

# Proverbs 30:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or  
lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

## Analysis

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**Lest I be full, and deny thee**—The danger of riches: sāba‘ (שָׁבַע, be full/satisfied) leads to kāḥash (שָׁחַת, deny/disown). **And say, Who is the LORD?**—Practical atheism, not intellectual denial but functional independence. Israel's history proved this pattern (Deuteronomy 8:12-14, Hosea 13:6). **Or lest I be poor, and steal**—The danger of poverty: gānab (גָּנָב, steal) and **take the name of my God in vain** (tāpaś, שָׁפֵךְ, profane)—desperation leading to sin that dishonors God's reputation.

Both extremes threaten one's testimony. Agur's realism about human weakness before temptation shows wisdom. The prayer acknowledges that circumstances affect sanctification, though they don't excuse sin.

## Historical Context

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The Israelites' wilderness testing (Deuteronomy 8) proved that prosperity often breeds forgetfulness of God. Conversely, economic desperation drove some to crimes that brought reproach on their faith (Leviticus 19:11-12, linking theft to profaning God's name).

## Related Passages

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**James 2:17** — Faith and works

# Study Questions

1. In what ways does financial security tempt you to live as though you don't need God?
  2. How might your response to economic pressure either honor or dishonor God's name before watching unbelievers?
  3. What spiritual disciplines help maintain God-dependence whether in plenty or want (Philippians 4:12)?

## Interlinear Text

## Additional Cross-References

**Hosea 13:6** (Parallel theme): According to their pasture, so were they filled; they were filled, and their heart was exalted; therefore have they forgotten me.

**Deuteronomy 31:20** (References God): For when I shall have brought them into the land which I sware unto their fathers, that floweth with milk and honey; and they shall have eaten and filled themselves, and waxen fat; then will they turn unto other gods, and serve them, and provoke me, and break my covenant.

**Deuteronomy 32:15** (References God): But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

**Jeremiah 2:31** (References Lord): O generation, see ye the word of the LORD. Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness? wherefore say my people, We are lords; we will come no more unto thee?

**Exodus 20:7** (References God): Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

**Matthew 26:72** (Parallel theme): And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.

**Matthew 26:74** (Parallel theme): Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.

**Joshua 24:27** (References God): And Joshua said unto all the people, Behold, this stone shall be a witness unto us; for it hath heard all the words of the LORD which he spake unto us: it shall be therefore a witness unto you, lest ye deny your God.

**Proverbs 29:24** (Parallel theme): Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.

**Exodus 5:2** (References Lord): And Pharaoh said, Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go.