

Leviathan – Past, Present, Future

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In order to identify who Leviathan is, a number of scriptures need to be examined comparatively to create a composite of who he was in the past, who he is now, and what will become of him in the future. To begin with, when Leviathan was created he had a very positive outlook on life and this was expressed in a number of ways, including through music.

This great and wide sea, in which are innumerable teeming things, living things both small and great. ²⁶There the ships sail about; and there is that Leviathan which You have made (SHD 3335; *created, formed, fashioned, framed, preordained*) to play (SHD 7832; *laugh, smile, play an instrument*) there (Ps. 104:25-26; NKJV used throughout unless otherwise noted; Ed. notes in parenthesis).

As we shall see, Leviathan does not exist in the physical realm and therefore the “seas” mentioned in Psalms 104:25 are not meant to be understood literally (see study entitled: *The Seas and Those Who Dwell in Them*). Instead, the “sea” is a spiritual location in which Leviathan had authority granted to him by God. According to the Septuagint version of Psalm 104:26, Leviathan is translated as “dragon”. Unfortunately the word dragon has more negative connotations than positive. Nonetheless, the dragon described in Psalms 104:26 began his life with a very positive attitude and he had musical ability through which he could express his joy. This is confirmed by another scripture describing a spirit being who had authority combined with musical talents that were created in him.

You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established (appointed) you; you were on the holy mountain (symbol of governing authority) of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones, ¹⁵You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you (Eze. 28:14-15; Ed. notes in parentheses).

The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created (Eze. 28:13b; emphasis added).

The preamble in Ezekiel 28:1-12 is important because it compares a human king, who ruled over the powerful seafaring nation of Tyre, with a spirit being who at some point in the past became the powerful ruler over a kingdom in the seas.

Because the spirit being described as Leviathan in Psalm 104:26 started his life positively, he reaped the many benefits associated with obedience to his heavenly Father’s law and commandments. In fact, his knowledge of God’s law gave him wisdom.

You were the seal of perfection, **full of wisdom** and perfect in beauty (Eze. 28:12b; emphasis added).

Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them... (Dt. 4:5a).

Therefore be careful to observe them; for **this is your wisdom and understanding**... (Dt. 4:6a; emphasis added).

The next scripture is another reminder that the dragon (Leviathan) was very wise prior to his rebellion.

Behold, I (Christ) send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore **be wise as serpents** and harmless as doves (Mt. 10:16; emphasis added).

It is important to emphasize that the word "dragon" is often synonymous with "serpent" in scripture. For instance, the original King James Version of the Bible frequently translates "serpent" as "dragon." However as scripture confirms, there is a "great dragon" showing that one particular spirit being has greater power over other "serpents" who are currently under his influence.

So **the great dragon** was cast out (of heaven), that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world.... (Rev. 12:9a; Ed. notes in parenthesis; emphasis added).

This great dragon is also referred to as "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" because he understood the difference between good and evil. Unfortunately, he made a choice at some point in the past to reject God's law, which is "good", and he embraced a self-serving way of life which ends up causing many forms of evil. This is the reason Adam was commanded to avoid having fellowship with this tree.

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Gen. 2:16-17).

In the 41st chapter of Job, Leviathan is pictured as being more powerful than other created spirit beings. The only exception would be Jesus Christ who is now at the right hand of Almighty God (Mt. 26:64; Mk. 14:62; 16:19; Lk. 22:69). In the following section of scripture, it is clear that Leviathan does not "suffer fools", and the damage he can cause should be taken seriously.

Will you play with him as with a bird, or will you leash him for your maidens? ⁶Will your companions bargain over him? Will they apportion him among the merchants? ⁷Can you fill his skin with harpoons, or his head with fishing spears? ⁸**Lay your hand on him; remember the battle – never do it again!** ⁹Indeed, **any hope of overcoming him is vain;** shall one not be overwhelmed at the sight of him? ¹⁰**No one is so fierce that he would dare stir him up...** (Job 41:5-10a; cf. Job 41:12-23 emphasis added).

In his present condition, Leviathan's attitude is "hardened" and he is determined to prove that his way of living is better than following Almighty God's, as summarized by His law and commandments.

His heart is as hard as stone, even as hard as the lower millstone. ²⁵When he raises himself up, the mighty are afraid; because of his *crashings* (SHD 7667; *destruction*; cf. Lam. 2:11; 3:47; Prov. 16:18; Isa. 1:28; Jos. 7:5) they are beside themselves (Job 41:24-25; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Currently, the spirit being referred to as Leviathan is described by the apostle Paul as the "god of this age".

But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴whose minds **the god of this age has blinded**, who do not believe, lest the **light** (symbol of God's law; cf. Prov. 6:23; Isa. 8:20) of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God (Almighty), should shine on them (2Cor. 4:3-4; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

It is important to emphasize two things at this point. First, everyone who is created in the image of God is regarded as a "god" because of their

potential to inherit everlasting life following their repentance of sin.

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, **'I said, You are gods'**?"³⁵If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came, and the Scripture cannot be broken,³⁶do you say of him (Christ) whom the Father sanctified and sent into the world, "You are blaspheming," because I said, "I am the Son of God"? (Jn. 10:34-36; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So referring to Leviathan as "the god of this age" does not elevate him higher than other created sons and daughters of Almighty God. Instead it confirms his authority, at this point in God's plan of reconciling all sinners to Himself, and that he is a powerfully deceptive spirit being who encourages those under his influence to believe a false gospel message claiming that God's law and commandments do not need to be observed. This is the second point that the apostle Paul addresses.

I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him (Almighty God) who called you in the grace (forgiveness made possible by the shed blood; cf. Heb. 9:22) of Christ, **to a different gospel**,⁷which is not another (of the same kind); but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert (distort) the gospel of Christ.⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed (Gal. 1:6-8; cf. Mt. 7:21-23; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).

Leviathan, "that serpent of old" (Rev. 12:9), convinced Eve that she did not need to obey God's commandment regarding the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Gen. 2:16-17). In fact, at the moment in time she was talking to the personification of this "tree", she had already broken this commandment.

Because of his lawless behavior, the spirit being that is sometimes referred to as Leviathan will be punished along with those who have followed his rebellious ways. The next scripture is a prophecy to this effect.

You (God) broke **the heads of Leviathan** in pieces, and gave him as food to the people inhabiting the wilderness (Ps. 74:14; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

The phrase, "giving him as food", is a metaphor used to describe the physical destruction of an individual. God uses phrases such as this a number of times in scripture and they are not meant to be taken literally.

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the great supper of God,¹⁸**that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great**" (Rev. 19:17-18; emphasis added).

It appears that the phrase "heads of Leviathan", mentioned in Psalm 74:14, refers to various leaders in the kingdom of Leviathan and it should come as no surprise that they are pictured as coming out of the sea.

Then I (John) stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw **a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads** and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name (Rev. 13:1; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

Just as the "beast rising out of the sea" receives its power from the dragon (Rev. 13:2), so many world kingdoms have received their power with

assistance from Leviathan. For instance, the “snake dragon” was engraved on the Ishtar Gate which was located about half a mile from the great temple of Marduk, who was the chief god of the Babylonians. Apparently, Jeremiah made this connection when he was inspired to say the following:

Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon has devoured me, he has crushed me; he has made me an empty vessel, **he has swallowed me up like a dragon**; he has filled his stomach with my delicacies, he has spit me out (Jer. 51:34; emphasis added; KJV).

However, the reality is that Leviathan exercises his authority at God’s pleasure. For instance, when the ancient nation of Israel was disobedient, God would allow Leviathan to wreak havoc against them in order to humble them. Assyria was just one of the “kingdoms” under Leviathan’s control that was used as a “rod of punishment” against Israel.

Woe to **Assyria, the rod of My anger and the staff in whose hand is My indignation** (Isa. 10:5; emphasis added).

Nonetheless, power in the hands of a despot can go to his head and then he oversteps his bounds. When this occurs, God will punish the leader sooner or later in order to humble them.

Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Lord has performed all His work on Mount Zion and on Jerusalem, that He will say, “**I will punish the fruit of the arrogant heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his haughty looks**” (Isa. 10:12; emphasis added).

Although Assyria was a powerful kingdom, it still came under the authority of Leviathan, who is described as follows:

Upon earth there is not his like, a creature without fear. ³⁴He beholds everything that is high; **he is king over all the sons of pride** (Job 41:33-34; RSV).

Therefore, there is no one created in God’s image that is more proud of himself than Leviathan. Sadly, the Godly wisdom he once had has been corrupted and replaced by a worldly form of wisdom.



WOE TO ASSYRIA, THE ROD OF MY ANGER AND THE STAFF IN WHOSE HAND IS MY INDIGNATION.

Isaiah 10:5; emphasis added

Your heart was lifted up (became proud) because of your beauty; **You corrupted your wisdom** for the sake of your splendor... (Eze. 28:17a; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

For **the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God**. For it is written, “He catches the wise in their own craftiness”, ²⁰ and again, “The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise, that they are futile” (1Cor. 3:19-20; emphasis added).

Although Leviathan is more cunning than anyone created in God’s image, he will eventually receive the wages for the sins he has committed (Rom. 6:23a).

Now the serpent was more cunning than any living creature which the Lord God had made... (Gen. 3:1a).

So the Lord God said to the serpent: “Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all the cattle (who will die), and more than every beast of the field (who will also die); on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life (until you die) (Gen. 3:14; Ed. notes in parentheses).

To summarize so far, Leviathan is one of a number of names associated with the spirit being now known as Satan. He was a law-keeper from the time he was created, but at some point decided to disobey his heavenly Father's word (Eze. 28:15; Mt. 4:4). When this occurred, he was removed from his position of responsibility in God's government (Isa. 14:18) However, he still has the ability to affect the attitudes of mankind as well as angelic beings.

... you (who repented of your sins) once walked according to the course (Gr. *aion*; *aeon* – ancient being) of this world (Gr. *kosmos*; present evil age; cf. Gal. 1:4), according to **the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience** (Eph. 2:2b; Ed. notes in parentheses; emphasis added).



THEREFORE SUBMIT TO GOD. RESIST THE DEVIL AND HE WILL FLEE FROM YOU.

James 4:7; cf. Matthew 4:10-11; emphasis added

The question will come up, "Why does a loving God allow Satan to have any influence?" The answer is: "Because mankind rejected God's authority under the leadership of Adam, Adam's descendants have no access to God or His Holy Spirit (Gen. 3:23-24); except in rare cases when Almighty God intervenes and begins the process of leading individuals to repentance (Jn. 6:44, 65; Rom. 2:4b)". Therefore, the majority of people are deceived into believing that this "present evil world" is not so bad because they have nothing else to compare it to (Rev. 12:9). However, following Christ's return to restrain Leviathan (Rev. 20:1-3), this planet will experience a very different "world order" that follows God's law and commandments.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the

knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea (Isa. 11:9; cf. Zech. 14:16-19).

As mentioned previously, Leviathan, the great dragon, is associated with the values of Babylon and Babylon is described as the most powerful kingdom, but also the one that taught subsequent kingdoms all the evils that are still influencing mankind today (Dan. 2:37-45). Therefore, like the mythological city of Atlantis, Babylon will eventually be thrown down.

Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and **threw it into the sea**, saying. "Thus with violence the great city Babylon shall be thrown down, and shall not be found anymore (Rev. 18:21; emphasis added).

It is during the "end time" events described in the book of Revelation that Leviathan will be killed in his realm, which is compared figuratively to "sea".

In that day the Lord with His severe sword, great and strong, will punish **Leviathan the fleeing serpent**, Leviathan that twisted serpent; and **He will slay the reptile that is in the sea** (Isa. 27:1; cf. Job 41:30-32; emphasis added).

It can easily be overlooked, but very important to note, that Leviathan is described as "the fleeing serpent". This is due to a number of reasons including the fact that his way of living runs contrary to that of Almighty God's, but also because Leviathan will "flee" from those who embrace and obey God's law and commandments.

Therefore submit to God. **Resist the devil and he will flee from you** (Jas. 4:7; cf. Mt. 4:10-11; emphasis added).

Leviathan is associated with Babylon which represents every false religious system and the

corruption associated with them. In fact, it is through these religious organizations that Leviathan/Satan has persecuted the true servants of Almighty God, including Jesus Christ.

And in her (Babylon) was found the blood of prophets and saints, and all who were slain on the earth (Rev. 18:24; Ed. note in parenthesis).

In conclusion, Leviathan is just another name used to describe Satan, who was originally created as "Lucifer" which means "light bringer". When anyone "brings light" they are representing the law and commandments of Almighty God (Prov. 6:23), which Lucifer did for an undisclosed amount of time. However, at some point Lucifer decided to reject his heavenly Father's values as summarized by His law and commandments. Following this rejection of God's law and commandments, Leviathan became more commonly referred to as the Devil and Satan (Rev. 12:9). He is now described as the "god of this age" who influences the majority of mankind to reject God's law (2Cor. 4:2-4). At some point in the future, Leviathan will be killed for the sins he has committed (Isa. 27:1), and then resurrected with every sinner that lived his/her life in opposition to God's law and commandments. In Leviathan's resurrection, he is pictured as coming out of the sea where he was buried. This is figurative language as this document has asserted throughout.

The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and death and hades (the grave) delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works (Rev. 20:13; Ed. note in parenthesis; emphasis added).

So Leviathan/Satan will have an opportunity to repent and be restored in his relationship with Almighty God. This is only possible due to the shed blood of Jesus Christ which atones for, or

covers, the sins of everyone who repents (Heb. 9:22; cf. Ac. 2:38; 2Pet. 3:9).

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