

conclusions

worksheet answers

Agur's prayer shows that he feared losing his testimony rather than his salvation (C-3). (See 1 Cor. 10:13.) Some view 30:7-9 as a model prayer because of its brevity and focus on truth and faithfulness (D-3).

Agur wrote honestly (B-1) and humbly (C-1) about himself, knowing from painful experience that true wisdom is from God alone (30:1-6). Humanly speaking he was pessimistic about obtaining wisdom (B-2), but he was also hopeful (30:24-28).

It is incorrect to say that we know nothing about Agur's occupation (A-5). He spoke like a prophet (30:1), was familiar with palaces (30:22, 28, 31), and showed a strong desire for things to run smoothly (C-6). So he probably was a royal counselor.

Agur's use of numbers is somewhat unusual, but it is also seen in 6:16-19 and Amos chapter one and two (B-7). Because there are never more than four things in his lists, they are quite easy to remember (D-4).

The compiler of Proverbs knew about Agur and was guided by the Holy Spirit to include his often negative teaching as part of the book's conclusion (A-6). The final chapter, chapter 31, is more positive (B-8).

So what?

Was Agur too negative? Would he be in the Bible if he was? There is no denying that he did tend to see sin everywhere (B-3). Notice, for instance, that he regarded society as a whole as an evil influence (30:11-14).

To Agur, God alone was "the Holy One" (30:3, cf. 9:10). So he stressed the unique purity of God's word (30:5). Though he acknowledged the wonder of physical intimacy in marriage (30:19), he quickly pointed out its adulterous perversion (30:20).

Much of Agur's message against sin was focused on pride (D-8). Yet in 30:29-31, he seemed to speak favorably of walking or marching in a proud manner (B-6). Yet, the next verse (30:32) is opposed to exalting oneself (D-2).

The explanation is that Agur appreciated dignified leadership (30:29-31) because good leaders maintain order (C-6). Therefore he was also totally against usurpers, who arrogantly upset the normal order (30:21-23).

The main application of Agur's message is made clear by his three commands (D-5). We must avoid acting proudly toward God (30:6) and others (30:10, 32-33), including toward our parents (30:11, 17).

applications

Apply the points which you believe are most important or seem most needful.
