



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE
PROVERBS 30:1-14
LESSON: HUMBLE WISDOM INSTRUCTS
PRIDEFUL FOLLY — September 20, 2026

SYNOPSIS:

¹**Proverbs 29:20-27** offers sharp warnings about speech, pride, and the contrast between the righteous and the wicked, while also calling for godly discernment and integrity. It stresses the need for self-control, humility, and godly discernment. They warn against rash speech, pride, and association with evil, while affirming that true security and justice come from God, not from human systems. The righteous are called to stand firm in integrity, knowing that the wicked will reject them

LESSON:

I. PROVERBS 30:1-2

30:1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal, **30:2** Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man. These two verses tell us that these are the words of Agur whose father's name is Jakeh, and little is known about Agur. The words of Agur were either spoken or written to Ithiel and Ucal for the simple reason that they were like companions, or students to whom he imparted his wisdom. Their names have great meanings. **Agur** meaning "*Gatherer,*" or "*Convener*" and **Jakeh** means "*Obedient,*" or "*Pious,*" **Ithiel** means "*God has arrived,*" and **Ucal** means "*devoured.*" The term "*prophecy*" emphasizes the authority and importance of what is being given and expresses the nature of the message that a prophet would utter to his hearers. He speaks of being a brutish man having no understanding. ²Agur was using irony, that is, he was using words in a special way, for he was not really a stupid man who knew nothing. In fact, he knew many things about God (verse 4). But his own knowledge seemed like nothing when he thought about how wonderful God's wisdom is compared to his (Agur's) own human analyzed thoughts that then seemed foolish; admitting his own inadequacy, for he had limitations in his understanding.

II. PROVERBS 30:3-4

30:3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy. Well, there is human understanding and God's divine wisdom. Agur is convicted to even confess these words: I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy (meaning God, the Holy One). He knows that there is someone better, and higher, and holy, to help him understand this wisdom of God. Our human wisdom has sufficed for us for a long time, but there is wisdom we and Agur needs to tap into and learn from the One Source of the Holy One! This ³underscores that human understanding cannot begin to grasp God fully on his own. Our intellect is limited; His wisdom is limitless. That's why we depend upon God's written Word and His Spirit!

30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his

¹ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=summary%20of%20Proverbs%2029%3A20-27&q=n&form=QBRE&sp=-1&lq=0&pq=summary%20of%20proverbs%2029%3A20-27&sc=12-28&sk=&cvid=296E2F2FD09349A6BCC51F7C651017B8>

² <https://www.easyenglish.bible/bible-commentary/proverbs22-31-lbw.htm>

³ https://biblehub.com/q/Proverbs_30_3_on_human_limits_with_God.htm

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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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?— Six very pertinent, yet intense questions are expressed to which no answers were needed, but evidently Agur needed to bring them forth as he speaks to his companions: **1. Who has ascended up or descended down from heaven? 2. Who gathered the wind in his fists? 3. Who bound the waters in a garment? 4. Who established all the ends of the earth? 5. What's His Name? 6. What's His son's name?** And at the end of these Six rapid-fire questions, he says *"Tell me if you know."* This truly reminds us of God speaking to Job, and that acknowledging our limits, is the first step toward true wisdom—Wisdom (the gift) God gladly imparts to the humble who seek Him in His Word is ours to ask. Agur asked the right questions. Because we have read God's Word, we know these answers, and that the Trinity was at work at every instance from beginning to end by The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit! This is a glimpse of the nature and character of God's divine move in Creation.

III. PROVERBS 30:5-6

30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Every Word of God reminds me of Jesus rebuking Satan in Matthew 4:4: *"It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."* That Word is **"pure"** (flawless, tested, true, and proven) like silver refined in a furnace. It's not wishy washy; not changed, and nothing left out, meaning we can't pick and choose what we want to accept or not accept! Why? Because of Jeremiah 1:12b: *"...For I will hasten my word to perform it."* He's accomplishing and fulfilling His Word! God's promises are as a **"shield"** symbolizing protection and defense unto those that put their trust in Jesus Christ; that take refuge in Him, rather than in human wisdom or human strength. The verse shifts from God's speech to God Himself.

30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar. We are not allowed to alter or add to what God has said. It's disrespectful and does not honor His truth! We cannot improve something that is divine! Revelation 22:18-19 says *"For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."* He will rebuke those who do so, like He did the false prophets. A loving Father disciplines His children so they don't continue in the wrong way, and be found as a liar. Pay attention to the quickening of the Holy Spirit; His unction and the pulling when something didn't seem right or something didn't quite sit right in your spirit. That's the time to pay attention, repent and correct it!

IV. PROVERBS 30:7-9

30:7 Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:— Two things Agur asks of the Lord in verse 8 to which he does not want denied before he dies.

30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:— Agur's prayer of petition was from his heart: one of truth and honesty, and morality; and then of contentment and a balanced life.

1. Remove falsehood and lies far from him;
2. Give him neither poverty nor riches. Give him just enough to satisfy his needs.





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Asking for only two things concentrates the believer's heart on the twin pillars of first —

1. Integrity; honesty, and truth; and second — 2. Contentment. This dual petition safeguards God's name, mirrors Christ's life, resists cultural extremes, and provides a timeless model for wise, faith-filled prayer. This last part suggests just feed me my daily portion.

- Feed me shows active dependence upon God Himself as the Giver.
- My portion signals an assigned share, not self-chosen excess.

Summed up into two words Honesty and Simplicity!

30:9 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. Otherwise, Agur says that he may have too much and deny by saying, *'Who is the LORD?'* or he may become poor and steal, and profane the name of his God.

V. PROVERBS 30:10-14

30:10 Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

Agur is still speaking. He says don't accuse, meaning slander a servant to his master. *"Slander"* is any false or malicious statement that harms another's reputation. The servant cannot easily defend himself. ⁴In ancient Israel, servants were often part of a household and had specific roles and responsibilities. Slandering a servant could disrupt the household's harmony and lead to unjust treatment. This Scripture lays out both the command (do not slander) and the consequence (you will bear the guilt). So, the curse or consequence—the servant will curse you, and you will bear the guilt. The *"curse"* here is a divine or righteous retribution that comes when falsehood is spoken against someone under authority, leading to both social and spiritual consequences. In connection, Exodus 20:16 tells us *"Thou shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor."* Unjust actions can lead to consequences. Matthew 12:36-37 speaks of idle words that we will *give account of in the Day of Judgment. For by our words, we shall be justified or condemned.* ⁵In short, Proverbs 30:10 warns that accusing someone unjustly can lead to a curse, social ruin, and eternal accountability. The verse calls for integrity, discretion, and love in how we speak about others.

30:11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. The word *"generation"* occurs four times in vv.11-14. The sins herein specified had become so general that they affected a whole generation. 2 Timothy 3:1-2 says this will happen: *"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy..."* Pride is at the heart of this, and is seen corrupting one's attitude toward his superiors—The Four Traits of This Generation: vv.11-14.

1. The Generation that's Showing no respect to his parents—Disrespect (v.11).

This warns that moral decline is not confined to ancient Israel; any culture can slide into the same rebellion when it forgets the LORD. It's a picture of a downward spiral moving from the rebellious child toward cursing the father which shows that 'men neither fear God nor regard men; they are without natural affections to their parents; they have no reverence for them, or give love to them, nor give them any honor or obedience. Refusing to bless one's mother reveals ingratitude for her care, instruction, and sacrifice. Deuteronomy 5:16 commands us to

⁴ <https://biblehub.com/proverbs/30-10.htm>

⁵ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=accusations%20lead%20to%20in%20Proverbs%2030%3A10&q=n&form=QBRE&sp=1&ghc=1&lq=0&pq=accusations%20lead%20to%20in%20proverbs%2030%3A10&sc=9-37&sk=&cvid=4EE31393B1B94A6EAF6F4E7100ABAB28>

⁶ <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/proverbs/30-11.htm>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>





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"Honor your father and your mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long, and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you." God's command to honor is explicit to long life! We are to honor and bless; not curse.

30:12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

2. The Generation that's *Pure in their own eyes—Self-Deception and Spiritual Impurity. Having an outward show, but inwardly being immoral and refusing to admit it (v.12);*

⁷He has the characteristic of hypocrisy and self-righteousness. Isaiah 5:21 also speaks: "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes..." meaning their pride of self-wisdom, and self-determination will ultimately lead them to destruction. Being "pure in their own eyes" leads to spiritual blindness. Yet they are "not washed from their filthiness"; they have not cleansed their heart by complete repentance; they have not examined themselves and know nothing of the real state of their conscience, or they care nothing about it, and will not regard it in its true light. They think they are clean and pure, while God declares them filthy. There's a spiritual and ethical decline in this generations. ⁸Only Christ's blood cleanses completely. Cleansing is once-for-all in justification and ongoing in sanctification.

30:13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

3. The Generation that's *Lofty in their eyes and eyelids are lifted up—Arrogance and Pride. The world at large are those who are arrogant (v.13),*

⁹The imagery of "lofty eyes" and "lifted eyelids" describes a generation marked by pride, self-importance, and a sense of superiority over others. It suggests a gaze that looks down on others, often with disdain, and eyes open wide, glancing proudly or haughtily around. Also, a poetic way of describing arrogance and spiritual blindness, but a call of urging humility, self-examination, and openness to correction. Being prideful and arrogant are attitudes that separate people from God's truth. We must have the characteristic of humility to have Christ in our lives.

30:14 There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

4. The Generation *whose teeth are as swords and jaw teeth as knives—Violence and Exploitation of the Poor. The inferior are those who plunder the poor (v.14).*

They're lacking in natural affection. ¹⁰It's a vivid metaphor describing a certain generation or type of person who is cruel, greedy, and predatory toward the poor and needy. They are so caught up in themselves, that they do not bother with the needs of the less fortunate. They oppress the vulnerable by any means. Agur's description is a warning against moral decline. These traits are disrespect for authority, self-deception, pride, and oppression—symptoms of a society that has turned away from God's Wisdom.

SUMMARY:

Little is known about Agur who has imparted words of wisdom to his companions Ithiel and Ucal, and whose father's name is Jakeh. He speaks of himself as being a brutish man; having no

⁷ <https://biblehub.com/commentaries/pulpit/proverbs/30.htm>

⁸ https://biblehub.com/q/Proverbs_30_12_Self-examine_spiritually.htm

⁹ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=lofty+are+their+eyes!+and+their+eyelids+are+lifted+up+meaning&pc=GD01&form=GDAVST&ptag=3601>

¹⁰ <https://www.bing.com/search?q=teeth+are+as+swords%2C+and+their+jaw+teeth+as+knives+means&pc=GD01&form=GDAVST&ptag=3601>

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understanding, and that his own knowledge seemed like nothing when he thought about how wonderful God's wisdom is compared to his own human thoughts which seemed like nothing to him; foolish; admitting his own inadequacy, for he had limitations in his own understanding. **(30:1-2).**

Agur neither learned wisdom, nor have the know-ledge of the holy (meaning God, the Holy One),¹¹ underscoring that human understanding cannot begin to grasp God fully on his own. Some very pertinent, yet intense questions are expressed to which no answers were needed: Six rapid-fire questions! — *“Who has ascended to heaven and come down? — Who gathered the wind in his fists? — Who bound the waters in a garment? — Who established all the ends of the earth? — What's His Name? — What's His son's name? — And at the end he says “Tell me if you know”* **(30:3-4).**

¹²*“Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.”* Because Scripture is complete and pure, adding to it invites rebuke and exposes a person as a liar **(30:5-6).**

Two things Agur asks of the Lord. And he did not want to be denied before he dies.

1. Remove falsehood and lies far from me;
2. Give me neither poverty nor riches. Give me just enough to satisfy my needs.

Agur needed honesty and simplicity because if he had too much, he may deny and say, ‘Who is the LORD?’ or he may become poor and steal, and then profane the name of his God. This dual petition safeguards God's name, mirrors Christ's life. **(30:7-9).**

Agur says *don't accuse*, meaning slander a servant to his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty. Unjust actions can lead to consequences. Four traits of this generation: There is a generation that curse their father, and do not bless their mother. Pride is at the heart of this, and is seen corrupting one's attitude toward his superiors. We are to Honor our father and mother commanded by the Lord your God! There is a generation that's *“pure in their own eyes”* which leads to spiritual blindness, yet is not washed from their filthiness; not cleansed their heart by complete repentance. They think they are clean, while God declares them filthy. There is a generation that's *“lofty eyes”* and *“lifted eyelids”* It describes a generation marked by pride, self-importance, and a sense of superiority over others. We must have the characteristic of humility to have Christ in our lives. There is a generation, whose *“teeth as swords”,* and *“jaw teeth as knives”,* to devour the poor and needy. This generation is lacking in natural affection; are is cruel, greedy, and predatory toward the poor and needy. Don't be so caught up in yourself, that you don't bother with the needs of the less fortunate. **(30:10-14).**

APPLICATION:

God's wisdom is not dependent on human expertise, for God's Word is the source of wisdom. The antidote for prideful folly is humility, self-awareness, and a dependence upon God's wisdom. Always treat others with respect and avoid pride or arrogance. This passage encourages readers to trust in God's wisdom, live with humility, and pursue righteousness and fairness in daily life.

¹¹ https://biblehub.com/q/Proverbs_30_3_on_human_limits_with_God.htm

¹² <https://biblehub.com/proverbs/30.htm>

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