It has become common to see leaders that have to make use of the media-TV-to bring their words / manifestations to the public, in contrast to Y’shua / Jesus Who tells those that He heals - “go to the Tabernacle, but do not say anything.”)

Words that profess a love for God, but where actions that are supposed to show real love for my neighbor are few and far between. Where a regime of authority (leadership in a church / group, and so forth) is put in place, with strict control being enforced / maintained, while the grace of God is preached (so-called “covering”), we can easily discern that the elements of pride / judgement are the reality of the day.

Many speak of the “grace” that is the backbone of their existence, and yet are not able to walk without being critical / judgmental of others who apply the WORD with a different understanding.
B) Man develops his own worship model

As soon as man has his own sense of false humility, and he thinks his deeds are acceptable (man's philosophy - typical Greek thinking,) he will take on the understanding that men are gods.

At this time that men develop their own plans, based on their own “visions”, and since they are able to hide these false ideas behind religious words, and a life of “supposed” humbleness, they are able to spiritually abuse many.

It is here that many of the cult leaders emerge and lead many astray.

**CONCLUSION**

It is possible to be truly humble.

Moses is described as a very humble man; more humble that anyone else on the face of the earth.
Being humble does not mean undervaluing yourself:

• It means valuing other people.
• It means having a passion for excellence.
• It means having the capacity to be conscious of the presence of God.
• It means having the ability to be quiet and listen to God’s whisper.
• It means being able to redeem the sense of loneliness with a heartfelt love.
• It means deciding not to say something when someone else has said something that you disagree with.
• It means deciding not to say something when someone else has said something that you disagree with.
• It means deciding not to say something when someone else has said something that you disagree with.
• It is about seeking a level playing field for all men, between “superior” and “nothing”, is the sweet spot where we please God.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Consider whether you have allowed pride and haughtiness to take a foothold of your life, think also of the people you have hurt or led astray by your misinterpretation of God’s Character.

   Repent.
   Make restitution to those who have been wronged.

2. Develop a vision for a servant-leader who cares for, uplifts those whom he is called to tend. Engage with Godly brethren to whom you can be accountable and make sure that you are diligent in the renewal of your spirit man.

3. Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you on the journey to “grow” the Fruit of the Holy Spirit.

SHALOM!!

Matthew 23:11-12 But the greatest among you will be your servant. Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be raised to honor.
The Priestly Blessing ...

*Numbers 6:24-26*

“24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: 25 The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: 26 The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.”
"YHVH will kneel before you presenting gifts, and He will guard you with a hedge of protection, YHVH will illuminate the wholeness of His Being toward you, bringing order, and He will provide you with love, sustenance, and friendship, YHVH will lift up the wholeness of His Being and look upon you, and He will set in place all you need to be whole and complete."
The Priestly Blessing

May the LORD bless you and keep you
May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May the LORD lift up his face to you and give you peace

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1 This blessing is (ritually) recited (by the kohanim) during synagogue services during Nesiat Kapayim ("the Raising of the Hands"), though it is also recited over children on Friday night before the start of the Shabbat meal or as a bedtime blessing.
2 The name YHVH (יהוה) represents God's attributes of love and mercy, in contradistinction to the name Elohim (אלהים), which represents God's attribute of justice and power as our Creator.
3 May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you
May the LORD lift up his face to you and give you peace

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4 shamar: To guard, protect, heed, as in the exercise of diligent care. Only God has the power to secure the conferred blessing and keep it from turning sour or from fading away.
5 The hiphil verb (ראה" ) comes from the word "light" (רה" ), and is thought to refer to God's wisdom. "May God enlighten you" with His wisdom, i.e., the Divine Light that preceded the work of creation (Gen. 1:3).
6 May God grant you grace or favor (מעון), i.e., to understand the "breadth and length and height and depth" of God's love (Eph. 3:18). Grace refers to the bestowal of an undeserved gift. The blessing is bestowed even though unearned or unmerited.
7 Since one's face is an indication of the heart's attitude, Rashi says that this means God will suppress His anger by "looking at you" (if God is angry at you, He "turns His face away" and refuses to admit your presence). The "lifting of face" also pictures God lifting you up as a father might lift up his child in joy. The "showing of face" indicates spiritual intimacy.
8 All of the other blessings are useless without the establishment of inner peace, and therefore it is the seal of the blessing. Shalom (שלום) is not simply the absence of strife, but a balance and harmony between the finite and infinite, the temporal and the eternal, the material and the spiritual realms. Shalom is a gift from Sar Shalom (שלום שלום), the Prince of Peace.

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Birkat Kohanim: Num. 6:24-26
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