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Psalm 127

(2019)

Bible House of Grace contains an easy to read New and Old Testament commentary full of spiritual treasures and pearls, complete with an insightful resource guide illuminating God's love and grace.



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Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man, as to such I neither claim perfect knowledge or perfect understanding.

Psalm 127.

Topics.

- Unless the LORD builds a house those who build it labour in vain.
- Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with children.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION

Psalms are songs and prayers offered to God by the nation Israel, they cover the range of human emotion, expressing praise, faith, victory, sorrow, despair, depression, frustration and the troubled heart of a mourner. They contrast the righteous with the wicked, and include the wisdom and the treasure of God's word. Psalms were written at the beginning of the 15th century BC and probably collected in their final form in the 3rd century.

BOOK FIVE (PSALM 107-150)

PSALM 127:1-2

A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon

1

Unless the LORD Builds a House those who, Build it Labour in Vain.

- **Psalm 127:1-2:** Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labour in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain. ²It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Ascents: means a climactic progression or journey to a higher place, it carries the idea of a thought arising.

These verses apply to the following two situations:

1. To Israel because of the covenant they entered into with the LORD at Mount Sinai and confirmed again at the River Jordan. The only reason the people of Israel would have been in trouble and distress is because they had acted corruptly before the LORD. This is because all Israel at Mount Sinai entered into a covenant of blessings and curses with the LORD. Providing Israel did what was right before the LORD and obeyed God's laws the covenant promised the people of Israel that:
 - They would be God's treasured possession and be to Him a kingdom of priests and a holy nation (Exodus 19:5-8).
 - God would prosper their health, their land, their homes, their farms, their livestock and all they put their hand to do and make them the head of all nations and not the tail.

But if Israel broke the covenant and turned to other gods to worship them the covenant promised the people of Israel that:

- God would bring all sorts of sicknesses and plaques upon them and their cities and their livestock and lay waste their land.

- God would bring ruin to their homes, their crops, their farms and all they put their hand to and had established and they would become the tail of all nations and not the head.

This means that if Israel obeyed the covenant and remained faithful to God, He would bless their health and materialistically bless them in every other way possible. No enemy would ever defeat them and everything they did would abundantly prosper. (The blessing and curses are in Deut. 28).

A warning to all earth-dwellers: the fact God turned Israel's fruitful land into barren waste because of their wickedness should be a warning to all earth dwellers. It is a principal of God that the further mankind denies His existence and His ways the further He removes His hand of blessing and the more the earth and those who dwell upon it suffer. Today our schools teach our children evolution as a scientific truth and it denies the existence of God.

Added to this, wars, rape, violence, murders and theft is common today, young teenage girls are sold as sex slaves amongst most nations world-wide and drugs are globally rampant. When mankind denies their creator and turns from His ways to do their own thing all creation and every living thing under the sun suffers.

2. No matter how beautiful a home maybe or how successful a person is or how hard they may have worked or what sacrifices in life they may have made if whatever they do is done without any faith in the LORD it is all in vain, because at the end of their days they are destined to the darkness of the grave never to rise. A man wisely said, "I have never seen a Hurst transporting the coffin of a corpse with a trailer attached and full of the deceased person's material possessions."

I myself live in a downstairs unit. When the man above me died, a tip truck was backed up to the balcony of his upstairs unit and all the possessions were thrown into the tray of the truck most of the items smashing into little pieces as they hit the steel floor of the tray. These broken and worthless pieces were then taken to the smelly fires of the rubbish dump. These two simple examples clearly show the vanity of labouring and building our entire life solely on the temporary things of this world and giving no thought or time to God.

NOTE: this does not mean it is wrong for Christians to be rich and wealthy, there are many men and women who have been very successful in their particular line of work, they do all their business deals honestly and with integrity and treat their staff justly and because of their success they have resources that are able to help others extend the Kingdom of God and help the poor.

The focus of this Psalm: is on those who give God no place in their heart, mind and thoughts and instead build their life upon what they achieve own and possess and put all their trust in their riches and wealth and use it for their own selfish indulgences. Money is not sinful or evil it can be used for good or for bad, to help the poor or to corrupt a king. It is the purpose it is used for that determines whether the money is good or bad, not the money itself.

It is vain to overwork and stress: (v2) people of the world will burn themselves out to gain worldly riches, wealth and possessions, but that is their lot, they die and are gone forever. This is why Solomon says, it is vain to strive and work long hours, deny sleep and live with stress and anxiety simply to gain worldly riches and material possessions.

- **Psalm 127:3-5:** Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD the fruit of the womb a reward. ⁴Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. ⁵Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Arrows are symbols of weapons of war so the statement children of one's youth are like arrows means that when the children grow up they become soldiers and warriors. The idea is, that the man who has many children is blessed because his children grow up to be soldiers and as such become the protectors of their parents and their nation and therefore the parents will not speak with shame (i.e., intimidation) when they talk with their enemies because they have many children to protect them.

As the founder of Bible House of Grace, I would like to thank the many Christian scholars, commentators and theologians who have gone before me, and the many today, who have freely made available their works to enhance the knowledge of the Bible to all people worldwide. It is only with the help of these faithful writers that much of Bible House of Grace exists as it does today.

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