

Proverbs 30, Feb 10, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

Chapter 30 is an anomaly in the book. It is also longer than most chapters at 33 verses comprised of triplets and quadruplets. Most proverbs are only doubles. Additionally, chapter 30 has multiple verses that progress in their message whereas most proverbs are stand alone statement. There are 10-12 pericopes in the chapter. A pericope is shorter than a paragraph. We do not know who "Agur son of Jakeh" is. 1Kings 4:30-31 mentions other sages, "³⁰ Solomon's wisdom was greater than the wisdom of all the people of the East, and greater than all the wisdom of Egypt. ³¹ He was wiser than anyone else, including Ethan the Ezrahite—wiser than Heman, Kalkol and Darda, the sons of Mahol. And his fame spread to all the surrounding nations."

Commentary:

1-4 Humility before God

V1b worn out as a mortal trying to understand the immortal and everlasting God.

V2 "I am stupid. Even for a man, this is a fools errand."

V3 "Whatever I know, it is infinitesimal compared to the vastness of wisdom. My knowledge of God, "the Holy One" is lacking.

V4 "have you traveled to heaven and come back? Have you been everywhere the wind blows and learned to control it? Can you hem in the waters of the oceans? Have you been to the ends of the earth? What is God's name and His son's name?" Facetiously, he asks the arrogant.

5-6 God's Word

V5 All God's words are true and can be counted on. He is reliable and has given us a reliable book. Those who trust it are shielded from the unnecessary pain of bad decisions. God's word creates protection.

2Tim 3:16 " All Scripture is God-breathed and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the man of God may be equipped, having been thoroughly equipped for every good work." LSB

2Peter 3:15-16 “And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,¹⁶ as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.” ESV

V6 is a command not to add to his word, lest you show your stupidity as a liar.

Rev. 22:18-19 “I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.”

2Tim 2:23 “Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels.” ESV “But refuse foolish and ignorant speculations, knowing that they produce quarrels.” LSB

7-9 Two requests:

A. Don't let me be a babbling liar (8a)

B. Keep me from excess

1. Too much leads to arrogance where I take credit for Your provision.
2. Too little makes me steal and cause reproach on the name of God.

Note: He uses the tetragrammaton (covenant name of God -YHWH) in v9a

Application point: Be content with what you have (Phil 4:12-13; James 1:17)

10 is a direct command with a principle of wisdom attached. Think about the consequences of your actions, especially what you say. Running your mouth in complaints may harm you in the future.

11-14 Arrogance “there are those” ESV is better translated “generation”

11 Does not recognize the past and it's beneficial stance as standing on the shoulders of those (especially one's own parents) who came before them.

12 They think they are morally superior but are actually worse.

13 They are arrogant and think themselves superior to those who came before them.

14 Their speech is like knives, swords and fangs... devouring and afflicting the righteous poor (widows & orphans) whom they should help provide for.

15-17 Four Examples of Dissatisfaction

15 leech says give give.

16 the grave (Sheol), women who can't have children, the dry ground, and fire.

17 the one who disobeys the commandment to "honor your father and mother" will be cursed as the text says (Exodus 20:12; Dt 5:16; Eph 6:2). I wonder how many people have died early because of this.

18-19 Four Mysteries -he says three but then gives four

-Eagles soaring in the sky

-Snakes on rocks

-Ships on the high seas

-A man wooing a young woman

20 The Adulteress -her action is normal to her. We see this exceedingly with the advancement and normalization of the porn industry. 1 in 10 women in the US aged 20-45 have done porn now.

21-23 Four Things the world cannot bear as injustice

1. When a slave becomes a king
2. When the wicked gets enough to eat
3. When an unloved woman gets a husband
4. When a servant girl supplants her mistress

24-28 Four small things that are exceedingly wise:

1. Ants (v25) are not individually strong but are also never hungry.
2. Rock badgers (v26) don't conquer others but thrive in impossible places.
3. Locusts (v27) have not obvious ruler but exercise order and discipline anyway.
4. Lizards (v28) it is small but permeates everywhere.

29-31 Four things that have confidence as seen in their walk:

1. The lion because he is strong
2. The strutting rooster (greyhound, or stud horse lit. "girt of loins")
3. A male goat (hegoat-kjv, billy-goat)
4. A king *with his* army with him. Interesting to think how the Hebrew sounds, "king... army with him."

32-33 Arrogance is not good. Repent, lest you be pressed and exposed as weak.

Conclusion:

Get God's word in you and be careful to follow it. Do not add to it or pursue trivial and pointless discussions. Be humble before God and seek him earnestly.

Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the wisdom it provides. Help us to understand and obey it. Make us men of wisdom full of grace and truth. Make us wise and faithful for Your glory. Make us mighty men, pulling in the same direction for the cause of Christ. For Him and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.