

negatives

The first several lines below are typical complaints about the lack of information, this time about Agur. Some speculate that this is a symbolic name for Solomon, but this is highly unlikely since, unlike Solomon, Agur was probably not a wealthy man. (See 30:7-9.)

According to the Jewish Publication Society's English translation (the *Tanakh*) of Prov. 30:1, Agur was a "man of Massa." In line with this, many scholars believe that he was from "Massa" in northern Arabia. If so, he may have been a descendant of Ishmael (Gen. 25:14).

The most important lines on the worksheet below and the one on the next page are about the nature of Agur's message. Most of the lines in the "B" section are complaints about his teaching. Though many of these are true, they also are probably overly critical.

Sadly, there are many who, unlike Agur (30:5), approach the Bible with a bad attitude, constantly trying to find fault with it. This kind of negative thinking is reflected in some of the B lines below. Even so, each of these should be judged for its correctness rather than by its tone.

Mark the points below as correct (C), incorrect (X), or partly correct (▲).

A	() We do not know much about Agur.
A-1	() We do not know where he was from.
A-2	() We do not know if he was married or not.
A-3	() We do not know if he was a Jew or a Gentile.
A-4	() Agur is not mentioned anywhere else in the Bible.
A-5	() We do not know anything about his occupation (30:1, 28).
A-6	() We do not know why Agur's teaching was included in Proverbs.
B	() Agur's message was very negative.
B-1	() He was negative about himself (30:2-3).
B-2	() He was pessimistic about wisdom (30:2-6, 24).
B-3	() He tended to see sin everywhere (30:11-14, 18-20).
B-4	() He wrote about repulsive subjects (30:10, 20, 30:33).
B-5	() He wrote about repulsive creatures (30:15, 17, 25, 27-28).
B-6	() He spoke favorably of those who walk with pride (30:29-31).
B-7	() His use of numbers (30:7,15,18,21 24,29) is unusual (6:16-19).
B-8	() His message was too negative to be the final chapter of Proverbs.