

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 189 – Words Of Agur Through Cursing Mother and Father (Proverbs 30:1-11)

1. Who is the writer we are reading the prophetic words of in chapter thirty?

Agur, whom Strong's concordance (Strong's # 94) says is "a fanciful name for Solomon":
"The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal" (**Proverbs 30:1**).

- Regardless of who the writer is, God is the author of all Scriptures (**I Corinthians 2:9-13**, **II Timothy 3:15-17**, and **II Peter 1:20-21**; cf. **II Samuel 23:2** and **Jeremiah 1:9**).

2. Does Agur claim to be of superior intelligence?

No: *"(2) Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man. (3) I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy"* (**Proverbs 30:2-3**).

- Whether or not it is so in Agur's life at the moment, sometimes man will acknowledge his lack of intelligence in times of reflection (**Psalms 73:21-22**).
- Being stupid [brutish] is not a good thing (**Psalms 92:6**).
- In fairness, man in general is stupid in measure to God (**Jeremiah 10:14**).
- Agur denies being smarter than any other man (**I Corinthians 3:18**).
- In comparison to the holy (seemingly referring to God; **I Samuel 2:2**, **Psalms 99:3**, **Isaiah 30:11**, **Isaiah 57:15**, and **Revelation 4:8**), no one has God's knowledge (**Isaiah 55:7-9** and **Romans 11:33**).
- If this is Solomon, it certainly fits. He did not learn wisdom, it was given to him (**I Kings 4:29-30**). On the flip side of the coin, he certainly didn't always use that God given wisdom either (**I Kings 11:1-13**).

3. What point is being made in Proverbs 30:4?

That no man is on God's level: *"Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell"* (**Proverbs 30:4**)?

- **Deuteronomy 33:26**, **Psalms 89:6**, **Isaiah 40:12-31**, and **Jeremiah 10:6**.

4. Is there any corruption in God's word?

No: *"Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him"* (**Proverbs 30:5**).

- **Psalms 12:6**, **Psalms 119:140**, and **I Peter 1:23-25**.

5. Can you escape judgment if you change God's word?

No: *"Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar"* (**Proverbs 30:6**).

- **Deuteronomy 4:2, Deuteronomy 12:32, Galatians 1:6-9, and Revelation 22:18-19.**

6. What two requests did Agur make?

"(7) Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die: (8) Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me" (**Proverbs 30:7-8**).

- Good to not want to be around vanity (**Isaiah 59:4** and **Acts 14:15**) or liars (**Psalms 119:29** and **Psalms 119:163**; cf. **Romans 12:9**).
- Good to have the mindset of having what we need rather than all we want (**Proverbs 23:5** and **I Timothy 6:6-10**).

7. Can having too much or having too little turn some people from God?

Sadly, the answer is yes: *"Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain"* (**Proverbs 30:9**).

- That is not to say that all rich (**Genesis 13:2** and **Hebrews 11:8-19**) or poor (**Luke 16:19-31**) people will turn from God.
- People who have too much CAN trust too much in their abundance (**Deuteronomy 31:20** and **Revelation 3:14-19**).
- People who have suffered from poverty can turn to stealing (**Proverbs 6:30-31**).
- Some will just outright blame God (i.e. **Job 27:2**).

8. Should you accuse [slander] a servant to his master?

No, you be found guilty: *"Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty"* (**Proverbs 30:10**).

- **Proverbs 10:18** and **Romans 14:4**.

9. Will there be times when children do not honor their parents?

Yes: *"There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother"* (**Proverbs 30:11**).

- It is wrong not to respect righteous parents (**Leviticus 20:9, Deuteronomy 21:20-21, Deuteronomy 27:16, Proverbs 30:17, Matthew 15:4-6, and Ephesians 6:1-2**).