

Psalm 127

"The Importance of Living Life in Dependence upon Yahweh"

(A Song of Ascents, of Solomon.)

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

A1 THE FUTILITY OF HUMAN EFFORT WITHOUT YAHWEH'S ASSISTANCE 127:1-2

B1 Building a House without Yahweh 127:1

C1 Absence of Divine Effort: *{1}* Unless the LORD builds the house,

C2 Vanity of Human Endeavor: They labor in vain ¹ who build it;

B2 Guarding a City without Yahweh 127:1b

C1 Absence of Divine Effort: Unless the LORD guards the city,

C2 Vanity of Human Endeavor: The watchman keeps awake in vain.

B3 Living Life in Disregard for Yahweh's Provision of Sleep 127:2

C1 *{2}* It is vain for you to rise up early,

C2 To retire late,

C3 To eat the bread of painful labors;

C4 For He gives to His beloved *even in his* sleep.

A2 THE IMPORTANCE OF APPRECIATING YAHWEH'S GIFT OF CHILDREN 127:3-5

B1 Children Are a Rewarding Gift from Yahweh 127:3

C1 A Gift: *{3}* Behold, children are a gift of the LORD,

C2 A Reward: The fruit of the womb is a reward.

¹ 127:1, 2 - vain: 7723 *shav'* Never used in Ecclesiastes, this word carries the sense of *false* or *deceitful*. It is first used in Exod. 20:7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain ..." Here it means that if God is not building a house or guarding a city, human efforts are false or deceitful -- the good that humans think will come of their effort will not eventuate. Humans are deceiving themselves if they think they can be productive apart from Divine enablement or blessing.

B2 Children Are Eventually a Means of Accomplishment, Like a Warrior's Arrows 127:4

- C1 The Comparison to Arrows: {4} Like arrows ² in the hand of a warrior,
- C2 The Mature Children Born When the Parent Was Young: So are the children of one's youth.

B3 The Blessings of Having Many Children 127:5

- C1 The Blessings of a Full Quiver: {5} How blessed ³ is the man whose quiver is full of them;
- C2 The Protection Afforded by Adult Children While Meeting an Adversary in a Court of Law
- D1 The parental confidence: They will not be ashamed
- D2 The occasion of litigation: When they speak with their enemies ⁴ in the gate.

² 127:4 - arrows in the hand of a warrior: In those days certain soldiers were bowmen. A soldier with a quiverful of arrows could accomplish a lot, killing a lot of enemy combatants. At the same time, his arrows were a means of defense. Enemy combatants would be hesitant to approach anywhere close to a soldier with a quiver full of arrows. He could kill you from a distance! Imagine how defenseless the Bowman who had run out of arrows! By analogy, the parent with many children is productive and not easily taken advantage of, especially as his children mature.

127:3-5 portrays children as a blessing from Yahweh. They are a means of accomplishing a great deal in this world. A farmer with many children could produce a lot of food and herd a lot of livestock, thus increasing provisions for the family and personal wealth.

The attitude of many Americans, that children are an intrusion upon one's personal goals and ambitions, is both false and counter productive, not to mention unscriptural. Many adults, when they become increasingly dependent on others in old age, will wish they had a quiverful of children to love them, comfort them, and support them in their old age.

³ 127:5 - blessed: A quiverful of children provide many blessings to parents no matter the age of the parents or the children!

⁴ 127:5 - enemies in the gate: The middle-aged or older parent taken to court by an adversary would take confidence that his many adult children, sitting with him in a court of law, would be able to serve as para lawyers, detecting any legal shenanigans his devious opponent might attempt. They would even serve him well in the event of physical violence or emotional intimidation his opponent might attempt.

In a modern day application, my wife's 90-year old mother recently benefited from having her adult daughter present with her at a pharmacy. The pharmacist was going to charge her \$138 for her prescriptions. My wife was aware that her mother now had her newly-acquired Medicare Part D coverage. She called the pharmacist's attention to the matter, the proper card was submitted, and the medicine now cost only \$60! It was to her mother's advantage that she had given birth to six children, at least one of whom was able, at that moment, to serve as her advocate!

Expanded Analysis of Psalm 127

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

May, 2006

WordExplain.com

P. O. Box 527

Cottonwood Falls, Kansas 66845

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.