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Proverbs 30

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Proverbs 30.

Topics.

- This chapter is full of a variety of various Proverbs.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Proverbs is a collection of Israelite wisdom literature, that has multiple authors, but most of it is attributed to King Solomon. Chapter one to nine gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book. The central concern of the book of Proverbs is practical wisdom for living. We are told that the beginning and essence of wisdom is the fear of the LORD (Prov. 1:7) (Prov. 9:10). It contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a foolish life. While the wicked stumble in deep darkness (Prov. 4:19), the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day ((Prov. 4:18). Individual proverbs date from between the tenth and sixth centuries B.C.

KINGS AND ANGELS

The title king is often used throughout the book of Proverbs, it comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) which can refer to the following four things:

1. A royal king ascending to the throne of royalty and reigning from it.
2. A male sovereign (i.e., a man or boy who rules as a monarch over an independent state.
3. The chief, or the principal leader or ruler of a group (secular or religious).
4. A messenger or ambassador, especially of God, (i.e. an angel, a king, a prophet, a priest or a teacher).
5. The best, the strongest and the wisest of all.

It is interesting to notice in the first verse of proverbs (Prov. 1:1) the word king comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) and the first mention of an angel in the Bible also comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) (Gen. 16:7). This means when the title king is used in the book of Proverbs it carries the idea of a wise king that does good unless the context implies otherwise. For further information concerning angels see the title:

Angels, (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PROVERBS 30:1-4

- **Proverbs 30:1-4:** The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle (the prophecy in KJV). The man declares (to Ithiel and Ucal in KJV), I am weary, O God; I am weary (brutish in KJV), O God, and worn out. ²Surely I am too stupid to be a man. I have not the understanding of a man. ³I have not learned wisdom, nor have I knowledge of the Holy One. ⁴Who has ascended to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has wrapped up the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name? Surely you know!

The words of Agur: Agur's definition of having wisdom is, knowing and understanding God, but he feels he cannot learn wisdom in this sense, because only God has ascended into heaven and come down, only God has wrapped up the waters in a garment, and established all the boundaries of the earth. Agur is basically saying, "If humans cannot understand creation and how things came into being, then what hope have they to learn wisdom?" When God came to Job and asked him questions that he had no hope of answering, Job came to the same conclusion as Agur. No matter how great human knowledge is, it is pathetic when brought before the knowledge of God (Job chapter 38-41).

NOTICE: Agur asks the question, "Who is God's Son?" Even today many ask this same question. Much of traditional Christianity believe that God's Son is actually God Himself, since this belief that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe asking the same question as Agur was, "Who is God's Son?" Or, are unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim:

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say:

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information see the title:

- Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity) in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

PROVERBS 30:5

- **Proverbs 30:5:** Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

A shield was used to protect against the blows of weapons of war such as swords, arrows, bullets and such like things it acted as a defence against injury or harm. While the word refuge carries the idea of being in a protected state and safe from anything threatening, harmful and unpleasant. Likewise, every message that God speaks is not only true and protects those who trust in Him from worry, stress anxiety and fear, but also keeps and protects those who embrace and follows them safe for eternal life.

PROVERBS 30:6

- **Proverbs 30:6:** Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

The Angel of the Lord says a similar thing in the Book of Revelations.

- I (the Angel of the Lord) 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,¹⁹ 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. (Revelation 22:18-19).

God's word as recorded in the Bible does not need anything added or subtracted from its pages. It contains everything needed to live a godly and peaceful life on earth and find God, salvation, forgiveness and eternal life. There are so called self-appointed religious prophets in the world today who prophecy "Thus saith the LORD," and then speak out some kind of prophetic message.

No one need any such message today, because everything we need to know is recorded in the Bible, it would be right, correct and proper to say that the Bible is the prophetic word of God given to us today.

PROVERBS 30:7-9

- **Proverbs 30:7-9:** Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: ⁸Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, ⁹lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

Agur humbly asks God to do two things:

1. Remove from him all falsehood and lying.
2. Do not allow him to be poor or rich.

How many of us today would pray a pray like this, "Lord please do not make me abundantly rich and wealthy?" Agur was man who deeply loved God and understood that abundant riches and wealth can lead a person away from God, (because of all the doors riches open) and also recognised that extreme poverty is as equally as bad since it can lead to stealing. Agur's motivation for asking for these two things from God stemmed from his love for God and his desire that he would never be put in any situation whereby he might bring dishonour to God's name.

PROVERBS 30:10

- **Proverbs 30:10:** Do not slander (accuse in KJV) a servant to his master, lest he curse you and you be held guilty.

This principal not only applies to a servant and master, but also to an employee and employer. The words accuse and slander come from the Hebrew word (*lashan*) which means to wag the tongue. It carries the idea of gossiping and spreading malicious rumours that demean and degrade a person. This proverb is teaching that it is extreme foolishness to say something false or insulting against an employee to their boss, because when the employee finds out they will be angry and tell their side of the story and the one who spoke such malicious lies will be held accountable and the boss will turn against them and act accordingly.

PROVERBS 30:11

- **Proverbs 30:11:** There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers.

There are sons and daughters who are a source of irritation and annoyance to their parents, they speak badly of them and constantly cause them unhappiness.

PROVERBS 30:12

- **Proverbs 30:12:** There are those who are clean in their own eyes but are not washed of their filth.

Some men and woman are so self-righteous that they believe they are ritually undefiled and spiritually pure they think they are without flaws and totally free from anything corrupt and morally impure. They maybe strictly adhering to all the ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping every religious custom and tradition and genuinely be a man or woman who does what is right and good, but, because they do not acknowledge their sin, God says they are not right, clean or pure before Him. The apostle John wrote:

- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us (1 John 1:8-10).

Many men and women who do live a good life believe they are without sin, but the commandment, "Thou shalt not covet," shines a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that not one of us is sinless. It is futile to attempt to attain to righteousness by keeping the law for the following two reasons:

1. The law states; "You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbour's." (Exod. 20:17).
2. The royal law states, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (Rom. 13:9).

Jesus said all the commandments regarding mankind are summed up in the words of the royal law "You shall love your neighbour as yourself" (James 2:8), because the spirit underpinning the royal law, desires the best for others contrasted to the spirit underlying coveting which is craving and seeking the best for self.

Covet: and covetousness mean to set the heart upon, to desire, long for or lust after (rightfully or otherwise) it carries the idea of holding onto or desiring more than one has or needs (the practice of greediness) and embraces those who live a lifestyle of unlawful sex, orgies adulteries and sexual immorality to fulfil their own lust and to anyone whose heart is craving after and worshipping and exalting another person as a god (an Idolater).

By implication covet: can refer to those who are not honest and true and who use pressure or coercion to force or entice others to fulfil their own selfish need or ambition and to anyone who intentionally deprives somebody of money or property by dishonest means because they are greedy and eager for gain. The commandment, "You shall not covet" exposes human selfishness, pride, ego, lust, and greed etc. It reveals the dysfunctions and aberrations that are imbedded within our fallen corrupted human nature that hinder us from attaining to the perfection of God's Holy law. It exposes our self-centeredness in our desires for more than we need, our excessive avariciousness toward materialism, our overeating of tasty foods the craving to be important or esteemed, our sensual and lustful thoughts, the desire to be rich and have abundantly more than we need etc. The commandments, "You shall not covet" and "Love your neighbour as yourself," shines a spotlight on our self-interest,

they highlight our lack of willingness to give to those less fortunate and those in need, they expose our degrading, resentful, bitter and jealous thoughts of others and the list goes on. In summary the command, "You shall not covet" embraces all those attitudes and thoughts that dwell within our members that are contrary to the law of love and the Holiness of God which means the entire human race is held guilty before the law and therefore it legally has the right and the power to condemn us all to death which it does without hesitation, compassion or mercy. The law shows no mercy or compassion its demand on those that are under it is strictly official, formal and legal and enforced without compassion or any sense of sorrow toward its condemned victims. The universal demand of the law states; "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) meaning if anyone fails to keep the law in any aspect, they are guilty of breaking the law. It then without mercy rightfully and legally judges and sentences its guilty victims (all mankind) to death. A wise and faithful brother wrote: The law is splendid as a guide to an understanding of God's will, but as a means of reunion with God, the God we have sinned against, it is a hopeless failure, but God always knew it would be, not because of a fault in the law but because of a flaw in us.

The Good News of the Gospel: the royal majesty, the wonder and the glory of the Good News of the Gospel not only proclaims that, "God through Christ has cancelled the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands" (the debt being all our trespasses and sins) (Col. 2:13-14), but also tells us that God set aside the laws legal demands, nailing it to the cross, this of course refers to the fact that Christ fulfilled all the legal demands of the law throughout his life on earth and to his brutal, bloody and cruel death on the cross. Jesus, before the eyes of men went to the cross as a common criminal, but before the eyes of God he was innocent and without sin and therefore through his life and his death all the legal demands of the law were fulfilled. Christ took all the legal demands of the law to the grave with him and because he was without sin the law had no power to hold him in the grave and therefore God had full and legal right to raise him from the grave to eternal life and everlasting glory. Jesus through his death and resurrection has become the royal robe of grace and the majestic crown of righteousness that God clothes all who by faith trust in the Lord for their righteousness and eternal salvation and in this manner, "The legal demands of the law have been nailed to the cross" (Col. 2:14)) since Christ through his death broke the power of the universal law that states, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and superseded and overruled it with a far higher law that proclaims, "The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom. 6:23). This is the humbling, awe-inspiring Good News of the Gospel.

PROVERBS 30:13

- **Proverbs 30:13:** There are those—how lofty are their eyes, how high their eyelids lift!

This refers to men and women who are not only so prideful, self-exalted and full of self-importance that they consider themselves socially and intellectually superior to all others, but also embraces people who show an utter lack of respect for anyone and behave in a haughty, condescending, and arrogant manner.

PROVERBS 30:14

- **Proverbs 30:14:** There are those whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, the needy from among mankind.

There are people who have no empathy or compassion toward others. For their own selfish reasons, they will eagerly and cruelly destroy the poor and less fortunate from the earth if it is going to work to their advantage

and gain to do so. Though this principal primarily applies to kings and rulers of nations it is not limited to them since even individuals will destroy a helpless person if they are hindering them from achieving their own ambitious goal or if it is going to work to their gain and, advantage.

PROVERBS 30:15-16

- **Proverbs 30:15-16:** The leech has two daughters; "Give" and "Give," they cry. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough": ¹⁶Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, "Enough."

The leech is a blood-sucking worm that not only sucks on the flesh, but also eats it, when it is used figuratively, it refers to a man or woman who clings to a person for the sole reason of exploiting them for their own gain and advantage. The four things that are never satisfied and constantly cry, "Give, Give, Give" are:

1. **Sheol:** which is the dwelling place of the dead (the grave) Scripture pictures the grave as a mouth that constantly wants more bodies to feed its stomach, because it is never satisfied.
2. **The barren womb:** women who cannot have children are forever wishing they could.
3. **Land:** is never satisfied, because it is forever in need of water or it becomes a dry dusty barren desert that cannot sustain life.
4. **Fire:** the burning flames of fire forever crave more fuel to burn to keep it alive (otherwise it goes out).

PROVERBS 30:17

- **Proverbs 30:17:** The eye that mocks a father and scorns to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

It is supposed in this verse that the parents have done their best to raise their children with love and have not been violent or abusive in anyway toward them since if that was the case it could be understandable that a child might turn against their parents. This proverb is teaching in very graphic language that son or daughter who treats their parents with disdain and considers them to be worthless and undeserving of respect will be utterly condemned by God. To show no respect to parents and treat them in such a manner is one of the greatest abominations before God.

PROVERBS 30:18-19

- **Proverbs 30:18-19:** Three things are too wonderful for me; four I do not understand: ¹⁹the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship on the high seas, and the way of a man with a virgin.

Four things are too wonderful for Agur:

1. The way of an eagle in the sky (the magnificence of it in flight).
2. The way of a serpent on a rock (the wonder of it slithering so smoothly without legs).
3. The way of a ship on the high seas (the magnificence of such a large structure rolling and floating on the ocean) (imagine the wonder of Agur today if he could see the one hundred ton plus aircraft carriers that float on the oceans today).

4. The way of a man with a virgin, (this probably means he does not understand how a man can be so corrupt that he would force himself upon a young virgin to rape her). This idea is easily understood when it is considered that Agur was a man who truly loved God and honestly prayed that he would always be a good testimony to Him. Even today no faithful Christian who knows God's love and grace manifested in Christ on the bloodstained cross of Calvary can understand how humans can be so brutal and cruel to another human.

PROVERBS 30:20

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

Adultery means extramarital sex, (i.e.; voluntary sexual relations between a married person and somebody other than his or her spouse). According to Proverbs a whorish woman, a strange woman an evil woman, an adulteress and a forbidden woman all primarily refer to a married woman having sex with a married or single man other than her husband, but sometimes refers to a single woman who is having sex with a married man. In all cases in which the woman is spoken of in the harshest of expressions (i.e., an evil woman, a whore, harlot and forbidden woman) the sex involves cheating and betraying a married partner. (Prov. 2:16-19) (Prov. 5:3-20) (Prov. 6:23-34) (Prov. 7:4-27) (Prov. 23:26-28).

For those who have fallen into adulteries path there is forgiveness in Christ, everyone is a sinner before God. Even the woman at the well who had five husbands the Lord Jesus Christ forgave because of her honesty toward him and no-doubt her broken spirit when she saw such a caring man without sin protecting her from her enemies and able to show her kind compassion and forgiveness (John 8:3-11).

PROVERBS 30:21-23

- **Proverbs 30:21-23:** Under three things the earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up: ²²a slave when he becomes king, and a fool when he is filled with food; ²³an unloved woman when she gets a husband, and a maidservant when she displaces her mistress.

Four things cause the earth to tremble:

1. A slave when he becomes a king. Two reasons this would cause the earth to tremble would be that it means whoever was the rightful heir to the throne must have been so corrupt even a slave was able to rise up with power overthrow him and take the throne himself and the fact that the slave has not been trained to govern a kingdom or wisely manage all the complexities that come with such a high position of power and authority.
2. A fool when he is filled with food (this carries the idea that he has come into riches, wealth and power, most likely because they were born into a royal family or received an inheritance). The earth trembles because a fool does not have the wisdom to manage wealth wisely.
3. An unloved woman when she gets a husband, this most likely refers to arranged marriage or marriages of convenience. When a man marries a woman because it is expected of him or to unite two nations or for convenience or for sex and the wife knows she is unloved the relationship between her and her husband is going to bring trouble and end in emotional hurt and ruin for both couples.
4. A maidservant when she replaces her mistress. Today this would be stated in the words, "An older married woman with children who has been replaced by a much younger single woman." Such a thing causes the earth to tremble, because mothers of children are the backbone of society.

PROVERBS 30:24-28

- **Proverbs 30:24-28:** Four things on earth are small, but they are exceedingly wise: ²⁵the ants are a people not strong, yet they provide their food in the summer; ²⁶the rock badgers are a people not mighty, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; ²⁷the locusts have no king, yet all of them march in rank; ²⁸the lizard you can take in your hands, yet it is in kings' palaces.

Four things on earth that are small, but exceedingly wise:

1. The ant because they are not strong, but they provide their food in the summer ready for the winter.
2. The rock badger because they are not strong, but they make their homes in the cliffs (a place of safety from enemies).
3. The locust, because they have no king, yet all of them march in rank (they know they have no power on their own, but in unity and working together they are a mighty force).
4. The lizard or spider because it is not strong, yet it makes its home in kings palaces.

PROVERBS 30:29-31

- **Proverbs 30:29-31:** Three things are stately in their tread; four are stately in their stride: ³⁰the lion, which is mightiest among beasts and does not turn back before any; ³¹the strutting rooster, the he-goat, and a king whose army is with him.

Four stately things on earth:

1. The lion which is mightiest among beasts.
2. The strutting rooster.
3. The he-goat.
4. A king with his army.

All of these four have the following stately thing in common, they are not intimidated by anyone nor do they turn back from whatever or whoever may attempt to come against them.

PROVERBS 30:32-33

- **Proverbs 30:32-33:** If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth. ³³For pressing milk produces curds, pressing the nose produces blood, and pressing anger produces strife.

The King James Bible says:

- **Proverbs 30:32-33:** If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, *lay* thine hand upon thy mouth. ³³Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

If you have an inward feeling of superiority over others, or if you feel anger rising up from within, put your hand over your mouth, meaning do not speak, but instead stay quiet, because as sure as churning milk will turn it to butter, and a thump on the nose will cause it to bleed any prideful boasting that comes from self-exaltation and words of anger will result in all forms of strife and contentions.

WISDOM EMBRACES THE FOLLOWING NINE ASPECTS

1. Having a clear thoughtful, rational, discerning, discriminating, sharp, and discreet mind.
2. Being cautious in character as opposed to being impulsive.
3. Being sensible and practical with the skills and talents that a person has.
4. Making choices that considers others and that will be fair and just.
5. Studying, reading and learning to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
6. Being able to see the future danger of a decision, choice or action.
7. Having the ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in the best result and a good outcome in the future.
8. Being able to perceive the end result or ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message a speaker is teaching.
9. Wisdom will protect a person from making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future for themselves and for others.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.
