

Elder Vernon Johnson Animals

Ant

Animals in the scripture are frequently associated with bible subjects or principles. The word, “ant,” only appears in the scripture 2 times, yet the Lord uses this little insect to illustrate the need and principle of diligent and timely work in the lives of his people:

1. Pro. 6:6 “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: 7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, 8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.”

2. Pro. 30:25 “The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;”

The above teaches us that the ants ways are wise and we should emulate those ways in our lives. Moreover, the ant provides her meat in the summer and gathers her food in the harvest. This teaches us that the ant is diligent to work and gather at the appropriate season. The ants meat is available in the summer which is the time of harvest. For the ant to procrastinate would mean that the ant would be working when there is nothing to gather and would end up starving for food to eat when the winter comes on and there is nothing to gather. This teaches us that there is a time to gather in our lives. Naturally speaking, we are takers of other peoples labors when we are very young. Likewise we are partakers of those things we have stored up when we become very old. In between the extremes in age we should be busy working to provide for our current needs and the needs of those young we are responsible for. Moreover, we should also be storing up for the time that we become aged.

There is also a spiritual lesson for us. Before we are born of the spirit of God we will not do any spiritual labor as we are not capable or desirous to do so. Yet, once we are born of the spirit of God, we should begin to labor in our studies both to be fed spiritually in order to grow, but also so that we can be prepared to feed others also. When we become naturally aged and our sight dims and our hearing and remembering dims, we will have stored up spiritual food for this time in our lives. These are some of the things that we learn from the ant.