

positives

Just as a personal letter may reveal a lot about the person who wrote it, a sermon or a written message may do the same. Therefore it is possible to learn quite a bit about Agur from what he wrote. Since Proverbs chapter 30 is fairly long, it is quite revealing.

One of the most revealing parts of the chapter is Agur's prayer in 30:7-9. It is the only specific prayer in Proverbs. (*Caution: 30:1 also contains a prayer in some translations.*) As in the Lord's prayer in Matthew six, Agur's requests were few, but they help show what was important to him.

Having prayed about his own sinfulness in 30:7-9, Agur focused his message on the pride and sins of others in 30:10-33. Though sceptics and sinners will complain about his words (as seen in the B lines), he did not hesitate to write boldly about sin and judgement.

It is easy to see Agur's message in a negative light if one is so inclined, but there are many wonderful things in Proverbs 30. It is especially rich in illustrations, for Agur believed that we can learn from creation (30:10-33) as well as from God's word (30:2-6).

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

C	() We know Agur through his writing.
C-1	() He was humble (30:1-9, 18).
C-2	() He believed the Scriptures (30:5-9).
C-3	() He was afraid of losing his salvation (30:7-9).
C-4	() He was probably not a young man (30:7, 11-14).
C-5	() He was a keen observer of many things (30:11-33).
C-6	() He wanted things to go smoothly (30:10, 21-23, 29-33).
D	() Agur's teaching was good.
D-1	() He asked good questions (30:4).
D-2	() His illustrations are all easy to understand.
D-3	() He taught us how to pray (30:7-9, Mat. 6:9-13).
D-4	() Many things that he said are easy to remember.
D-5	() His teaching included applications (30:6, 10, 32-33).
D-6	() He showed what covetousness is really like (30:11-17).
D-7	() He showed how strife can be avoided (30:10, 21-23, 32-33).
D-8	() He preached against pride (30:6, 9, 11, 13, 17, 18, 24-28, 32-33).