

# THRIVING

IN THE WORD . IN PRAYER . IN FELLOWSHIP

*THE PURPOSE OF LIFE*

“In Proverbs 30, we meet a man named Agur who admits that he feels unintelligent, uneducated, and unsuccessful in life, yet, he is informed and settled by the word of God.

“The wisdom of Agur - is filled with observations on life and the natural world. Agur is one “inviting us to look again at our world with the eye of a man of faith who is an artist and an observer of character.”

— D. Kidner

Go slowly as you read this passage. By the time many get to this point in the book of Proverbs we have grown accustomed to its “two ways” and “four things” style. We may even rush past this section feeling that it is a repeat of earlier observations. However, it is a passage that is quoted by Jesus, John, and Paul as an important guide into understanding what the Word says, and revealing who Jesus is...Take note!”

— Pastor Justin

## **Proverbs 30**

### **The Words of Agur**

**30** The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The pronouncement. The man’s oration to Ithiel, to Ithiel and Ucal:

<sup>2</sup>I am more stupid than any other person, and I lack a human’s ability to understand. <sup>3</sup>I have not gained wisdom, and I have no knowledge of the Holy One. <sup>4</sup>Who has gone up to heaven and come down? Who has gathered the wind in his hands? Who has bound up the waters in a cloak? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is the name of his son—if you know? <sup>5</sup>Every word of God is pure; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. <sup>6</sup>Don’t add to his words, or he will rebuke you, and you will be proved a liar. <sup>7</sup>Two things I ask of you; don’t deny them to me before I die: <sup>8</sup>Keep falsehood and deceitful words far from me. Give me neither poverty nor wealth; feed me with the food I need. <sup>9</sup>Otherwise, I might have too much and deny you, saying, “Who is the LORD?” or I might have nothing and steal, profaning the name of my God. <sup>10</sup>Don’t slander a servant to his master or he will curse you, and you will become guilty. <sup>11</sup>There is a generation that curses its father and does not bless its mother. <sup>12</sup>There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filth. <sup>13</sup>There is a generation—how haughty its eyes and pretentious its looks. <sup>14</sup>There is a generation whose teeth are swords, whose fangs are knives, devouring the oppressed from the land and the needy from among mankind. <sup>15</sup>The leech has two daughters: “Give, Give!” Three things are never satisfied; four never say, “Enough!”: <sup>16</sup>Sheol; a

childless womb; earth, which is never satisfied with water; and fire, which never says, "Enough!" <sup>17</sup> As for the eye that ridicules a father and despises obedience to a mother, may ravens of the valley pluck it out and young vultures eat it. <sup>18</sup> Three things are too wondrous for me; four I can't understand: <sup>19</sup> the way of an eagle in the sky, the way of a snake on a rock, the way of a ship at sea, and the way of a man with a young woman. <sup>20</sup> This is the way of an adulteress: she eats and wipes her mouth and says, "I've done nothing wrong." <sup>21</sup> The earth trembles under three things; it cannot bear up under four: <sup>22</sup> a servant when he becomes king, a fool when he is stuffed with food, <sup>23</sup> an unloved woman when she marries, and a servant girl when she ousts her queen. <sup>24</sup> Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: ants are not a strong people, yet they store up their food in the summer; <sup>26</sup> hyraxes are not a mighty people, yet they make their homes in the cliffs; <sup>27</sup> locusts have no king, yet all of them march in ranks; <sup>28</sup> a lizard can be caught in your hands, yet it lives in kings' palaces. <sup>29</sup> Three things are stately in their stride; four are stately in their walk: <sup>30</sup> a lion, which is mightiest among beasts and doesn't retreat before anything; <sup>31</sup> a strutting rooster; a goat; and a king at the head of his army. <sup>32</sup> If you have been foolish by exalting yourself or if you've been scheming, put your hand over your mouth. <sup>33</sup> For the churning of milk produces butter, and twisting a nose draws blood, and stirring up anger produces strife.

1. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. What does this passage teach us about God?
3. What does this passage teach us about Man?
4. What purpose does this passage call us to live out?