

CHRISTMAS IN PROVERBS

--PROVERBS 30:4--

INTRODUCTION:

Last Sunday I began a series of messages that I have entitled “Christmas in the Old Testament.” This morning, I want to look at one verse of an oracle that we find in the book of Proverbs. *The Popular Bible Prophecy Commentary* says, “Proverbs is a collection of wise sayings and aphorisms that offer guidance for everyday living. Though this poetic Hebrew wisdom literature includes no overt prophetic or eschatological content, nonetheless, one proverb does indeed offer a tantalizing prophetic glimpse of Israel’s coming Messiah.” (LaHaye, Tim and Hinson, Ed, editors, *The Popular Bible Prophecy Commentary*. Eugene, Ore. : Harvest House Publishers, 2006.)

I. THE CONTENT (Proverbs 30:1-3)

- a. In the first verse the author tells us that his words are “the _____.”
- b. The book of Proverbs has as its premise that the basis of true wisdom is _____ God, and in verse 3 Agur says that he has no wisdom and no knowledge of the Holy One.

II. WHO HAS ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND DESCENDED (Proverbs 30:4a; John 3:13)

- a. The first question that Agur asks in verse 4 is “*Who has _____ into heaven and descended?*” (Proverbs 30:4a, NASB95)
- b. This question asked here clearly refers to a _____ descent and a physical ascension. (John 3:11-15)
- c. Jesus makes a statement concerning His _____ and He says no one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. (Acts 1:9-11)

III. WHO HAS GATHERED THE WIND OR WRAPPED THE WATER IN HIS GARMENT (Proverbs 30:4b; Luke 8:22-25)

- a. Agur writes, “*Who has gathered the _____ in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment?*” (Proverbs 30:4b, NASB95) (Job 26:8)
- b. As I read these two questions posed by Agur I could not help but think about an event from the life of _____. (Luke 8:22-25; Colossians 2:9)

IV. WHO HAS ESTABLISHED ALL THE ENDS OF THE EARTH (Proverbs 30:4c, Isaiah 45:18; Colossians 1:13-20)

- a. The final rhetorical question of Agur deals with creation and who is the _____ and Sustainer of the Earth and all that is on it.
- b. We find the answer to this question addressed by _____ Himself in the book of Isaiah. (Isaiah 45:18)
- c. But let’s not stop here because Paul sheds even greater light as he _____ this question in his letter to the Colossians. (Colossians 1:13-20)

V. WHAT IS HIS NAME OR WHAT IS HIS SON’S NAME? (Proverbs 30:4d)

- a. Agur asks two more questions: What is the _____ of this God who has done all these things or what is His Son’s name?
- b. The name God gave Himself was Yahweh, this is the name that He revealed to _____ when He spoke to him out of the burning bush. (Exodus 3:13-14)
- c. The sixth and final question is less obvious: What is the name of His _____?
- d. His name was first revealed to Mary when the angel Gabriel visited her to announce that she would be the virgin mother of God’s Son. His name is _____. (Luke 1:30-33; Matthew 1:20-21)

CONCLUSION:

The fourth verse of Proverbs 30 ends with the phrase, “*Surely you know!*” (Proverbs 30:4e, NASB95) The author believes the answer to all his questions is so obvious that we must surely know them; at least

the first five questions and he may have thought that it would be obvious that the sixth answer could at least be understood to be the promised Messiah, the Son of David.

Jesus Christ came in fulfillment of God's promises to give us the greatest gift ever offered to mankind, the forgiveness of our sins, a restored relationship with God, and the promise of eternal life. Do you know Jesus this morning? Do you know His Father? You can by repenting and believing that Jesus Christ died for your sins and rose from the dead on the third day after His death.

For those of us who have already received this free gift from God, what does this passage of Scripture teach us? I believe that this Scripture is a reminder to us that we must not be so focused on the baby in the manger that we forget that He was and is so much more than a baby, but that He was and is the Creator and Sovereign of all. We must never forget that Jesus never ceased to be God and any point of His incarnation. He was God before the creation of the world, having eternally existed, He was God at every point of the incarnation, and He is God right now and will be forever. We must never forget that the man Jesus Christ is God in the flesh.