

Proverbs 12:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Analysis

Diligent hands gain authority through demonstrated competence and faithfulness. The slothful serve others, lacking self-governance. This principle applies spiritually —those faithful in little are given much (Luke 16:10), while negligent servants are disciplined.

Historical Context

Ancient societies were stratified with clear master-servant distinctions. Hard work provided social mobility, while laziness guaranteed perpetual servitude.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How has faithful diligence in small matters prepared you for greater responsibility?
2. Where does slothfulness prevent you from exercising the leadership God intends?

Interlinear Text

תְּחִזֵּה	סְרֹצֶץ יָמָן	תִּמְשֶׁךְ וְלֹ	וְרָמִיתְהִ	תִּתְחִזֵּה הַ
The hand	of the diligent	shall bear rule	but the slothful	H1961

H3027

H2742

H4910

H7423

H1961

לְמַסָּה

shall be under tribute

H4522

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 12:27 (Parallel theme): The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

Proverbs 10:4 (Parallel theme): He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Proverbs 17:2 (Parallel theme): A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.

Proverbs 22:29 (Parallel theme): Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

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

Proverbs 22:13 (Parallel theme): The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

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

Genesis 49:15 (Parallel theme): And he saw that rest was good, and the land that it was pleasant; and bowed his shoulder to bear, and became a servant unto tribute.

1 Kings 11:28 (Parallel theme): And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valour: and Solomon seeing the young man that he was industrious, he made him ruler over all the charge of the house of Joseph.

