

# Proverbs 6:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

## Analysis

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How long will you sleep, O sluggard? When will you arise out of your sleep? The rhetorical questions mock the sluggard's excessive sleep and aversion to work. Sleep here represents not legitimate rest but slothful avoidance of responsibility. The questions imply indefinite postponement - there's always tomorrow, never today. This exposes procrastination's deceptive pattern - delayed obedience eventually becomes disobedience.

## Historical Context

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Agricultural society required seasonal diligence - missed planting or harvest meant annual poverty. The sluggard's sleep when work was urgent resulted in predictable want.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

## Study Questions

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1. What responsibilities are you 'sleeping' through that require urgent attention?
2. How does habitual procrastination reveal heart issues beyond mere time management?

## Interlinear Text

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עֵד מִתְּלֵא לְאֵלֶּה בְּשַׁאֲכָב הַתִּתְּהִלֵּה וְלֹא תַּשְׁאֲכַל

H5704 H4970 O sluggard How long wilt thou sleep H4970 when wilt thou arise  
H6102 H7901 H6965

מִשְׁנְתָּה:  
out of thy sleep  
H8142

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ephesians 5:14** (Resurrection): Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

**Psalms 94:8** (Parallel theme): Understand, ye brutish among the people: and ye fools, when will ye be wise?

**Jeremiah 4:14** (Parallel theme): O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?