

# Proverbs 30:29

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going:

## Analysis

**There be three things which go well** (שְׁלֹשָׁה הֵמָּה מֵיטִיבֵי צֶעֶד, sheloshah hemmah metivei tza'ad)—שְׁלוֹשׁ (shalosh, 'three') מֵיטִיב (metiv, 'do well, make good') in צֶעֶד (tza'ad, 'step, march, gait'). This introduces a numerical proverb (three... four) examining dignified, impressive movement.

**Yea, four are comely in going** (וְאַרְבָּעָה מֵיטִיבֵי לָכֵת, ve'arba'ah metivei lakhet)—אַרְבָּע (arba, 'four') expand the list. הָלַךְ (halakh, 'to walk, go') done מֵיטִיב ('well, excellently'). The structure creates expectation: what four things move with dignity? Verses 30-31 answer: lion, greyhound, he-goat, and king. The lesson: certain creatures and persons possess natural majesty in motion. Spiritually, believers should 'walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called' (Ephesians 4:1), exhibiting dignity befitting God's children.

## Historical Context

Numerical proverbs (x... x+1) appear throughout Proverbs (6:16-19, 30:15-16, 18-19, 21-23, 24-28, 29-31) and other wisdom literature (Job 5:19, Amos 1-2). This literary device creates anticipation and emphasizes the final item. The form was common in ancient Near Eastern wisdom traditions.

## Related Passages

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

### Study Questions

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1. How does your 'walk' (lifestyle, conduct) reflect the dignity of being God's child?
2. What would it mean to move through life with the composure and confidence the proverb describes?
3. Who models for you a 'comely' way of living that exhibits grace under pressure?

### Interlinear Text

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שְׁלֹשָׁה הַ	יֵמֵי בִי הַ מָה	צֵדַע	יֵמֵי בִי אַרְבָּעָה הַ
<b>There be three</b>	<b>well</b>	<b>things which go</b>	<b>yea four</b>
H7969	H3190	H6806	H702
			<b>well</b>
			H3190
לָכֵת:			
H1980			

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