

Proverbs 30:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

Analysis

Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die—Agur's prayer introduces one of Scripture's most profound petitions about truth and contentment (vv. 7-9). The Hebrew *shā'al* (שָׁאַל, required) means earnestly asked or requested. **Deny me them not** shows urgency—these requests matter supremely.

The 'two things' structure creates literary anticipation, building toward verses 8-9's revelation. This prayer models what to prioritize in communion with God—not primarily circumstances, but character (integrity and contentment). It echoes Jesus's teaching to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33).

Historical Context

Agur's self-description as ignorant (30:2-3) precedes this prayer, showing that true wisdom begins with humble acknowledgment of need. Ancient Near Eastern literature often used numbered sequences ('three things...four') for rhetorical emphasis.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. If you could ask God for only two things before you died, what would they be —and why?
2. How does Agur's prayer priorities compare with what you actually pray about most often?
3. What does it mean to pray with Agur's urgency for godly character over comfortable circumstances?

Interlinear Text

שְׁתִים	שָׁא לְתִי	אַל מַאֲתֶךָ	אַל תִּמְנַע עָ	תִּתְפַּנְפַּנְיָ
Two	things have I required	H853	H408	of thee deny
H8147	H7592			H4513
בָּם בָּם	אַמְתָּה:			
H2962	me them not before I die	H4191		

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 27:4 (Parallel theme): One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple.

Luke 10:42 (Parallel theme): But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

2 Kings 2:9 (Parallel theme): And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

Psalms 21:2 (Parallel theme): Thou hast given him his heart's desire, and hast not withholden the request of his lips. Selah.

