

Proverbs 6:7

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

Analysis

The ant has no guide, overseer, or ruler, yet it prepares food in summer and gathers in harvest. This observation highlights natural diligence without external compulsion. The Hebrew 'qatsiyn' (captain), 'shoter' (officer), and 'moshel' (ruler) represent hierarchical authority - yet ants work industriously without it. True wisdom produces self-motivated responsibility, not mere external compliance. Godly work ethic flows from character, not coercion.

Historical Context

Ancient agricultural societies intimately understood seasonal rhythms - summer's abundance must sustain winter's scarcity. Unlike modern just-in-time supply chains, ancient survival depended on harvest-time diligence. The ant illustrates this perfectly, becoming proverbial for wise preparation.

Related Passages

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. What work requires your diligent attention without external supervision?

2. How can you develop internal motivation for responsibility rather than merely external compliance?
3. What 'summer' opportunities for preparation are you neglecting that winter will expose?

Interlinear Text

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|---------|------|------|-----------------------|----------|-------------|
| רָאשָׁה | אֵין | לְהַ | לְקַצֵּן | שָׁפֵט | וּמִשְׁלֵךְ |
| H834 | H369 | H0 | Which having no guide | overseer | or ruler |

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