### Proverbs

## Chapter 30

The proverbs of Agur, son of JahYeh.   
  
  
  
1Thus says this man to those trusting in God:  
 ‘I’m weary, 2for I’m the most foolish of men,  
 And the intelligence of man isn’t in me.  
 3Yet, God has taught me much wisdom,  
 And the holiest of knowledge, I know.’  
  
4Who’s gone up into the sky and returned?  
 Who has gathered the winds to His chest?  
 Who has bundled the seas in His robe?  
 Who has held the ends of the earth?  
 Yes, what’s the name by which He’s known,  
 And by what names has He called His sons?  
  
5All of God’s words are truly pure,  
 And He’s a shield to those showing respect.  
 6But don’t add to His words or He will whip you,  
 And He will prove you a liar.  
  
7These are the things that I’ve asked Him to do:  
  
 • May I find Your favor [throughout my life].  
  
 • 8Please take away my vain, foolish words.  
  
 • Don’t give me poverty or wealth…  
 Just give me the things that I need  
 So I can remain self-sufficient.  
  
 • 9Don’t leave me in need, so I’d steal,  
 And thereby profane the Name of my God.  
  
10Don’t return a [slave] to his master  
 So he will have no reason to curse you.  
  
11A bad son curses his father  
 And doesn’t speak in praise of his mother.  
  
12A bad son is one who judges himself  
 And refuses to clean up his ways.  
  
13A bad son is one who’s [proud]  
 And holds himself high in his own eyes.  
  
14A bad son has teeth that are swords  
 And molars that are like pruning knives,  
 Which he uses to consume the weak of the land  
 And to take from the needy.  
  
15To the leech was [born] three beloved daughters;  
 But, with the three, she wasn’t satisfied,  
 So she also [gave birth to] a 4th,  
 Since she couldn’t say, ‘That’s enough!’  
 16For, the desires of a woman and the grave can’t be filled,  
 As the ground never gets too much water…  
 As with fire and water, it’s never enough!  
  
17May the eyes of those who make fun of their fathers  
 And dishonor their mothers in their old age  
 Be removed by crows in ravines,  
 And be devoured by the chicks of vultures.  
  
18There are three things that I can’t comprehend,  
 And there’s a fourth that I don’t know:  
  
 • 19The tracks of the flight of an eagle,  
  
 • The ways of a snake on a rock,  
  
 • The path of a ship as it travels the seas,  
  
 • And the ways of men in their youth.  
  
20As an adulterous wife is still washing herself,  
 She’ll claim that she has done nothing wrong.  
  
21These three things shake the ground,  
 And the fourth it’s unable to bear:  
  
 • 22When someone’s servant becomes king,  
  
 • When a fool has plenty of food,  
  
 • 23When a handmaid’s released by her lady,  
  
 • When a hateful woman gets a good man.  
  
24There are four lesser things on the earth,  
 And these are wiser than the wise:  
  
 • 25The ants that are weak,  
 But spend their summers storing food.  
  
 • 26Rabbits that form a weak nation,  
 But make their houses in rocks.  
  
 • 27Locusts that live all alone,  
 But march in order when given the command.  
  
 • 28And the lizard with hands that are sticky…  
 For, although they’re easily caught,  
 They live in the castles of kings.  
  
29There are three things that continue to prosper,  
 And a fourth that’s best overlooked:  
  
 • 30The cub of a lion; for although it’s not strong,  
 It won’t turn away and it doesn’t know fear.  
  
 • 31A rooster that struts among hens.  
  
 • A male goat that takes the lead of his flock.  
  
 • And a king who addresses his nation.  
  
32When you lose your joy and raise fists to fight,  
 You’ve lost all your honor.  
  
33If you churn cream, you’ll get butter;  
 If you squeeze your nose, it’ll bleed;  
 And if you just keep on talking,  
 Arguing and fights will result.