

**“Wisdom for 2024:  
Sometimes it is in Small Things.”  
Proverbs 30:24-28**

The pages of 2023 have been turned into the realm of memories and we are poised on the edge of a new year, a year that surely will bring to each of us anticipated joys and the unexpected pleasures. Though all will not be what we planned, or even hoped, it will offer numerous occasions to exercise wisdom, as well as fortitude.

Energy seems to be in sufficient supply. But, how we use our resources are not. Yet, this is what separates the wise from merely “wise guys.” The grand question this: Where should we all go to access wisdom? It clearly is not to be found in our politicalized media sources, each operating from not only a bias, but with an agenda to crush the opposition. Nor is it to be found in our citadels of higher learning as evidenced by the LGBTQ+ agenda, the all-inclusive quest, and the lack of it in the most recent episode at Harvard College and its presidency. I cannot surmise that those who lost collectively over 65 billion dollars in Bernard Madoff’s, the former chairman of the Nasdaq stock exchange, Ponzi scheme exercised wisdom above greed.

My thought is that we need to folks who have handled life well. The type of people that we name our children after because they have proven models of integrity and a disciplined life, our heroes, with the hope that our children will follow in their steps. We hope they “model up.” For a few moments, I want to model down. In four creatures, there is an abound of wisdom we all need in 2024.

Sadly, we know little about the author of these words; his name is Augur, the son of Jakeh (meaning religious or pious). Augur’s name means “compiler, one who gathers maxims (likely a nickname).” He did give us a chapter in a section of the bible called as “Wisdom Literature.”

I. Augur’s Grand Thesis, v. 24

The insect/animal kingdom offers us a great deal of wisdom if we would pause to observe their conduct.

“Four things are small upon the earth,  
But they are exceedingly wise.”

This wise sage finds his clue to wise living in four insects/animals. The characteristics of these are amazing in that they have found a coping mechanism to compensate for a glaring weakness. Should we not all!

They are ugly.  
They are weak.  
They are small.  
Easily captured.  
None of them can talk; they teach by example.  
They act instinctually.

Rarely, if ever, does anyone go to a pet store to buy a leash and one of these to take them for a walk in a mall!

It is not out of strength that they survive; it is out wisdom. It seems that each of these creatures knows two things. In each of the verses consist of two parts: first, there is a description of weakness and, second, there is a devise or compensation to ameliorate the detriment. Each of these creatures have learned wisdom for survival.

## II. Augur's Illustrative Advice, vv. 25-28

### A. The ants, v. 25

"The ants are not strong folk, but they prepare their food in the summer (v. 25)"

THE ANTS KNOW THAT TIME IS  
FLEETING; THEY PREPARE  
THEIR FOOD IN THE SUMMER  
FOR THE SPARCITY OF  
WINTER. THEY ARE  
OPPORTUNISTS.



What do they know that people often do not?

1. That if we prepare in times of abundance, we will NOT find ourselves in want in times of scarcity. Use the "good" times wisely.
2. That the green leaf of summer will become the brown, snarled falling leaf in the fall.
3. Ants know what to emphasis in times of abundance; they are aware of the importance of margins.
4. Laziness produces wantonness.
5. Ants do not make noise over their accomplishments
6. Have you ever seen an ant lounging in a hammock, wearing dark sunglasses on a beach, where you are relaxing (or, when you are enjoying a picnic)?

### B. The rock badgers (rock hydrax, coney)

"The badgers are not mighty folk.  
Yet, they make their homes in the rocks  
(v. 26)."

THE ROCK BADGER KNOWS  
WHERE ITS SECURITY LIES.  
IT IS IN THE  
ROCKS.



What can we learn from the rock badger?

1. For us, our truest security is our proximity in the "rock," the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. They have learned that there are times when running away is more than prudent that standing still.

3. Though limited, they seem to be happy creatures in a world full of dangers.
4. "Rocks" might be a hard environment, but the badger has learned that it is better to be uncomfortable and safe than amid danger.
5. Is it not a truism that we know where our protection is, but we also seek to distance ourselves from it? Do you find yourself living on the margins, the edge of cliffs, enjoying unwarranted pleasure, hoping to scamper to the "Rock" when troubles come?

#### C. The locusts

"The locusts have no king,  
Yet all of them go out in ranks (v. 27)."



LOCUST KNOW THE POWER OF GETTING TOGETHER TO  
ACCOMPLISH A TASK, THE STRENGTH OF COMMUNITY.

1. What we cannot do alone, we can if we do it in concert with others.
2. Further, there is security in company. Friends are a comfort; loneliness is often tragic.
3. The locust's message to you might be that one of our fellowship groups can lighten your load and put a smile on your face.
4. The story is told of a visitor to a hospital for the severely mentally incompetent. He observed that amount the 135 inmates in an open yard there were only 3 guards. The visitor asked, "Are you not afraid, 1to 45? The guard replied, "Lunatics don't unite!" Christians should!!

#### D. The Lizard

"The lizard you may grasp with the hands.  
Yet, it is in king's palaces (v. 28).



1. There are no ordinary Christians; all of us "lizards" will someday live in the palace of the Kings of Kings!
2. Our privileges are well beyond our capacities. It is called "grace."
3. Do you live the life of a spiritual pauper when you are a child of the King?

Thought

My advice for 2024 is that we should all find the feet of these creature and sit at them.