

Proverbs 10:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Analysis

Diligence in labor reflects faithful stewardship of God-given opportunities and abilities. The 'slack hand' indicates not merely poverty but moral failure—lazy neglect of covenant responsibility. The diligent hand brings wealth not through greed but through responsible industry, fulfilling the creation mandate to subdue the earth (Genesis 1:28).

Historical Context

Agricultural society in ancient Israel rewarded hard work with harvest abundance. Slothful farmers faced poverty as natural consequence of their negligence, teaching moral lessons through lived experience.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How does viewing work as worship and stewardship change your approach to daily tasks?
2. Where might laziness be robbing you of the blessings that come from diligent labor?

Interlinear Text

כָּ אִשׁ	עֲשֵׂה	כַּף	רַמְיָהּ	וְיָד	חֲרוּץֵי יָם
He becometh poor	that dealeth	hand	with a slack	but the hand	of the diligent
H7326	H6213	H3709	H7423	H3027	H2742
תַּעֲשִׂירִי:					
maketh rich					
H6238					

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 21:5 (Parallel theme): The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

Proverbs 20:4 (Parallel theme): The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

Proverbs 19:15 (Parallel theme): Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Proverbs 13:4 (Parallel theme): The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 12:24 (Parallel theme): The hand of the diligent shall bear rule; but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Proverbs 20:13 (Parallel theme): Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

Proverbs 19:24 (Parallel theme): A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

1 Corinthians 15:58 (Parallel theme): Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

Proverbs 11:24 (Parallel theme): There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

John 6:27 (Parallel theme): Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

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