Bible Words: *Ecce*

Ecce means "behold." You can add it to your notebook. We do not use the word "behold" much any more in English. In French *voilà* is everyday language and so is *wele* in Welsh. In fact English speakers sometimes say *voilà* when they need a word for "behold!" (although I've never heard a English person use *wele!*) When doing translations from Latin don't use "behold" – not in the exam anyway: it might be considered too old fashioned. Go for "look!" or something similar. However, although we do not use it much today, "behold" occurs many times in the Bible and it is the most accurate word for the Hebrew *hinneh* and Greek *ἰδού* that it translates. "Behold" is stronger and more emphatic than "look," "see" or "take notice" (*Ecce* carries much the same stronger force) and when we see it in the Scripture we should we should take the trouble to note very carefully what God is saying.

Ironically, perhaps the most famous use of the word *ecce* in the Bible is in the text below, however, where it is not God but Pontius Pilate who is speaking! At the poignant moment when Pilate led Jesus out wearing the crown of thorns and purple robe, this Roman Governor of Judea said, *"Ecce homo!"* Perhaps he did not say it in Latin, since the crowd would not have understood him, but he probably *thought* these exact Latin words.

Prodit ergo Jesus foras, ferens spineam illam coronam, et purpureum illud pallium. Et dixit eis [Pilatus], **Ecce** *Homo.* John 19:5

This is easy, especially as I've just told you what it is about! You know *ergo* and *et. Spineam coronam* and *purpureum pallium* you will guess from the context and from words related to them. *Prodit* is related to "produce," *foras* means "outdoors," *illam* and *illud* mean "that" (which does not feature in any English translation of this text I have looked at) and *homo* we have met before and you will remember it from the scientific term *homo sapiens.* You can guess the rest I think.

When God took Job to task for questioning him he gave him a "tour" of the marvels of creation. He ended his "tour" with a description of a creature that gave Job a glimpse of his great power.

Ecce *Behemoth quem feci tecum faenum quasi bos comedet* Job 40:10

You will probably have to look this up as there are not many words you know or guessable words (unless you know "comestible") here. The genitive singular of *bos* is *bovis* which gives us the name of this meaty drink $\longrightarrow$

God used the world "behold" to emphasise just what an amazing creature Behemoth was. But what creature was it exactly? The picture at the beginning of this lesson will give you a clue. You can find out more here: https://creation.com/m/dinosaurs-are-mentioned-in-the-bible-behemoth. Certainly behemoth was something to behold!

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1   There is nothing so difficult that it cannot be investigated or examined. Terence.