

STUDYING PROVERBS 30**INTRODUCTION**

- A. THE AUTHOR CHAPTER 30 OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS IS AGUR, THE SON OF JEKEL THE ORACLE.
- B. WE DO KNOW SOME THINGS ABOUT AGUR BECAUSE OF WHAT HE HAS WRITTEN
 - 1. HE MAKES HIS CONFESSION OF FAITH IN GOD.
 - 2. HE IS A SEEKER OF GOD.
- C. THE PRACTICAL LIFE THAT CHRISTIANS ARE TO LIVE WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED BY A STUDY OF PROVERBS 30. CF. RO 12:1-2.
- D. ONE THOUGHT REIGNS ABOVE ALL IN PROVERBS 30 – WE ARE ASSURED OF FINDING GREAT SECURITY IN TRUSTING IN GOD.
- E. PR 3:5-6; 30:5

PROVERBS 30:1

- A. THESE ARE THE WORDS OF “AGUR THE SON OF JAKEH”
- B. THE WORDS “PROPHECY” OR “VISION” IN THE OT HAVE TO DO WITH AND MEAN REVELATION GIVEN TO INSPIRED MEN
 - 1. HO 4:6
 - 2. PR 29:18

PROVERBS 30:2

- A. AGUR MAKES HIS CONFESSION OF FAITH IN GOD
- B. AGUR EXPRESSES HIS REALIZATION THAT HE IS FAR BELOW GOD IN PERFECTION
- C. “BRUTISH” – EXPRESSES HIS FEELING THAT HE IS DULL AND STUPID IN COMPARISON TO GOD
- D. THIS IS A LESSON THAT WE ALL MUST LEARN AND REMEMBER FOR A SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE

PROVERBS 30:3

- A. AGUR’S HUMILITY IS CLEARLY SHOWN IN HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF GOD’S SUPERIORITY IN KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM.
- B. AGUR SAYS THAT HE HAD NEITHER “LEARNED WISDOM” FROM THOSE RECOGNIZED AS TEACHERS OF HIS DAY
- C. HE ALSO AFFIRMS THAT HE HAD NOT DEVELOPED WISDOM TO THE EXTENT OF CONSIDERING HIMSELF TO HAVE BEEN EQUAL IN KNOWLEDGE WITH GOD

PROVERBS 30:4

- A. IT IS HERE ACCEPTED THAT HE NOR WE OURSELVES ARE TO ATTEMPT TO BE THE COUNSELORS OF GOD
- B. WE MUST REMEMBER THAT GOD IS THE CREATOR WHILE WE ARE THE CREATURES OF HIS HAND
- C. GOD IS AN ETERNAL BEING
- D. HIS PRESENCE IS EVERYWHERE AND ABOVE ALL IN WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE
- E. LISTEN TO THE QUESTIONS OF JOB’S “FRIENDS”
- F. JOB 11:7-10; 15:7-9
 - G. PAUL REMINDS US IN RO 1:18-22

PROVERBS 30:5

- A. THE WORD OF GOD IS PURE AND PURIFIED – HIS WORD IS ALWAYS TO BE SEEN AS THE ABSOLUTE, CLEAR, INERRANT, VERBALLY INSPIRED, GOD-BREATHED AVENUE OF TRUTH, WITH NO ADMIXTURE OF MAN’S THOUGHTS – 2 PE 1:20-21; 2 TI 3:16-17
- B. THE WORD OF GOD IS THE PROTECTION OR SHIELD OF THE MAN OF GOD
- C. PS 84:11
- D. THE ONE WHO ABIDES IN THE WORD OF GOD WILL HAVE THE CARE OF GOD TO PROTECT, COUNSEL, AND GUIDE HIM THROUGH LIFE

PROVERBS 30:6

- A. GOD PLACES A CURSE ON EVERY ONE WHO ADDS TO OR SUBTRACTS FROM THE WORDS OF HIS BOOK – RE 22:18-19
- B. THE CREEDS OF MEN ARE EITHER MORE OR LESS THAN GOD’S HOLY WORD
- C. GOD’S WORD IS ALL SUFFICIENT AND SHOULD BE FINAL TO SETTLE EVERY QUESTION OF AUTHORITY IN RELIGIOUS MATTERS

D. MT 28:18-20

PROVERBS 30:7 -9

A. AGUR'S PRAYER HAS TWO POINTS

1. THAT THE LORD SHOULD NOT DENY HIM BEFORE HE DIES BECAUSE HE HAS WICKEDLY FAILED TO SET HIS HEART FOR THAT WHICH IS ETERNAL.
2. THAT "VANITY AND LIES" OR PRIDE, SHOULD BE REMOVED IN ORDER THAT HE SHOULD SINCERELY LEARN AND WORSHIP IN COMPLETE DEPENDENCE ON GOD FOR HIS NEEDS

B. HE PRAYS FOR BALANCE AND CONTENTMENT IN HIS LIFE WITH MAN AND GOD – MT 6:11

PROVERBS 30:10

A. SLANDER AND WRONG DONE IN LIFE, WHETHER BY MASTER OR SERVANT, WILL BE REWARDED ACCORDINGLY – CO 3:25

B. GOD IS NO RESPECTOR OF PERSON – RO 2:11; ACTS 10:34

C. WE DO NOT HAVE THE APPROVAL OF GOD TO DO WRONG, EVEN TO THE MOST UNGODLY FOLKS WE MEET IN LIFE

PROVERBS 30:11-15a

A. HONORING OUR FATHER AND MOTHER IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE – EX 20:12; DT 5:16; EP 6:1-4.

B. FOUR "WICKED GENERATIONS" – HATEFUL GROUPS, OR CLASSES OF PEOPLE IN THE WORLD CANNOT CORRECTLY SUPPOSE THEMSELVES TO BE PURE WHILE THEY REFUSE TO OBSERVE THE COMMANDS OF GOD.

C. THERE ARE FOUR CLASSES OF SINNERS OR EVIL ONES MENTIONED

1. THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS, PROUD, AND ARROGANT HYPOCRITES TOWARD THEIR PARENTS
2. THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS WHO ARE WILLING TO OPPRESS THE INDIGENT OF THE WORLD
3. THOSE FULL OF PRIDE AND OF A VAIN HEART
4. THE "TWO DAUGHTERS" WHO ACT LIKE BLOOD-SUCKING LEECHES IN THEIR GREEDY WAYS, AS NEVER-SATISFIED "VAMPIRES"

PROVERBS 30:15b-16

A. THERE ARE FOUR THINGS THAT ARE INSATIABLE, OR NEVER SATISFIED, AND IT IS FURTHER LEARNED THAT THEY WILL ALWAYS BE WITH US IN THE WORLD

1. THE GRAVE – HE 9:27
2. THE BARREN WOMB CRYING OUT TO PRODUCE SEED
3. THE THIRST OF THE EARTH FOR WATER
4. FIRE THAT WILL NOT BE SATISFIED, BUT KEEPS ON BURNING

PROVERBS 30:17

A. THOSE WHO THINK THEY CAN MOCK GOD BY BEING RUDE TO PARENTS AND LISTENING TO NONE OF THEIR COUNSEL SHALL NOT BE RESPECTED THEMSELVES WHEN THEY DIE

B. GA 6:7-10

PROVERBS 30:18, 19

A. ANOTHER QUARTET OF HAPPENINGS IN THE WORLD "TOO WONDERFUL FOR ME," OR WHICH I CANNOT FOLLOW IN WISDOM, OR ARE NOT UNDERSTOOD FULLY BY MAN ARE:

1. THE ACTIONS OF AN EAGLE IN FLIGHT
2. THE HEAT-SEEKING SERPENT COMING TO A ROCK
3. THE CONTROL OF A TOSSING SHIP ON THE OCEAN – CF. JA 3:4
4. THE ATTRACTION AND LOVE A MAN HAS FOR A MAIDEN

PROVERBS 30:20

A. THERE IS NOTHING BETTER THAN A GODLY WOMAN, AND NOTHING WORSE THAN AN UNGODLY WOMAN IN HER SINFUL ENJOYMENT

B. THE UNGODLY WOMAN'S WAYS NEED TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS BEING WITHOUT UPRIGHT MORAL THINKING, AND READY TO SNARE THE UNSUSPECTING MAN

- C. SHE THINKS NO MORE OF COMMITTING ADULTERY THAN SITTING DOWN TO EAT, AND WIPING AWAY THE EVIDENCE OF HER SHAME AS IF INNOCENT AND UNIMPORTANT
- D. GOD ASSURES THAT HE THINKS DIFFERENTLY – HE 13:4; 1 CO 7:2

PROVERBS 30:21-23

- A. FOUR THINGS INTOLERABLE OR NEVER SATISFIED ARE GIVEN WHICH DISTURB PEACE AND HARMONY IN THE WORLD
 - 1. A SERVANT WHO IS GIVEN POWER TOO QUICKLY, AND IS UNABLE TO HANDLE THE ELEVATED POSITION
 - 2. A FOOL WHO IS SUDDENLY MADE RICH
 - 3. AN ODISIOUS OR HATED WOMAN WHO SNARES A MAN INTO MARRIAGE
 - 4. A MAIDSERVANT WHO STEALS HER OWNER'S PLACE AND INHERITANCE

PROVERBS 30:24-28

- A. HERE ARE LESSONS FOR THE INSIGNIFICANT
- B. WE SHOULD NEVER DESPISE OR OVERLOOK THE "LITTLE THINGS" OF THE EARTH THAT TEACH US GREAT LESSONS IN SHREWDNESS AND WISDOM
 - 1. THE "ANTS" ARE PERSONIFIED TO SHOW A PERSON WHO IS SMALL IN POWER, BUT SUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF BEING BUSY AND INDUSTRIOUS IN HIS AFFAIRS – CF. 6:6
 - 2. THE "CONIES" (MOUNTAIN MICE) ARE LIKE FOLKS WHO KNOW THEIR LIMITATIONS, AND TAKE REFUGE IN THE ROCKS FOR PROTECTION
 - 3. THE "LOCUSTS" IN THEIR WISDOM BAND TOGETHER FOR STRENGTH
 - 4. THE "SPIDER" CAN TEACH US LESSONS IN PERSISTENCE, FINDING ITS PRESENCE IN THE LOWLY PLACE AS WELL AS EVEN IN KING'S PALACES

PROVERBS 30:29-31

- A. LESSONS FROM THE ANIMALS
- B. FOUR THINGS THAT ARE GRACEFUL, STATELY, AND POWERFUL IN LIFE
 - 1. THE LION, BECAUSE OF HIS MIGHT AND BRAVERY, IS CONSIDERED THE KING OF THE FOREST
 - 2. THE GREYHOUND IS KNOWN FOR QUICKNESS AND SPEED
 - 3. A MALE GOAT REFUSES TO GIVE UP IN A FIGHT
 - 4. A KING LEARNS TO RULE IN WISE ASCENDANCY OVER OTHERS LEST ANARCHY ARISES

PROVERBS 30:32

- A. IF WE FIND OURSELVES IN FOOLISH ACTIONS OF PRIDE, OR EVIL AND HAUGHTY CONDUCT, WE ARE TO TURN AWAY WRATH AND A CONTENTIOUS SPIRIT BY BEING CAUTIOUS AND CAREFUL OF OUR SPEECH
- B. PS 49:10
- C. PR 12:1
- D. PR 18:6-7

PROVERBS 30:33

- A. LEARNING PATIENCE FROM PROVERBS
- B. INDUSTRY WITH PATIENCE WILL NOT BE RESISTED OR SUPPRESSED BECAUSE, AS IN THE CHURNING OF MILK UNTIL IT BECOMES BUTTER, IT IS A NECESSITY FOR SUCCESS IN LIFE
- C. PICKING AT AN ALREADY SORE NOSE WILL BRING BLOOD, JUST AS PICKING AT A PROBLEM WILL CAUSE STRIFE
- D. SO ALSO WILL THE "FORCING OF OUR WRATH [BRING] FORTH STRIFE."
- E. THE AMBITIOUS MAN WILL BE BRINGING ABOUT HIS OWN INJURY

CONCLUSION

- A. LET EACH OF US PROFIT FROM THE WRITING OF PROVERBS 30, THE SAYINGS OF AGUR, IN ALL OF OUR DEALING WITH GOD AND OUR FELLOWMAN
- B. LET US, "KEEP OUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE; FOR OUT OF IT ARE THE ISSUES OF LIFE" – 4:23
- C. LET US REMEMBER THAT OUR WORDS COME FORTH FROM OUR HEART OR THINKING, 23:7
- D. LET US PAY THE PROPER RESPECT TO OUR FELLOWMAN AND ESPECIALLY TO OUR GOD AND HIS WORD