

Proverbs 30:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.

Analysis

Agur confesses: 'I am more brutish than any man' and lack human understanding. The Hebrew 'baar' (brutish/stupid) and 'binah' (understanding) express extreme humility. This isn't false modesty but honest recognition of human limitation in knowing God. Reformed theology values epistemological humility—acknowledging we know only what God reveals. This Socratic wisdom (knowing we don't know) prepares us to receive divine revelation. Pride in human reason blinds; humility opens us to God's truth.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern wisdom literature often began with assertions of divine wisdom's transcendence. Agur's confession of ignorance contrasts with pagan claims to human wisdom, emphasizing dependence on God's revelation.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. Do you approach Scripture with humble recognition of your limited understanding?
2. How does intellectual humility prepare you to receive God's revelation?
3. In what areas do you need to confess 'I am brutish' and seek divine wisdom?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	בְּעַר	אֲנִי	יֵשׁ	אִלָּא
H3588	Surely I am more brutish	H595	than any man	H3808
	H1198		H376	
	בִּינַת	אִדָּם	לִי:	
	and have not the understanding	of a man	H0	
	H998	H120		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 73:22 (Parallel theme): So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

1 Corinthians 3:18 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.