

THE PSALMS OF ASCENT

JOURNEYING WITH JESUS
TO JERUSALEM

Part 8

"Psalm 127 & Jesus' Blessing of the Children"

2 March 2025

Introduction: *Solomon & the Dedication of the Temple*

Although David had desired to build a permanent house for the dwelling place of the Lord, it was his son, Solomon, who accomplished this task. The dedication of the temple under Solomon's reign of peace and prosperity was one of the high points of Israel's national history (2 Chron. 6:1-11). The psalms of ascent reflect upon this golden age and long for an even greater one under the rule of one greater than Solomon.

Key Point: As God's people, we are to live by _____ in His promises to us and provision for us so that we will not be consumed by _____ as we live out our lives.

Psalm 127

Worshipping together in the temple, the pilgrims acknowledge that no house (religious, dynastic, personal) can be built apart from the divine favor of the Lord.

- **They acknowledge that all that can be accomplished in life is ultimately meaningless apart from the Lord. (v. 1-2)**

Psa. 127:1-2—¹Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor 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.

⇒ No _____ can endure or have any lasting significance apart from the Lord.

"house"—bayit—a place; a dwelling (a home); a family; a temple.

(1) *The Temple*

(2) *David's House*

(3) *A Lineage*

⇒ No _____ entity can endure or have lasting significance apart from the Lord.

"the watchman stays awake in vain"

⇒ No amount of human _____ can endure or have lasting significance apart from the Lord.

"in vain...you rise up early and go late to rest"

⇒ The one who trusts in the Lord can _____ secure in His sovereign providence.

"he gives to his beloved sleep"

- **They recognize the significance of children for the enduring legacy of the family and the nation. (v. 3-5).**

Psa. 127:3-5—³Behold, 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.

⇒ God's provision of children to His people is a blessing and intended as an _____ for them.

"heritage...reward"

⇒ Children are given by God as an _____ of a family's influence in the world.

The Imagery: The _____ of a _____

“blessed”

“when he speaks with his enemies at the gates”

Key Points: (1) This psalm speaks to the proper ordering of human _____ for God’s glory.

(2) Anxiety about our _____ and our _____ gives way to rest as we learn to live our lives in dependence upon the Lord, trusting in His providential care for us.

Gospel Parallel: “Jesus’ Blessing of the Children” – Mark 10:13-16

Background: Having come down from the mount following His transfiguration, Jesus had begun to speak openly about His impending death. He took his disciples back through Galilee a final time as they prepared to go to Jerusalem for the Passover.

1. Children occupied a unique place in the ancient world.
2. The disciples saw the actions of these parents and their children as a _____ to Jesus’ true ministry.
“rebuked”
3. Jesus’ response demonstrated that children were not a hindrance, but were instead the _____ of the kingdom of God.
“indignant”
4. Jesus then used the children as an _____ of what it meant rightly receive God’s promises.
5. Jesus joyfully _____ the children because of their great _____ in God’s sight.

Key Point: The children in our lives are given by God in order to _____ us about Himself even as we endeavor to _____ them in the faith.

Concluding Thought

- As Children learn to trust and obey their parents, they learn to trust and obey _____.
Col. 3:20—Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.
- The more we fail to rest in the Lord, the more we will pass on our worldly _____ to the children in our lives.
Col. 3:21—Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

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(1) *The Temple*

(2) *Lineage*

(3) *A Home*

⇒ No societal entity can endure or have lasting significance apart from the Lord.

“the watchman stays awake in vain”

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- **They recognize the significance of children for the enduring legacy of the family and the nation. (v. 3-5).**

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⇒ God’s provision of children to His people is a blessing and intended as an inheritance for them.

“heritage...reward”

⇒ Children are given by God as an extension of a family’s influence in the world.

The Imagery: The Weapons of a Warrior

“blessed”

“when he speaks with his enemies at the gates”

Key Points: (1) This psalm speaks to the proper ordering of human societies for God’s glory.

(2) Anxiety about our work and our families gives way to rest as we learn to live our lives in dependence upon the Lord, trusting in His providential care for us.

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