
Why The Behemoth is Unlikely to be a Dinosaur

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Abstract

Many Young Earth Creationists (YEC's) from Ken Ham, Kent Hovind and wide array of YEC's have made the claim that the Behemoth found in Job 40:15-24 is a dinosaur. In particular a Sauropod dinosaur. In this paper I am going to present a case as to why it is highly unlikely to be a dinosaur using what we know about the dinosaurs' reproductive system.

Key Words: Dinosaur, Behemoth, Sauropod, Job, Scripture, Reproductive, system, Young, Earth, Creationist, Creationism, Bible, Translation, Quote-mine, YEC

Introduction

Young Earth Creationist's (YEC's) argue that behemoth in the book of Job (40:15-24) is a dinosaur, particularly a Sauropod.

YEC's single-out only part of a sentence "...tail like a cedar," leaving out the rest of the sentence (See; Fig 1) that says; "He moveth his tail like a cedar."

By leaving out such an important part of the sentence, it effectively takes the verse out of contexts, effectively amounting to having YEC's quote-mining the Bible for the purpose of misleading their followers into believing the Bible says or means something it does not.

Multiple YEC's are guilty of quote-mining the Bible in just this way. Many books, videos and websites can attest to this blatant attempt at manipulation of the Bible.

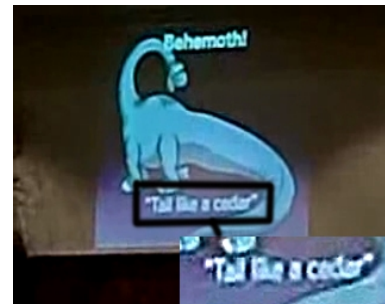


Fig 1. A Still screen shot from a video where Ken Ham (An authority in the YEC community) traveled to Japan, giving a speech about dinosaurs in the Bible. Notice only part of the sentence was displayed and not the full sentence "He moveth his tail like a cedar."

I will not be discussing the many different counter biblical arguments made against the YEC's biblical interpretation of the the scripture. Nor will I be using this paper to argue what the behemoth may actually be.

I will only be establishing a strong case for it not being a dinosaur using what we know about the reproductive system.

The Behemoth's Genitalia

The reproductive system of a creature can be very revealing, as many creatures have different types of reproductive systems. These reproductive systems can be vastly different from one another.

In the case of the behemoth, it can be used to eliminate or show just how improbable that the behemoth was a dinosaur. To do this it will be necessary to establish what Job has seen.

We do know that Job could see the genitalia of the behemoth from Job 40:17. The passage will vary differently depending on the translation being used.

New International Version (©1984)

“His tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of his thighs are close-knit.”

New American Standard Bible (©1995)

“He bends his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are knit together.”

King James Bible

“He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his stones are wrapped together.”

Douay-Rheims Bible

“He setteth up his tail like a cedar, the sinews of his testicles are wrapped together.”

Webster's Bible Translation

“He moveth his tail like a cedar: the sinews of his male organs are wrapped together.”

The Book of Job by Stephen Mitchell (1992)

“His penis stiffens like a pine; his testicles bulge with vigor.”

40:17 Hebrew Bible

יחפץ זנבו כמו ארז גידי פחדו ישרגו:

No matter what translation is being used it is clear that Job could see the testicles of the behemoth.

The word "פחד," (Strong's #6344) which is often worded as “stones,” or “thighs” in many Bibles because many Bible scholars may have found it inappropriate to use the word testicle. But clearly Job could see the genitalia of the behemoth.

According to Strong's Hebrew and Aramaic dictionary the word "תפפ" means “testicle.” We don't need the details of the behemoth genitalia to continue; we only need to establish that Job could see them.

Reproductive systems

Modern day reptiles and birds are very much alike when it comes to their reproductive systems. They mate by a process known as "kissing cloacae." The exact details of how this was accomplished is not known.

However, the process is believed to be pretty much the same. This is due to the similar reproductive systems that dinosaurs and modern reptiles and birds share.

The genitalia are all internal (particularly the testicles) and are kept inside the cloaca. This is the cavity that is used for urination, and defecation and copulation.

During copulation the animal gets into position and only then does the genitalia extrude from the cloaca and then is inserted into the female. That is if the animal has either a penis or hemipenis. (It is not quite clear if dinosaurs had a penis)

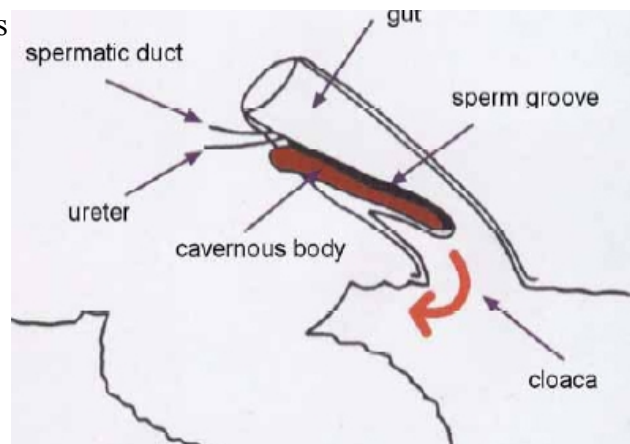


Fig 2. Schematic drawing of the cloaca of a male crocodile taken from Genital Structures and sex identification on Crocodiles.

Most male mammals on the other hand have their reproductive system on the the outside of their bodies. With a few exceptions, such as the bull elephant which has internal testicles but an external penis.

For the most part mammals have both external

testicles and an external penis.

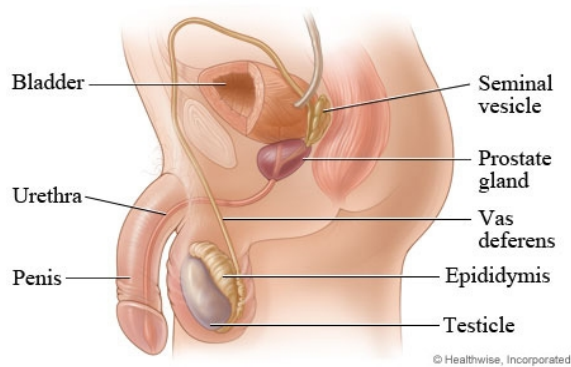


Fig 3

Conclusion

From Job 40:17 we can establish that Job could see the testicles of the behemoth. Seeing that the testicles and overall genitalia of dinosaurs are internal and not external, we can conclude what Job had seen is highly unlikely to be a dinosaur.

Job never said that the behemoth was mounting another behemoth so if it was a dinosaur it would not be displaying the parts of its genitalia that may come out during the act of copulation, especially the testicles which we can confirm that Job had seen and are internal.

If one argues that maybe there was another behemoth and that the behemoth was in the act of mating then the translation done by Stephen Mitchell, which says, "His penis stiffens like a pine; his testicles bulge with vigor" would be further justified as a highly accurate translation if not the most accurate as it would fit into the idea of a possible second behemoth-like animal.

However, if that was the case it would then eliminate the original argument made by YEC's where the tail was a description of a dinosaur tail.

Thus we can conclude from the reproductive systems of dinosaurs and confirming Job visually identified the testicles of the behemoth according to scripture. That makes it highly improbable that the behemoth was a dinosaur and is more likely to be a mammal of some kind.

Resources

Stephen Mitchell's, 1992 The Book of Job

New International Version (©1984)

New American Standard Bible (©1995)

King James Bible

Douay-Rheims Bible

Webster's Bible Translation

Hebrew Bible

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Job's Behemoth - A Dinosaur?:

<http://www.anunseenworld.com/behemoth.html>

Ridiculous KJV Bible Corrections:

<http://av1611.com/kjbp/ridiculous-kjv-bible-corrections/Behemoth.html>