

Proverbs 30:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Analysis

Remove far from me vanity and lies—The first request: *shāwē'* (שָׁוֵء, vanity) means emptiness, falsehood; *kāzāb* (קָזָב, lies) is deception. Agur prays for integrity and truthfulness. **Give me neither poverty nor riches**—The second request: *rēsh* (רֵשׁ, poverty) nor *‘ōsher* (עֹשֶׁר, riches). **Feed me with food convenient for me**—literally, 'my portion of bread' (*lehem huqqî*, לְחֵם הָעֻקֵב), what is necessary.

This prayer for the 'golden mean' recognizes that both poverty and prosperity tempt sin (v. 9). It's the biblical basis for contentment theology—Paul's 'I have learned to be content' (Philippians 4:11-12). Not asceticism or prosperity gospel, but trust in God's sufficient provision.

Historical Context

Ancient Israel's economy swung between agricultural abundance and famine. The wealthy faced temptations of self-sufficiency, while the desperately poor faced survival pressures. Agur's wisdom transcends both extremes, seeking the spiritually safest path.

Related Passages

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How do both poverty and prosperity in your current situation tempt you toward specific sins?
2. What would change if you genuinely prayed for 'enough' rather than 'more'?
3. How does contentment with daily provision reflect trust in God as your Father (Matthew 6:11, 25-34)?

Interlinear Text

רְאֵשׁ	מִנְמָרָה	לֹא	בְּקָרְבָּן	לֹא	פָּרָמָן	מִן	שׁוֹאֵן
from me	vanity	and lies	רְאֵשׁ	לֹא	פָּרָמָן	מִן	neither poverty
H7723	H1697	H3577	H7368	H4480			H7389
nor riches	give	to	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	convenient
H6239	H5414	H0	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	לֹא	H2706
feed	me with food						
H2963	H3899						

Additional Cross-References

Matthew 6:33 (Parallel theme): But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

Luke 11:3 (Parallel theme): Give us day by day our daily bread.

Psalms 119:37 (Parallel theme): Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way.

Psalms 119:29 (Parallel theme): Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously.

Job 23:12 (Parallel theme): Neither have I gone back from the commandment of his lips; I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.

Proverbs 21:6 (Parallel theme): The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Matthew 6:11 (Parallel theme): Give us this day our daily bread.

Acts 14:15 (Parallel theme): And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein:

Proverbs 22:8 (Parallel theme): He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

Exodus 16:35 (Parallel theme): And the children of Israel did eat manna forty years, until they came to a land inhabited; they did eat manna, until they came unto the borders of the land of Canaan.

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