

This single chapter of Proverbs 30 contains the words of an unknown prophet or seer'.

Whose name in the Hebrew "Agur" {aw-goor'} which means *received among the sages*.

Proverbs 30:1-4: *The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, the oracle. The man declares to Ithiel {eeth-ee-ale'} [God has arrived, a sign, or coming of God], to Ithiel and Ucal {oo-kawl'} [power, prevalence]^[2] Surely, I am more stupid than any man, And I do not have the understanding of a man. ^[3] Neither have I learned wisdom, nor do I have the knowledge of the **Holy One.** ^[4] Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His **son's** name? Surely you know!*

And of course we do know now, it is Jesus [**Iēsous** {ee-ay-sooce'}]

➤ **Agur speaks of himself as one who lacks wisdom, and knowledge especially concerning the _____ of God (perhaps in comparison to Solomon). He speaks of himself as wanting revelation of our Christ and His Spirit to guide him in the ways of truth and wisdom. From a Christian perspective we know that the more enlightened people are, the more they lament their ignorance; praying for a clearer understanding of our Creator. Superbly educated, even Paul writes in Philippians 3:10; *I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,* ^[NIV]**

In Proverbs 30:4, there is a prophetic notice of the one who came down from heaven to be our Instructor and Savior, and then Agur addresses Christ's ascension into heaven as our Advocate. The questions that are asked here are the same as those asked of Job [ee'yobe]; only Christ alone is able to answer such questions. John 3:13: *for only I, the Son of Man, have come to earth and will return to heaven again.* ^[NLT]

- **The Messiah is here spoken of as a Person distinct from the Father, but the " _____ " name is unknown to Agur.**

Compiler's note: Personally, I believe that the Son's name is the same as that of the Father. Jesus said in his prayer for the disciples in John 17:11; *"And I am no more in the world; and yet they themselves are in the world, and I come to Thee. Holy Father keep them in Thy name, the name which Thou hast given Me, that they may be one, even as We are."* [NASB]

Proverbs 30:5-6: *Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. [6] Do not add to His words lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.*

- **Every word of God proves true. He defends all who come to Him for protection. There is not the least ground to suspect the Word as being incomplete for our salvation and guidance, with the exception of perhaps our understanding of its whole counsel and revelation. So, we must be careful not to add to His _____. Adding to His words opens the way to errors and corruptions.**

Proverbs 30:7-9: *Two things I asked of Thee, do not refuse me before I die: [8] Keep deception and lies far from me, give me neither poverty nor riches; Feed me with the food that is my portion, [9] Lest I be full and deny Thee and say, "Who is the Lord?" Or lest I be in want and steal and profane the name of my God.*

- **Agur wisely prayed for the middle of the road, that he might be kept at a distance from temptations; he asked daily bread, neither the delicacies of the rich, nor mere subsistence of the poor. There is a remarkable similarity between this prayer and several clauses of the Lord's model prayer. We are to request our daily bread and course correction and protection from our old nature that wantonly chases after evil. When we consider how those who have abundance are prone to abuse their wealth or what poverty and hunger will drive a person to, Agur's prayer is a wise one, though seldom one that is offered. Having neither the distraction of an**

overabundance, or the wants of poverty that may cause us to _____ the name of our Lord; leaves us without excuse to seek out the pardoning love of Christ, and have Him for our portion; if we walk with God, then we shall have all we can ask or think, especially as they attain to spiritual things. Our heavenly Father provides all that we need, albeit different for each individual, that we may be drawn to repentance and a desire for the Fruit of His Holy Spirit through His gift of a new nature.

Proverbs 30:10: *Do not slander a slave to his master, lest he curse you and you be found guilty.*

- Because of our innate repulsion toward the issue of slavery, we fail to realize the application to our own life and society; however, the principle here is what is really important. So let's just change the word slave into that of a fellow employee in the same corporation. The attitude that would cause someone to _____ another falsely is usually one of pride, position or profit; and it is those attitudes that the Word of God speaks to as being offensive to our Creator and wrong for a child of God to which to succumb. The New Living Translation renders the passage; *never slander a person to his employer. If you do, the person will curse you, and you will pay for it;* thus, making the passage more apropos to our current society.

In the next few passages, Agur goes on to describe natural born humans being at their worst.

Proverbs 30:11: *There is a kind of man who curses his father and does not bless his mother.*

- This proverb addresses ingratitude: Just as a person may be ungrateful to those who gave them life and provided for them as a child, so the natural born person is usually unappreciative of forgiveness made possible by our Creator, through His propitiation by the incarnation. All too often they

_____ our heavenly Father and grieve His Holy Spirit, who brings new life.

Proverbs 30:12: *There is a kind, who is pure in his own eyes, yet is not washed from his filthiness.*

- The unregenerate often feel _____ in their own estimation, failing to realize their own depravity; but they are filthy and unwashed by the blood of the Lamb. Hebrews 10:22: *let us go right into the presence of God, with true hearts fully trusting him. For our evil consciences have been sprinkled with Christ's blood to make us clean, and our bodies have been washed with pure water.* [NLT]

Proverbs 30:13-14: *There is a kind—oh, how lofty are his eyes! And his eyelids are raised in arrogance. [14] There is a kind of man whose teeth are like swords, and his jaw teeth like knives, to devour the afflicted from the earth, and the needy from among men.*

- They are proud, their _____ is almost beyond description and disdainful. They _____ the needy with slander or affect the poorly taught, uninformed mindsets, with clever words or phrases. Paul, through the inspiration of God's Holy Spirit, writes about some of these unregenerate folks in Romans 1: beginning in verse 20: *From the time the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky and all that God made. They can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse whatsoever for not knowing God. Yet they systematically destroy the faith of those easily led astray. Romans 1:21,25,28-30; [21] Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn't worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. The result was that their minds became dark and confused. [25] Instead of believing what they knew was the truth about God; they deliberately chose to believe lies. So they worshiped the things God made but not the Creator Himself, . . . [28] When they refused to acknowledge God, he abandoned them to their*

*evil minds and let them do things that should never be done. [29] Their lives became full of every kind of wickedness, sin, greed, hate, envy, murder, fighting, deception, malicious behavior, and gossip. [30] They are backstabbers, haters of God, insolent, proud, and boastful. They are forever inventing new ways of sinning and are disobedient to their parents. [31] They refuse to understand, break their promises, and are heartless and unforgiving. [32] They are fully aware of God's death penalty for those who do these things, yet they go right ahead and do them anyway. **And, worse yet, they encourage others to do them, too.** [NLT]*

Proverbs 30:15-17: *The leech has two daughters, "Give," "Give." There are three things that will not be satisfied, four that will not say, "**Enough**": [16] Sheol, and the barren womb, Earth that is never satisfied with water, and fire that never says, "Enough." [17] The eye that mocks a father, and scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.*

- **Our translators chose the parasitic form, leech, which is a bloodsucker. Cruelty and covetousness are two daughters of the leech, that still cry, "Give, Give." The Hebrew word is `aluwqah, {al-oo-kaw}; meaning to suck. The writer's intent is to show an attitude that this is never satisfied; there is never _____.** These devourers are compared to four things which never are satisfied. They're never rich enough and are always coveting. Many, who have come to a bad end have written that their wicked exploits began by despising their parents' authority.

Proverbs 30:18-19: *There are three things which are too **wonderful** for me, four which I do not understand: [19] The way of an eagle in the sky, The way of a serpent on a rock, The way of a ship in the middle of the sea, and the way of a man with a maid.*

- **Agur expresses his lack of understanding of some of nature's _____ marvels; and while today we scientifically proclaim our knowledge of flight, a snake's mode**

of mobility, oceanography, and navigation, the nuances of Love still befuddle us.

Proverbs 30:20: *This is the way of an **adulterous** woman: She eats and wipes her mouth, and says, "I have done no wrong."*

➤ **This is a mystery which still confounds us today. It is anonymity of iniquity; the cursed urging and persuasions by which a male seducer gains the affections of a female; and the deception which an _____ woman uses to conceal her wickedness.**

Proverbs 30: 21-23: *Under three things the earthquakes, and under **four**, it cannot bear up: ^[22] Under a slave when he becomes king, and a fool when he is satisfied with food, ^[23] Under an unloved woman when she gets a husband, and a maidservant when she supplants her mistress.*

➤ **Agur describes _____ types of people who are very troublesome. The first is a man of low esteem with a bitter natural spirit; who, after getting authority, becomes a tyrant. The second is an overbearing fool who prospers, indulging in excesses. Third, he points out a woman of a contentious spirit and sadistic habits who marries well. And lastly, a servant who has obtained undue influence, or perhaps a servant girl who supplants her mistress. A situation that we read about in Genesis, where thus far, barren Sarai suggested to Abram to produce an heir by her servant Hagar. Genesis 16:5 records Sarai's regrets. **Then Sarai said to Abram, "It's all your fault! Now, this servant of mine is pregnant, and she despises me, though I myself gave her the privilege of sleeping with you. The Lord will make you pay for doing this to me!"** [NLT]**

Compiler's note: Men, we can only chuckle, realizing that it was Abram's fault even though he only followed his wife's suggestion. How little things have changed?

Proverbs 30:24-28: *Four things are small on the earth, But they are exceedingly wise: ^[25] The ants are not a **strong** folk, But they prepare their food in the summer; ^[26] The badgers are not mighty folk, Yet they make*

*their houses in the rocks; [27] The locusts have no king, Yet all of them go out in ranks; [28] The **lizard** you may grasp with the hands, Yet it is in kings' palaces.*

➤ **Agur continues to marvel at God's creation. These four creatures, though they may be small and seemingly insignificant, are to be admired; just as are the poor or those who are not _____ and powerful in this world, yet, who are wise enough to make preparation for the coming kingdom of our Lord during their earthly sojourn. We all know how destructive locusts can be. They act as a unit although there is no apparent leader. The lesson that the unsaved can learn from this is apparent in our churches of today. The Church moves forward on a spoken goal and the written Word, but without a visible leader. Paul writes of the church in his day, notwithstanding, little has changed. In 1st Cor. 3:3; *for you are still controlled by your own sinful desires. You are jealous of one another and quarrel with each other. Doesn't that prove you are controlled by your own desires? You are acting like people who don't belong to the Lord.* [NLT] However, in the true church, old attitudes and carnal ways give way to our new nature, assimilating the Fruit of His Spirit as each individual matures in Christ. Among true Christians, God's Holy Spirit is indwelling every believer; "*so it is with Christ's body. We are all parts of his one body, and each of us has different work to do. And since we are all one body in Christ, we belong to each other, and each of us needs all the others.*" Romans 12:5 [NLT]**

➤ **The little _____ that lives in a king's palace can teach us about faith. By faith, we can agree with Paul when he says: . . . *for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.* 2nd Tim. 1:12 [NASB] As Christians, we have put our faith in Him to make us acceptable for citizenry in the Kingdom of Heaven. Again, Paul writes, and with whom we should all agree; *For I am confident of this very thing, that He***

who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. Philip. 1:6 [NASB]

Proverbs 30:29-32: *There are three things which are stately in their march, even four which are stately when they walk: ^[30] The lion which is mighty among beasts and does not retreat before any, ^[31] the strutting cock, the male goat also, and a king when his **army** is with him. ^[32] If you have been foolish in **exalting** yourself or if you have plotted evil, put your hand on your mouth.*

➤ The _____ is known for its boldness. Christians should also display boldness, walking and speaking as a messenger of Christ. Paul again offers an example that we need to be ready to follow. Acts 20:24: ***"But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God.*** [NASB]

Compiler's note: altogether too often we have pussycats in the pulpit rather than lions; spineless, weak and timid preachers who corrupt the Word of God, leading many astray. They appear to be more afraid of losing one who tithes than an endowment from our Lord. If this seems harsh, consider it righteous indignation.

➤ What we may learn from animals seems to go well with God's expectations of a Christian. The Kings _____ reminds us that we also must keep our temper under control in spite of all provocations. The soldier, who goes into battle emotionally angry, usually doesn't survive. Winning others to Christ is best served by love and encouragement; I don't believe that we can argue anyone into the kingdom.

➤ Our position and boldness comes from Christ and His indwelling Holy Spirit; be careful not to allow pride any foothold, any _____ation_ must come from Christ alone, salvation belongs to Him.

Proverbs 30:33: *For the churning of milk produces butter, and pressing the nose brings forth blood; so the churning of anger produces strife.*

➤ **We must keep the angry thought in our minds from breaking out into evil words that stir up the passions of others, producing _____.** As Christ's ambassadors, apart from righteous indignation, we must not let anything be said or done with violence, but everything with softness and calmness. A proverb of the mountain folk asserts "you can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar". Paul writes in Romans 12:18: *Do your part to live in peace with everyone, as much as possible.* ^[NLT] It is God's desire that there be peace, especially among His own. Do you recall what the angels were singing in the fields to the shepherds when they announced the birth of our Lord? *"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace on earth to all whom God favors."* ^{Luke 2:14} Even in Paul's day, there was apparent discord among the believers, he writes: *So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up.* ^{Romans 14:19 [NLT]} *For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.* ^{1st Cor. 14:33 [NLT]}

I believe the word found in 2nd Cor. 13:11 is an appropriate passage with which to close out Agur's inspired writing. *Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Rejoice. Change your ways. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.* ^[NLT]