

Proverbs 30:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Analysis

Add thou not unto his words—Agur's warning parallels Deuteronomy 4:2 and 12:32, and anticipates Revelation 22:18-19. The Hebrew *yāsap* (יָסַף, add) means to augment or supplement. **Lest he reprove thee** (*yākîaḥ*, יוֹכִיחַ, reprove)—God Himself will correct those who distort His revelation. **Thou be found a liar** (*kāzab*, כָּזַב)—false prophet, deceiver.

This principle safeguards Scripture's sufficiency and authority. Adding to God's words claims divine authority for human opinion—the error of Pharisees (Mark 7:7-9) and false teachers. Jesus affirmed Scripture's inerrancy down to the smallest letter (Matthew 5:18). The Reformation cry of sola Scriptura echoes this verse.

Historical Context

Proverbs 30 contains the oracle of Agur son of Jakeh (30:1), likely a wisdom sage outside Solomon's immediate circle. His humility (30:2-3) and precision about God's words reflects the ancient scribal commitment to textual accuracy that preserved Scripture.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. Where are you tempted to add your own preferences or traditions to Scripture's clear teaching?
2. How can you distinguish between legitimate application of biblical principles and wrongly 'adding to' God's words?
3. What safeguards help you remain faithful to what Scripture actually says versus what you wish it said?

Interlinear Text

אֵל	תּוֹסֵף	עַל	דְּבַר יְיָ	פֶּן	יֹכַח יְיָ	בְּךָ
H408	Add	H5921	thou not unto his words	H6435	lest he reprove	H0
	H3254		H1697		H3198	
וְנִכְזְבָּתְךָ:						
thee and thou be found a liar						
H3576						

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 12:32 (Parallel theme): What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.

Deuteronomy 4:2 (Word): Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

1 Corinthians 15:15 (Parallel theme): Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

