If the Lord Does Not Build a House

Prayer

Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of children!
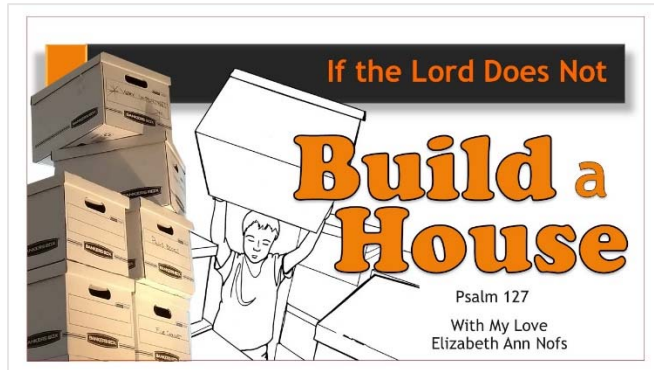
Except the Lord

Psalm 127

¹ *Unless the Lord builds the house,*
    the builders labor in vain.
Unless the Lord watches over the city,
    the guards stand watch in vain.
² *In vain you rise early and stay up late,*
toiling for food to eat—
    for he grants sleep to those he loves.
³ *Children are a heritage from the Lord,*
    offspring a reward from him.
⁴ *Like arrows in the hands of a warrior*
    are children born in one's youth.
⁵ *Blessed is the man*
    whose quiver is full of them.
They will not be put to shame when they
    contend with their opponents in court.

Reflection

Children are a heritage from the Lord.
Is this how we build the City of God?

Historical Note

Since the early Middle ages, Psalm 127 was traditionally recited or sung at the Office of None, the 9th hour of the day, during the week.

Without the Lord

If the Lord does not build a house,
Then in vain do the builders labor.

And in vain does the watchman stand
his guard if the Lord is not his help

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The Builders Prayer

Psalm 127 is called the Builder's prayer. The fifth verse talks of building generations, sons!

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Further Study

Psalm 127-Wikipedia

Psalm 127 is known by the first two words, "Nisi Dominus," "Except the Lord" in Latin. It is one of fifteen "Songs of Ascents" and the only one among them attributed to Solomon rather than David.

What are the Songs of Ascents?

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Fellowship

Scripture in Song

https://youtu.be/vmUWHO84xSM

"If the Lord Does not Build a House" is a Christian hymn written by Dan Shutte from Earthen Vessels, © St. Louis Jesuits, 1975

References

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