

Dec 20 Proverbs 28-31

### Chapter 28

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 5, 6, 13, 26, 27

### Chapter 29

Which one of these proverbs resonates most with your life?

My favorites: 7, 10, 14, 15, 17, 23,

### Chapter 30

Chapter 30 stands on its own as an additional poem added on later to Proverbs. We do not know who Agur is historically, but he delivers an oracle that must have come from God, because he is too worn out to come up with anything wise to say on his own. Indeed, no human being can deliver divine wisdom, only God speaking through humans can deliver wisdom.

Agur begins by questioning who is the one who is able to have true wisdom? The answer to the questions posed in vs. 4 is “no one.” Only God is truly wise, and God’s word is a shield and refuge to human beings. Vs. 8-9 Agur says that the best situation to be in spiritually is a place of contentment (neither having too much nor too little). For having too much leads people to forget their reliance on God, and having too little leads people to desperate unrighteous actions for the sake of self-preservation.

### Chapter 31

Vs. 1-9 reflect the Queen Mother’s advice to her son. She cautions that abusing sex and alcohol can both lead the king to forget the afflicted of his kingdom, which would be his downfall. Rather, she urges her son to give what is comforting (strong drink) to the afflicted to help them forget their poverty. She urges her son, the king, to speak up for the afflicted, and in so doing to defend their rights and improve their lives.

Vs. 10-31 Is a famous acrostic poem (22 lines, one for each letter of the Hebrew alphabet) from proverbs, praising what makes a virtuous wife. This serves as a counterpoint for all of the proverbial sayings throughout this book about the “contentious wife” or the “strange woman.” Proverbs 31 reflects the ideal of righteousness for women, not dwelling on her external appearance, but rather her wise management of the household. The capable

woman is an example of what happens when someone becomes a disciple of wisdom.

A capable wife is:

More precious than jewels, trustworthy, does good to her husband all of the days of her life, works diligently with her hands, rises early to provide food for her family, discerns about the buying of property to increase the family's wealth, plants a vineyard with her own hands, stands with strength, works fabric with her hands, shares her wealth with the poor, makes clothing for herself and her family, does not worry, sells her wares to merchants to provide stability for her family, speaks only wisdom and kindness, loved and respected by her husband and children.

The pursuit of wisdom brings every blessing imaginable.