

Agur's Confession

(30:1-9)

Agur's Sayings

(30:10-31)

11-14 Four displays of **arrogance**

15-17 Four pictures of **craving** ... and a grim note

18-20 Four **wonders** ... and a jarring fifth!

21-23 Four **unbearable things**

24-28 Four things **small and wise**

29-31 Four **stately things**

Agur's Conclusion

(30:32-33)

Lady Wisdom

(31:10-31)

PROVERBIAL TYPE	EXAMPLE
1. Meaning repeated: The second line expresses the same thought as the first but in different words.	A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favour is better than silver or gold. (22:1)
2. Meaning contrasted: The second line contrasts with the first. This is the most common form in Proverbs.	A wise child makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother. (10:1)
3. Meaning developed: The second line advances the thought of the first line in some way without direct agreement or disagreement.	Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. (22:6)
4. Single statement: These proverbs don't use any form of parallel. They are short, simple statements of truth or warning.	The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice. (17:23)

PROVERBIAL TYPE	EXAMPLE
5. Metaphorical statement: Some proverbs use striking images that compare one thing or person to another. These are called "metaphors."	A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. (25:11)
6. Descriptive List: A series of answers follows a statement based on an unspoken question. Often the pattern is three plus one more – as in the example.	²⁹ Three things are stately in their tread; four are stately in their stride: ³⁰ the lion, which is mightiest among beasts and does not turn back before any; ³¹ the strutting rooster, the he-goat, and a king whose army is with him. (30:29-31)
7. "If ... then" statements: The second part explains the consequences of doing or not doing something.	³ yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, ⁴ if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, ⁵ then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (2:3-5)

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TIMOTHY KELLER

WITH KATHY KELLER

THE
WAY
OF
WISDOM

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IN THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

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THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

“The Search
for Wisdom”

Proverbs 30-31

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