

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

PART 7: WISDOM FROM A GODLY MOTHER

Introduction:

1. Three things are necessary to possessing true wisdom:
 - a. A proper knowledge of God
 - b. A proper respect for parents
 - c. A proper understanding of the world
2. Proverbs began with wise advice from a father to his son (Chs. 1-9).
3. The book ends with wisdom from a godly mother (Ch. 31).

I. Introductory Notes

- A. Chapter 30 records the words of Agur, son of Jakeh.
 1. The phrase “the prophecy” may mean “the oracle” – thus, Agur was the son of Jakeh the oracle.
 2. The word ‘agur’ means, “Gathered, collected;” or, “received.”
 3. The word ‘jakeh’ means, “Obedient or faithful.”
 4. Many assume that one or both of these names are symbolic references to Solomon (cf. Ecclesiastes 1:1).
 5. Young translates this verse as: “Words of a Gatherer, son of an obedient one, the declaration, an affirmation of the man....”
 6. If this is not a reference to Solomon, then nothing more is known about the writer of this chapter.
- B. The words of chapter 30 are addressed to Ithiel and Ucal.
 1. Perhaps these were two disciples of Agur.
 2. The word ‘ithiel’ means, “God has arrived” or “God is with me.”
 3. The word ‘ucal’ means, “Devoured.”
 4. Most modern translations do not view these words as proper names but words to be translated.
 5. The ESV reads: “The words of Agur son of Jakeh. The oracle. The man declares, I am weary, O God; I am weary, O God, and worn out.”
 6. Young’s Literal Translation reads: “...I have wearied myself *for* God, I have wearied myself *for* God, and am consumed.”
- C. Chapter 31 records the words of King Lemuel, taught to him by his mother.
 1. The word ‘Lemuel’ means, “For God” or “To God;” thus, “Belonging to God.”
 2. It is thought by many that this is another symbolic name for Solomon.
 3. If it is, then his mother would be Bathsheba (cf. Matt. 1:6).
 4. If it is not, then we do not know anymore about this man or his mother.

II. The Words of Agur

(Proverbs 30)

- A. 30:1-3 – His Ignorance
 1. He recognized his lack of knowledge, calling himself simple or stupid.
 2. He had not learned wisdom because he did not know God.
- B. 30:4 – His Inadequacy
 1. Even nature is a mystery to man.
 2. It can reveal the existence of God but cannot give knowledge of Him.
- C. 30:5-6 – His Intelligence

Proverbs 30 – 31

1. Yet, he came to learn that God’s word is pure – and the source of true wisdom.
 2. Those who place their trust in God will be protected by Him.
 3. Man is not wise enough to add to or alter the Word of God.
- D. 30:7-33 – His Insight
1. Vs. 7-9 – Two things he desired
 - a. Removal from vanity and falsehood
 - b. Neither poverty nor riches
 2. Vs. 10 – Do not slander a servant to his master.
 3. Vs. 11-14 – Four characteristics of a wicked generation
 - a. A generation that does not honor their parents
 - b. A generation that justifies their own sins
 - c. A generation that is filled with pride
 - d. A generation that selfishly devours the needy (like a leech)
 4. Vs. 15-17 – Four things that are never satisfied
 5. Vs. 18-20 – Four things that are too wonderful for comprehension
 6. Vs. 21-23 – Four things the earth cannot bear
 7. Vs. 24-28 – Four things that are small but wise
 8. Vs. 29-32 – Four things that are stately to behold in their stride
 9. Vs. 33 – The need to know one’s limits

III. The Words of Lemuel

(Proverbs 31)

- A. 31:1-9 – Wisdom from a Godly Mother
1. Vs. 2-7 – Maintain self-control
 2. Vs. 8-9 – Speak up for those in need
- B. 31:10-31 – The Virtuous Woman
1. Vs. 10 – She is priceless
 2. Vs. 11 – She is trustworthy
 3. Vs. 12 – She is loving and good
 4. Vs. 13-19 – She is industrious
 5. Vs. 20 – She is compassionate
 6. Vs. 21-22 – She is prepared
 7. Vs. 23 – She is supportive
 8. Vs. 24 – She is active
 9. Vs. 25 – She is honorable
 10. Vs. 26 – She is wise
 11. Vs. 27 – She is sacrificial
 12. Vs. 28-31 – She is praised