

Proverbs 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

Analysis

The ant provides food in summer and gathers in harvest - wisdom is seasonal appropriateness. The Hebrew 'kuwn' (prepare/establish) and 'agar' (gather) describe foresighted labor. What's gathered in abundance sustains through scarcity. This verse teaches that wisdom recognizes opportune timing - there are seasons for sowing, growing, harvesting, storing. Miss the season, miss the blessing. Laziness ignores God's temporal ordering of provision.

Historical Context

Agricultural calendars governed ancient life - fixed seasons for planting, tending, harvesting, storing. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 celebrates this temporal wisdom: 'To every thing there is a season.' Missing harvest meant famine. This agricultural reality became spiritual metaphor - recognize and respond to providential opportunities.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Study Questions

1. What opportunities are currently 'in season' that require immediate response?
2. How can you recognize God's timing rather than imposing your own schedule?
3. What past 'harvests' did you miss by failing to act when opportunity was ripe?

Interlinear Text

מְאַכְּלָה: בְּ קָצֵר יָמִין לְחַמֵּת הַ אָגָּר הַר אֲגָּר הַר
Provideth in the summer her meat and gathereth in the harvest her food
H3559 H7019 H3899 H103 H7105 H3978

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 10:5 (Parallel theme): He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

Proverbs 30:25 (Parallel theme): The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

1 Timothy 6:19 (Parallel theme): Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.