

## Proverbs Collection VI: The Sayings of Agur son of Jakeh (c. 969t – 932t BC)

### Proverbs 30

#### Agur's Autobiographical Confession

- 1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, *even* the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,
- 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.
- 4 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?
- 5 Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
- 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.
- 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:
- 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*.

#### Agur's Evil Generations

- 10 Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.
- 11 *There is* a generation *that* curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.
- 12 *There is* a generation *that are* pure in their own eyes, and *yet* is not washed from their filthiness.
- 13 *There is* a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.
- 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.

#### Agur's Numerical Proverbs

- 15 The horseleach hath two daughters, *crying*, Give, give. There are three *things that* are never satisfied, *yea*, four *things say* not, *It is* enough:
- 16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth *that* is not filled with water; and the fire *that* saith not, *It is* enough.
- 17 The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.
- 18 There be three *things which* are too wonderful for me, *yea*, four which I know not:
- 19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.
- 20 Such *is* the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.
- 21 For three *things* the earth is disquieted, and for four *which* it cannot bear:
- 22 For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;
- 23 For an odious *woman* when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.
- 24 There be four *things which are* little upon the earth, but they *are* exceeding wise:
- 25 The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;
- 26 The conies *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;
- 27 The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;
- 28 The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.
- 29 There be three *things* which go well, *yea*, four are comely in going:
- 30 A lion *which is* strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;
- 31 A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom *there is* no rising up.
- 32 If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, *lay* thine hand upon thy mouth.
- 33 Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

## Proverbs Collection VII: The Sayings of Lemuel (c. 969t – 932t BC)

### Proverbs 31

- 1 The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

#### The Noble King

- 2 What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?
- 3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.
- 4 *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:
- 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.
- 6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

- 7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.  
8 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.  
9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

**The Noble Wife**

- 10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.  
11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.  
12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.  
13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.  
14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.  
15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.  
16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.  
17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.  
18 She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.  
19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.  
20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.  
21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.  
22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.  
23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.  
24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.  
25 Strength and honor *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.  
26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.  
27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.  
28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.  
29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.  
30 Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.  
31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

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