

Things That Remain a Mystery

Text: Proverbs 30:1-33

Introduction

In the concluding chapters of Proverbs, the Holy Spirit reminds us of an undeniable truth...i.e., *man will never know it all*. In the previous chapters of this precious book, we have gathered jewels of wisdom and harvested handfuls of knowledge. However, even the mighty wisdom of Solomon fails to answer all of life's questions.

The chapter begins, "*The words of Agur....*" Most scholars believe that "*Agur*" is simply another name for Solomon. John Phillips points out that historical evidence reveal that Solomon was known by six different names: Solomon, Jedidiah (II Sam. 12:25), Koheleth, Son of Jakeh, Agur, and Lemuel (Pro. 31:1). The name "*Agur*" means "gatherer" or "received among the sages." This could certainly apply to Solomon, for the Proverbs are a collection (or, gathering) of tidbits of wisdom and jewels of knowledge. The term appears to imply that some of these thoughts are mysteries that had long been studied and discussed by the sages of the day.

It is amazing to know that Solomon, who was the wisest in all the Earth, still found things that amazed him. Let us listen in on his musings concerning life. We hear...

I. A _____ **Confession** (vv. 1-6). — *Solomon confessed the...*

A. _____ of man (vv. 1-3; cf. Job 38:4; Psa. 73:22).

1. Man's knowledge ≠ _____ knowledge (v.2; cf. Rom. 1:22).

2. No _____ of God = No knowledge of God (v.3; cf. 9:10).

B. Omnipotence of _____ (vv. 4-6).

1. Demonstrated in His power in _____ (v.4).

2. Demonstrated in His power in _____ (vv. 5-6; cf. Psa. 12:6; 18:30; 19:8; 119:140).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #100: _____

C. _____ to man (v.6).

1. Don't _____ with God's Word (cf. Deut. 4:2; 12:32; Rev. 22:18-19). i.e., Do not add to, or take away from the Word of God.

2. You cannot _____ on what God has already said.

II. A Prayerful _____ (vv. 7-9). — *He understood the need for Divine intervention in life.*

Solomon narrows his personal prayer request down to two items. He prays for deliverance and protection from...

A. _____ temptation (vv. 7-8a).

1. The _____ of the request (v.7, "...two things...").

2. The _____ of the request (v.8a).

B. Material temptation (vv. 8b-9). — *Prayed to be...*

1. Restrained from excessive _____.
2. Restrained from excessive _____.

III. A _____ **Reflection** (vv. 10-17).

In this passage of Scripture, Solomon reveals some of the mysteries that still baffle him at the end of his life. He ponders the...

A. Meddlesome _____ of man (v.10).

1. The _____ to gossip.
2. The _____ of gossip.

B. _____ attitude of man (vv. 11-14, 17).

1. Mistreats their _____ (v.11; cf. Rom. 1:30c; Deut. 27:16).
2. Misjudges their _____ (vv. 12-13).
3. Mishandles the _____ (v.14; cf. 29:7).

C. _____ attitude of man (vv. 15-16).

—Solomon observed that even nature had an insatiable _____, and man is just like it.

1. Man always _____ and is never satisfied (v.15).

—The appetite of this world can _____ be satisfied.

2. Man's appetite can never be _____ (v.16).

IV. An _____ **Contemplation** (vv. 18-33).

In these verses, we find a series of observations by Solomon. It is not unique for Solomon to glean lessons from observing life. Such ability is a proven hallmark of wisdom (cf. Pro. 6:6). It is interesting that Solomon seems to focus on the number "4" in his observations. Four is the number that stands for creation, and is the mark of God's creative work. The earth has:

- Four points of the compass (N, S, E, W)
- Four elements (earth, air, fire, water)
- Four seasons (Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring)
- Four winds
- Four divisions of day (morning, noon, evening, night)
- Four phases of the moon (1st Qtr., New Moon, Last Qtr., Full)

Therefore, it should again be stated that the wise will learn from life, and the creation of God (cf. Rom. 1:20, 22). In these verses, Solomon observes four:

A. _____ things (vv. 19-20). —*The way of...*

1. The _____ in the air.

2. The _____ on the rock.
3. The _____ in the sea.
4. The _____ with a maid.

They all leave no _____ of their movement behind.

B. _____ things (vv. 21-23).

1. A promoted _____.
2. A contented _____.
3. A married _____. (“*odious*” = _____)
4. A bequeathed _____.

C. _____ things (vv. 24-28).

1. The foresightedness of the _____ (v.25; cf. 6:6).
— _____ ahead.
2. The determinedness of the _____ (v.26; i.e., Rock Rabbit).
—Keeps trying, and does not _____.
3. The submissiveness of the _____ (v.27).
—No _____. Just teamwork!
4. The purposefulness of the _____ (v.28).
—Has high _____.

D. Honorable things (vv. 29-31).

1. The lion. — _____
2. The greyhound. — _____
3. The he goat. — _____
4. The king. — _____

These are all things that inspire and encourage.

Conclusion: Why is it that Solomon ranks among the few who ever learn from life? The answer is found in the blatant disregard of man for the advice given in the two concluding verses of this chapter. Solomon gives us advise concerning...

v.32 = The rewards of _____. (i.e., know when to be quiet!)

v.33 = The results of _____. (i.e., you are going to get hurt).