

Proverbs 21:5

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'charuts' (diligent) describes one who is decisive and determined, whose 'thoughts' (plans, calculations) lead to abundance ('motar'—profit, excess). In contrast, the 'hasty' (Hebrew 'ats'—pressed, urgent) rush to quick results and inevitably face want. This proverb emphasizes that prosperity comes through patient, steady work according to wisdom, not get-rich-quick schemes.

Historical Context

Agricultural life in ancient Israel required patient, diligent labor—planting, tending, waiting for harvest. Those who tried shortcuts (like mortgaging future harvests) often lost everything. This wisdom applied equally to commerce and craftsmanship.

Related Passages

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. In what areas are you tempted to pursue hasty solutions rather than diligent, steady work?

2. How does this proverb challenge modern culture's desire for instant gratification and quick success?

Interlinear Text

מַחְשָׁבֹת	דָּ רֹץ	אֵךְ	לְמוֹתָ רַ	וְכָל
The thoughts	of the diligent	H389	tend only to plenteousness	H3605
H4284	H2742		H4195	
אֲ	אֲ	אֵךְ	לְמַחְסֹר:	
but of every one that is hasty	H213	H389	only to want	H4270

Additional Cross-References

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

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 14:29 (Parallel theme): He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Ephesians 4:28 (Parallel theme): Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

Proverbs 28:22 (Parallel theme): He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.