



24 There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:  
25 The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer; 26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks; 27 The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands; 28 The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces. 29 There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going: 30 A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any; 31 A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up. 32 If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth. 33 Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife. (Prov 30:24-33)

Our chapter ends today by addressing two distinctively different realms of the moral world. The first (verses 24-28) address creatures that are small and yet survive following the innate wisdom with which their Creator imbued them. Following the wisdom of God, and responding with the magnificent facility God has given us, we may stand against formidable enemies and win the field at the going down of the sun. In Joel Chandler Harris' tale of Br'er Rabbit and Br'er Turtle, the very slow, but wise, turtle outwitted the faster rabbit and won the race. Being physically strong does not always result in being the mightiest. Victory belongs to the patient, the wise, and the constant in battle. Those who are faithful to their primary lights will not walk in darkness though the fires go out all over the world.

The second realm of moral examples is covered in verses 29-31 and reveals the mighty creatures of God that are graceful, majestic, and walk in beauty despite their fearsomeness. A great king is not boastful for he has no need of boasting. Cyrus the Great accounted it a strong compliment when he offered the King of Lydia whatever he asked after the king had surrendered the city, and demanded a huge ransom. The Lydian king asked for a large fortune. The treasurer for Cyrus the Great complained to Cyrus that the Lydian king was impertinent for asking such a high treasure to which Cyrus responded, "You are wrong, friend. He gives me a great compliment. A great king should be able to grant great favors."

**THE FIRST CATEGORY OF SMALL, YET, WISE, CREATURES:**

24 "There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise." It is said that a mouse can terrify an elephant, and a single smooth stone can down a giant, as did David with Goliath. When we are small, we may yet have the advantage in wisdom. If God is with us, we cannot lose any battle. So strong resolution in a righteous cause can overcome any disadvantage in size and numbers. Remember Gideon's 300 against the host of the Midianites and the Amalekites totaling 120,000 mean-at-arms defeated in a single day by the feeble force of Gideon. Why? Because the Lord was with Gideon. The numbers were of no consequence whatsoever.

The first of the small things full of wisdom are the ants. 25 "The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;" Amazing creatures, ants! They have a superb communications network that scientist still struggle to decipher. They build houses and make cities. They travel by their own public roads. Though small, they are stronger for their size than any other creatures. They are diligent in labor and harvest their food supply in due season. They are highly industrialized and care intensely for their young. They work quietly and without bravado. They work as a team and are highly organized. They build homes under earth with intricate networks of tunnels and even some species cultivate plants from which they obtain a syrup for sustenance. Every ant in every colony has a specific job and purpose. They need no supervision in carrying out their duties, and they are wise beyond measure. They will fight to the death to defend their homes and young ones. There was a time in our distant past when America could have used the ant as her national symbol, but no more! These virtues of the ant are all godly virtues. When combined in the soul of man, there can be no result but success.

The second of small creatures of wisdom are the conies. Those made reference to here were larger than our modern rabbits. They were quite adept at defending themselves from larger predators through cunning and craft. They made their homes, as Christians should, in the cleft of the ROCK. 26 "The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks." It might be deduced that the conies did not stray very far from that cleft in the ROCK either, for that was their primary protection. If we stray not away from God, we shall always have a safe harbor and a fitting hiding place.

The third group of small and wise creatures is the locust. 27 "The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands." They have no king, yet they go forth as an organized army. Israel, too, had no king but God in Samuel's day, but they did not want God as their king. They desired a political king just like all of the other nations – and they got what they asked for and were sorely treated. America, too, has rejected God as her king and is already beginning to suffer great calamity. Our children are crying out for their fathers from darkly lit streets. Our families are in shipwreck, and our government encourages the destruction of those Primal institutions of God. The locust, like unjust government, will eat every living thing that comes under its purview.

The fourth wise but small creature is the spider. 28 "The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces." The spider exercises the greatest of patience and diligence in framing her web – even after many failures, she is relentless. Then, she exhibits a like patience in awaiting the certain prey to fall into her little gossamer trap. Though poor in earthly treasure, the spider can live in palatial estates. They dwelt in the same palace with Solomon, David, Caesar, and with every President of the United States.

#### THE SECOND CATEGORY OF MIGHTY AND MAJESTIC CREATURES:

29 "There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going." Man is

fascinated by the exquisite beauty of strength of the lion our first creature of might. **30 "A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any."** The lion is the king of the jungle, yet wise and cunning in his pursuit of prey. His favorite hunting time is under cover of darkness. Darkness is not a hindrance to the lion because, like all felines, he has enhanced night vision. May I add that the roaring lion may easily be compared with that ancient foe of the souls of man – Satan. Satan's best work is done under cover of darkness. He destroys completely. He is always on the prowl. He needs not to be offended to be your enemy. Like the lion, Satan is merciless once we fall into his claws. Satan, like the lion, attacks at the moment of our greatest vulnerability and chooses the youngest and most helpless to tempt. Our fathers have left the gates open to Satan to steal away their children in America. It is not pessimism that evokes my assessments in light of Scripture, but rather a realism informed by the prophetic Word of God.

The next, the greyhound: **31a "A greyhound."** The greyhound is sleek and elegant. Its graceful countenance does not hamper its great speed and endurance. If we would make the Gospel we believe to be attractive to unbelievers, we should run with the grace and elegance of the greyhound to search out lost souls. The third is a he-goat: **31b. "..an he goat also."** He rules his sheep from a high position and is fierce in their defense. Stubborn and unyielding is the he-goat on the mountain slopes. If the Christian will maintain his mountain domain, he must do so out of tenacious faith. The fourth thing is the king: **31c ".. a king, against whom there is no rising up."** The king processes in regal splendor, and none dare offend in his presence. A good and faithful king is not pompous but is splendid in his conduct and countenance. Christian men and women are sons and daughters of the King of Kings. Our conduct and deportment should be above reproach and that fitting a prince and a princess.

**32 "If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth."** Though I may be alone the only offender, there is countless times that, on reflection, I wonder, "Did I REALLY say THAT!" "How could I be so stupid or heartless!" If this happens to us, the best and most effective first action would be to stop the poison fountain at its source by closing your mouth to further indiscretions. If the thought occurs, stop your mouth before it is converted to verbal expression.

**33 "Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife."** There is a simple formula for the creation of evil and wicked actions. Just as churning milk results in butter, and wringing the nose results in blood, so do the formularies for sin result from an active pursuit of ungodly desires and emotions. Anger, incited to wrath, will inevitably result in a broken nose or worse. Why not extinguish the awful fire while it is merely a tiny flame rather than to fan it out of curiosity and malice?

We shall take up our final 31<sup>st</sup> chapter in Proverbs on next Wednesday. I hope the ladies, especially, will pay close attention to this concluding chapter. Men should as well if they adore and cherish the good woman God has given them.