

Adam's Industrious Wisdom

Verse 1

"I tilled the soil in morning light,"

- Refers to Adam's pre-fall work in Eden—cultivating the ground with joy and no toil (Genesis 2:15). The *morning light* symbolizes freshness, peace, and the blessing of God's presence.

"The garden bloomed, the work was right."

- His labor was fruitful and fulfilling, perfectly aligned with God's design. *Right* means both morally right and naturally productive.

"No sweat of brow, no thorns to fight,"

- Before sin, labor was free from hardship, weeds, or frustration (Genesis 3:17–19 had not yet happened).

"My labor then was pure delight."

- Adam experienced joy in work—it was worshipful, purposeful, and without weariness.
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Verse 2

"Each tree I touched brought forth its yield,"

- Creation responded perfectly to Adam's care; every effort bore fruit.

"Each vine grew strong, each flower sealed."

- Plants thrived under his stewardship; *sealed* implies beauty brought to perfection and completion.

"The beasts I named, the land I steeled—"

- Naming animals (Genesis 2:19–20) was an act of authority; *steemed* suggests he strengthened and protected the garden.

"With joy I kept what God revealed."

- His work was done in obedience to God’s instructions, guarding the garden as a sacred trust.
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Verse 3

“But when I strayed, the curse was sown,”

- Adam disobeyed, bringing sin and the curse of toil (Genesis 3:17–19).

“The ground grew hard, the weeds had grown.”

- The environment changed; weeds, thorns, and resistance entered the world.

“By sweat and toil, with aching bone,”

- Labor now became physically exhausting and painful.

“I learned the weight of seeds I’d sown.”

- His sin brought lasting consequences—he reaped hardship from what he had sown in disobedience (Galatians 6:7).
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Verse 4

“Yet still I worked, for work was good,”

- Even after the fall, work remained part of God’s purpose, though now harder.

“Though pain now clung to stone and wood.”

- Effort was now marked by struggle and resistance in every task.

“In furrow deep and field of food,”

- He still cultivated crops and sustained life through labor.

“God’s mercy met me where I stood.”

- Even in hardship, God provided and did not abandon Adam (Genesis 3:21).
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Verse 5

“So hear, my sons, this truth I share:”

- Adam addresses future generations, passing on wisdom from his experience.

“Be diligent in all your care.”

- Industriousness is still a virtue; work well and faithfully.

“Work not for self, but everywhere”

- Motivation should be service to God and others, not selfish gain.

“See God’s own image shining there.”

- Work reflects God’s image in humanity (Genesis 1:27–28).
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Verse 6

“Your hands may ache, your brow may bleed,”

- Acknowledges the reality of toil and hardship post-fall.

“But industry will meet the need.”

- Diligent work still provides for life’s needs and fulfills God’s design.

“In faithful toil, in planted seed,”

- God works through our efforts and investments to bring fruit in due season.

“God shapes the heart, refines the creed.”

- Labor shapes character and purifies beliefs, aligning them with God’s truth.
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Verse 7

“For work is worship, done with grace,”

- All labor can be an act of worship when offered to God (Colossians 3:23).

“A holy gift in time and place.”

- Work is a divine calling, meant for the time and context in which we live.

“Till one day rest—His grand embrace—”

- Foreshadows eternal rest in God’s presence (Hebrews 4:9–11).

“Restores again our Eden’s space.”

- A return to perfect harmony with God in the new creation (Revelation 22:1–3).