

The Characteristics and Contrast of the “Diligent & the Sluggard”

References to the “Diligent” are circled and the “Sluggard” references are underlined.

PROVERBS:

- 6:6-8 “Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise!
It has no commander, no overseer or ruler,
yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest.”
- 6:9 “How long will you lie there, you sluggard?
When will you get up from your sleep?”
- 10:4 “Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.”
- 10:26 “As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.”
- 12:24 “Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.”
- 12:27 “The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.”
- 13:4 “The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.”
- 14:8 “The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception.”
- 14:15 “A simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his step.”
- 14:18 “The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.”
- 15:19 “The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.”
- 19:24 “The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!”
- (26:15) “The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he is too lazy to bring it back to his mouth.”
- 20:4 “A sluggard does not plow in season; so at harvest time he looks but finds nothing.”
- 21:5 “The plans of the diligent lead to profit as surely as haste leads to poverty.”
- 22:3 “A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”
- (27:12) “The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”
- 22:13 “The sluggard says, “There is a lion outside!” or, “I will be murdered in the streets.”
- 22:29 “Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings;
he shall not stand before obscure men.”
- 24:30-34 “I went past the field of the sluggard, past the vineyard for the man who lacks judgment:
thorns had come up everywhere, the ground was covered with weeds, & the stone wall
was in ruins. I applied my heart to what I observed and learned a lesson from what I saw:
A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-
& poverty will come on you like a bandit & scarcity like an armed man.”
- 26:16 “The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who answer discreetly.”
- 27:23-24 “Be diligent (sure to know) the condition of your flocks, give attention to your herds;
for riches do not endure forever, & a crown is not secure for all generations.”