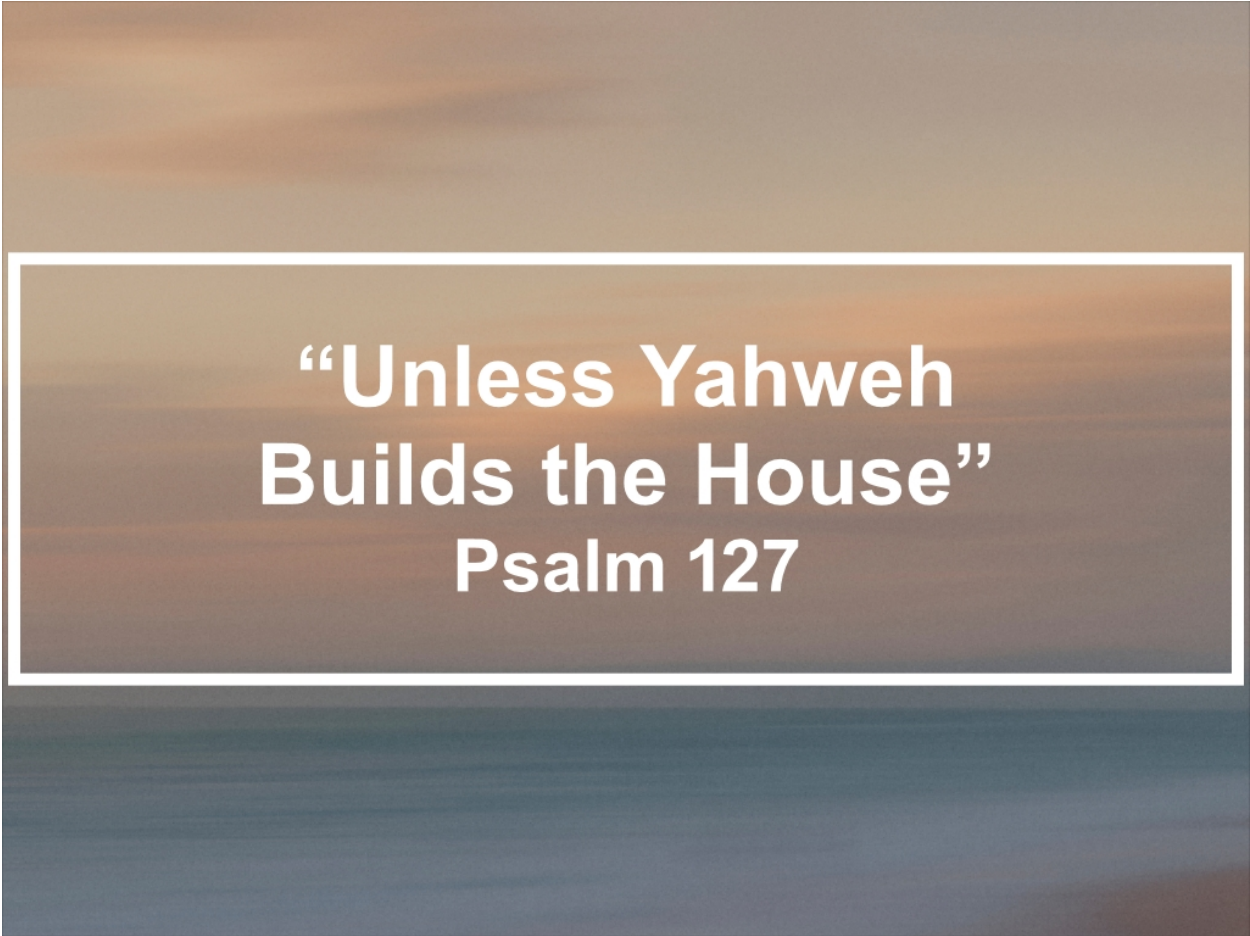




# SUMMER IN THE PSALMS



**“Unless Yahweh  
Builds the House”  
Psalm 127**

<sup>1</sup>Unless Yahweh builds the house,  
They labor in vain who build it;  
Unless Yahweh watches the city,  
The watchman keeps awake in vain.<sup>2</sup>It is in  
vain that you rise up early,  
That you sit out late,  
O you who eat the bread of painful labors;  
For in this manner, He gives sleep to His  
beloved.<sup>3</sup>¶Behold, children are an inheritance  
of Yahweh,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.<sup>4</sup>Like  
arrows in the hand of a warrior,  
Psalms 127:1-5

So are the children of one's youth.<sup>5</sup>How  
blessed is the man who fills his quiver with  
them;  
They will not be ashamed  
When they speak with enemies in the gate.  
Psalms 127:1-5



## Introduction

**A. Psalm 127 is the eighth of the fifteen Songs of Ascents (Psalms 120-134).**

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**B. The Jewish people sang these psalms on their way up to Jerusalem for the three prescribed annual feasts (Unleavened Bread, Weeks/Pentecost, and Ingathering/Tabernacles/Booths).**



## Introduction

**C. This psalm was written by King Solomon.  
“It was meet that the builder of the holy house  
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**D. Psalm 127 was also recited as part of a  
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## Introduction

C. This psalm was written by King Solomon. “It was meet that the builder of the holy house should be remembered by the pilgrims to its sacred shrine” (Charles Spurgeon).

D. Psalm 127 was also recited as part of a thanksgiving service after a child was born.

E. Unlike most of the psalms, which are either praises or laments, Psalm 127 is a wisdom psalm.

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**G. Big Idea: We need all of Christ for all of life.**

## I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)



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**Psalms 127:1-2**

## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

**A. In verse 1 we see two fundamental tasks of  
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**A. In verse 1 we see two fundamental tasks of life mentioned, providing a house for your family and protecting your city.**

**B. These tasks remind us of God's charge to Adam: "Then Yahweh God took the man and set him in the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it" (Genesis 2:15). God charged Adam to work and develop the garden as well as to protect the garden.**

## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

**C. God has designed man to cultivate and keep. We are to take dominion in our God-appointed spheres for the glory of God, the good of our families, and for the advancement of God's kingdom.**



## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

**C. God has designed man to cultivate and keep. We are to take dominion in our God-appointed spheres for the glory of God, the good of our families, and for the advancement of God's kingdom.**

**D. The words “unless” (two times) and “vain” (three times) stand out in the first stanza. Without Yahweh, you work and watch in vain.**

## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

**E. Whether we're building structures or families, we cannot succeed without Yahweh. Jesus said: “I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).**



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**Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).**

**F. Build a house (home) and leave out God, you play the fool. Build walls, set guards, but leave God out, you play the fool.**

## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

**G. No home has a firm foundation without God at the center. No city is safe from the enemy without God as its protector.**



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**G. No home has a firm foundation without God at the center. No city is safe from the enemy without God as its protector.**

**H. If verse 1 addressed overconfidence, then verse 2 warns of being over worked. God is not against us building a house, guarding a city, or working hard. But if we do these things without God, they will be vain, empty, meaningless.**

## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

**I. “To work still harder is no answer to it: it can be a fresh enslavement” (Derek Kidner).**



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**I. “To work still harder is no answer to it: it can be a fresh enslavement” (Derek Kidner).**

**J. As people lengthen the workday and increase its intensity, their best efforts to secure life apart from Yahweh are in vain.**

## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

**K. We need all of Christ for all of life.  
“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. Serve the Lord Christ”  
(Colossians 3:23-24).**



## **I. Labor Apart from Yahweh Is Meaningless (127:1-2)**

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**“Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. Serve the Lord Christ”  
(Colossians 3:23-24).**

**L. Labor apart from Yahweh is meaningless.**

## **II. Lives Equipped for Yahweh Are Meaningful (127:3-5)**



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<sup>3</sup>Behold, children are an inheritance of Yahweh,  
The fruit of the womb is a reward.<sup>4</sup>Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.<sup>5</sup>How blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them;  
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A. There is no place for Planned Parenthood in this psalm. God wants us to understand that children are a gift that He gives us.



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**A. There is no place for Planned Parenthood in this psalm. God wants us to understand that children are a gift that He gives us.**

**B. The fruit that emerges from a mother's womb is a "reward." God blesses the man and woman who come together in sexual intimacy with a child that He knit together in the mother's womb.**

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**C. No child is an accident. God is sovereign over the womb. Children are a blessing from God.**



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**C. No child is an accident. God is sovereign over the womb. Children are a blessing from God.**

**D. “It is not untypical of God’s gifts that first they are liabilities or at least responsibilities, before they become obvious assets. The greater their promise, the more likely that these sons will be a handful before they are a quiverful” (Derek Kidner).**

## **II. Lives Equipped for Yahweh Are Meaningful (127:3-5)**

**E. 127:4. For the ancient warrior, the arrow was primarily an offensive weapon intended to be used against a long-range target. Arrows are propelled by the strength and according to the aim of the archer.**



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**E. 127:4. For the ancient warrior, the arrow was primarily an offensive weapon intended to be used against a long-range target. Arrows are propelled by the strength and according to the aim of the archer.**

**F. Likewise, children can extend the influence of a parent beyond what the parent can do personally.**

## **II. Lives Equipped for Yahweh Are Meaningful (127:3-5)**

**G. We are to be sharpening arrows for Christ.  
We are to be equipping warriors for Christ.  
The days are long but the years are short.**



## **II. Lives Equipped for Yahweh Are Meaningful (127:3-5)**

**G. We are to be sharpening arrows for Christ.  
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**H. How are you preparing your children to live  
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**G. We are to be sharpening arrows for Christ.  
We are to be equipping warriors for Christ.  
The days are long but the years are short.**

**H. How are you preparing your children to live  
for Christ?**

**I. 127:5. Happy is the man who has filled his  
quiver with them. No warrior would place an  
arrow in his quiver unless it were battle ready.**



## **II. Lives Equipped for Yahweh Are Meaningful (127:3-5)**

**J. The father and mother must nurture the child to maturity so that he/she is fully prepared to stand strong for Christ out in the world.**

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**J. The father and mother must nurture the child to maturity so that he/she is fully prepared to stand strong for Christ out in the world.**

**K. Lives equipped for Yahweh are meaningful. They will be salt and light in this Genesis 3 world. They will live for Christ and His kingdom.**



## **Conclusion**

**A. It takes a warrior to equip a warrior. Are you growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? Are you being disciplined by a faithful Christian? If not, why not?**

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## Conclusion

**A. It takes a warrior to equip a warrior. Are you growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ? Are you being disciplined by a faithful Christian? If not, why not?**

**B. In what ways are you discipling your children? (You are whether you realize it or not.)**

**C. Are you intentionally making Christ-following disciples of your children?**

## Conclusion

**D. What will your legacy look like?**



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**E. The Gospel Definition**

**The gospel is the good news that the just and gracious God of the universe looked upon hopelessly sinful people and sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, God in human flesh, to bear His wrath against sin on the cross and to show His power over sin in the resurrection so that everyone who turns from their sin (repentance) and believes in Him (faith) will be reconciled to God forever.**