

Proverbs 6:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

Analysis

The urgency continues with vivid imagery—give no sleep to your eyes until the matter is resolved. This hyperbolic language (common in wisdom literature) emphasizes the gravity of financial bondage. From a Reformed perspective, this reflects the urgency required in dealing with sin and its consequences. Just as we should not rest while in spiritual danger, so we must not delay in addressing entanglements that could lead to ruin. The sovereignty of God over all of life includes vigilant stewardship.

Historical Context

Sleep was highly valued in agricultural societies where dawn brought hard labor. Sacrificing sleep demonstrated extreme urgency and the seriousness of the threat posed by financial entanglement.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What spiritual 'entanglements' in your life demand this level of urgent attention?

2. How does this passage inform your understanding of the relationship between physical and spiritual stewardship?
3. In what areas of life do you need to stop 'sleeping' and take immediate action?

Interlinear Text

אֶל	תֵּת	שֵׁן ה	לְעֵינַי יָב	וּ תְנוּמָה ה	לְעַפְעָפִיבַּ:
H408	Give	not sleep	to thine eyes	nor slumber	to thine eyelids
	H5414	H8142	H5869	H8572	H6079

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 132:4 (Parallel theme): I will not give sleep to mine eyes, or slumber to mine eyelids,

Ecclesiastes 9:10 (Parallel theme): Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.