

# 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

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**Remove far from me vanity and lies**—The first request: shāwē' (אִשׁוּ, vanity) means emptiness, falsehood; kāzāb (כָּזַב, lies) is deception. Agur prays for integrity and truthfulness. **Give me neither poverty nor riches**—The second request: rēsh (רֵשׁ, poverty) nor 'ōsher (עֲשֹׂר, riches). **Feed me with food convenient for me**—literally, 'my portion of bread' (leḥem ḥuqqî, לֶחֶם חֻקִּי), 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

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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

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**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

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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

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מִי וְאֵין	וְדִבֶּר	כִּי ב	הַרְחֵק	מִמֶּנִּי	אֵשׁ
from me vanity	and lies	H3577	Remove far	H4480	me neither poverty
H7723	H1697		H7368		H7389
וְעֹשֶׁר	אֵל	תֵּתֶן	לִי	הַטְרִיף	לִי חֵם
nor riches	H408	give	H0	feed	me with food
H6239		H5414	H2963	H3899	convenient
					H2706

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.