

# Rahab The Dragon

If you read the book of Job you will eventually encounter the mysterious creatures Behemoth and Leviathan. As I have discussed elsewhere, there are compelling reasons to believe that both of these creatures are dinosaurs. (If you want to read about them for yourself you can find the behemoth discussed in Job 40:15-24 and the leviathan discussed in Job 41:1-34.) Both of these creatures are fascinating and are worth studying, but it turns out that there is an even more obscure creature in the Bible. I would like to take a look at an animal known as Rahab the Dragon.

The name “Rahab” should be familiar to us. Joshua chapter two tells us about a prostitute named Rahab who helped Israel’s spies escape from Jericho. Although this woman shares the same name, that is *not* the Rahab that I am talking about. The Bible speaks of a very different Rahab:

**Isaiah 51:9:** “Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the Lord; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath **cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?**

10 Art thou not it which hath dried **the sea**, the waters of the great deep; that hath made the depths of the sea a way for the ransomed to pass over?”

That mention is interesting but it doesn’t tell us very much. All it says is that there was a dragon named Rahab that was associated with the sea. This creature is also mentioned in the book of Psalms:

**Psalms 89:9** “Thou rulest the raging of **the sea**:

when the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them.

10: **Thou hast broken Rahab** in pieces, as one that is slain; thou hast scattered thine enemies with thy strong arm.”

In both of these passages Rahab is mentioned in conjunction with God’s power over the sea. Rahab was apparently some kind of sea creature that God defeated. It’s tempting to think that Rahab may be a reference to some nation (such as Egypt), but the context of these passages simply does not support that.

It should be noted that Rahab is not the only mysterious sea creature that God fought. The Bible uses the exact same language when it talks about the leviathan:

**Isaiah 27:1:** “In that day the Lord with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even **leviathan** that crooked serpent; and **he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.**”

**Psalms 74:13:** “Thou didst divide the sea by thy strength: thou brakest the heads of the dragons in the waters.

14 **Thou brakest the heads of leviathan in pieces**, and gavest him to be meat to the people inhabiting the wilderness.”

If “leviathan” was a type of dinosaur, then it's possible that Rahab was a leviathan. Rahab and leviathan are both called dragons, and both of these creatures are associated with the sea. Both of these creatures are also associated with pride: Rahab actually means “proud” or “arrogant”, and God Himself said that the leviathan was characterized by pride (Job 41:34). On top of that, *God promised to destroy both of them*. That is significant, because neither of these creatures are around today.

There is one more reference to Rahab, and it can be found

in the book of Job. If you read the KJV you won't see it because the translators translated the word "Rahab" to mean "proud" instead of just inserting the name, but it is the same word. This is how the ESV translates it:

**Job 26:12:** "By his power he stilled the sea; by his understanding **he shattered Rahab.**"

Notice that once again Rahab is mentioned in conjunction with God's power over the sea.

When the Bible talks about animals such as dragons it is easy for us to dismiss what it has to say on the grounds that there are no more dragons alive today. I think that is a very short-sighted approach. The fossil record makes it clear that there were many mighty animals that used to roam the Earth but have since gone extinct. The leviathan is simply one of those creatures. The Bible seems to say that the leviathan's extinction was not a random act of chance; instead it was the judgment of God. The Lord is the one who destroyed the leviathan and shattered Rahab. He demonstrated His awesome power by crushing this terrible monster.

Judging by the way that the leviathan is described in the Bible, it's probably a good thing that this animal is no longer around. Can you imagine what life would be like if there were indestructible, fire-breathing animals the size of buildings roaming around the countryside? I think God knew exactly what He was doing when He "shattered Rahab".

