**Psalm 127 - Review**

In chapter 127 we learned that this is *eighth* Psalm (and *second* of the *third* group) in a series of fifteen Psalms (120-134), which are the "Song of Degrees", and refers to the "degrees" on the sundial of Ahaz, by which the shadow of the sun went *backward* in the days of his son, Hezekiah (2 Kings 20:8-11; Isa 38:7-8, 20). And it is also the *only* song (in the "Song of degrees") that was written by Solomon; Hezekiah put one of Solomon's songs into this section (of "Song of Degrees") because it fit the subject (his situation and emotions) so well. And, we also learned that the subject/title of this song is (yet again) "***Trust in Yehovah***" because it taught us (as Psalm 121 and 124 did) some of the reasons *why* we should trust in the one-and-only *true* God, Yehovah (i.e. YHVH). That's why Solomon began the Psalm by pointing out the *eternal* fact that: *except* (unless) the Lord (YHVH) builds the (a) house (or family), then those who are building it are laboring (working hard) *in vain* (uselessly). And what this amounts to is that, unless the Lord (YHVH) blesses our efforts in building a house (or *anything*), our efforts (even our hard works) are *totally useless*! And, importantly, the Lord (YHVH) does <u>not</u> bless that which is *evil* <u>nor</u> that which is (or could be) detrimental to us, <u>or</u> others! And, Solomon well knew this; for he did *a lot* of building when he took the throne. But, as the word 'house' can also mean a *family*, we can see *why* Hezekiah used this song, as one of the 'songs' he promised God (Isa 38:20), in response to giving him fifteen more years to live (2 Kings 20:6; Isa 38:5). For, at the time the Assyrians were threatening to besiege Jerusalem – which was *at the same time* God told Hezekiah he would die from his sickness, only to give him fifteen more years to live after Hezekiah prayed to Him – Hezekiah was actually *childless* (Isa 39:7). And that meant he *didn't* have an heir to the throne! And an heir to the throne was important to him *because* God had promised his ancestor, David, that he (David) would *always* have an heir to sit on his throne (2 Sam 7:12-16). So, Hezekiah (like Solomon) well knew how important it was to have God's blessings when trying to build a 'house' – be it a physical Temple (as Solmon built for the Lord, YHVH) or a family, as Hezekiah apparently wanted very much. Thus, it was only with God's blessings that Hezekiah did indeed have a son to inherit the throne. And we also learned what this means *prophetically*; for the Lord (YHVH) is building HIS house via His Son, Jesus Christ. And, while we are <u>all</u> God's children, because He created us all for His pleasure (Ezek 18:4; Rev 4:11), the Lord's 'house' is His *spiritual* family, i.e. those who are *spiritually* begotten by the Holy Spirit (John 1:12-13, 1 Peter 1:3-5, 1 John 5:17-20, James 1:18, Rom 8:8-17, 24-29). So, just as Solomon was *only* successful at building the physical Temple of the Lord (YHVH) *because* God helped him… and just as Hezekiah was *finally* able to have children after the Lord (YHVH) blessed him… so too was (and is) Jesus Christ successful in building God's 'house', *which is* the Body of Christ – who will rule over the world, under the guidance of Jesus Christ, at the Second Advent, *forevermore*.

And we also learned that, those who try to protect a city *without* God's help (blessings) will be doing so in vain (uselessly) if the Lord (YHVH) is *not* blessing him. And, concerning Solomon's

lifetime, he knew this point really well. For the Lord (YHVH) gave him peace for nearly all of his reign. Only *after* he began to fall away from the Lord (YHVH), *and worship idols* (thanks to his many wives, 1 Kings 11), did he begin to have troubles. And remember, Hezekiah used this Psalm because it was also applicable to his life as well. For, as we've learned in our studies on the Psalms, the Assryians not only took the ten northern tribes of Israel captive (and led them away too) but, they also had conquered *all* of the fenced cities in the southern kingdom of Judah, *except for* Jerusalem. And Jerusalem was spared from them (along with the other cities in Judah being freed) when the Lord (YHVH) sent His 'Angel' to kill off 165,000 of the Assyrian army *in just one night*. And this caused the Assyrians to flee from Jersualem, back to Assyria (2 Kings 19:35-37; 2 Chron 32:20-22). But, had the Lord (YHVH) not protected them, they *would have* been carried out of the Promise Land, just as the northern tribes of Israel. So, Hezekiah *well knew* **how** worthless it is to try and protect one's city IF the Lord (YHVH) is not *also* protecting it! And truly, this can also apply to our own life as well. For our flesh body is also called a 'house' (2 Cor 5) and His faithful followers are also called '*The city of the LORD, The Zion of the Holy One of Israel*" (Isa 60:14). Therefore, the Holy Spirit *within us* protects us from all lies, deception, *and* evil spirits - *so long as* we faithfully love, serve, and obey God's Word. And, so long as it's within God's will that we continue to live in these flesh bodies, He'll also protect our flesh body, *as well as* our family, and literal home (etc.) *when* we remain *faithful* to Him! So, this really is an important point that Solomon (and Hezekiah) made. For, unless we are pleasing to the Lord (i.e. trust and obey Him), all our hard work (both in the physical sense *and* spiritual sense) will be *totally useless* (in vain) (Matt 6:24-34).

And then we also learned that, *without* God's help, it's useless for us to 'rise up early' and to 'sit up late' (stay up late) for we'll only "*eat the bread of sorrows*", which simply means we'll have to work *incredibly* hard, just to make ends meet. And many people work two, or even three, jobs today, just to 'make ends meet' *because* they *want* (lust after) so many 'things'. Yet others will resort to fraud, or outright stealing, to get 'things' they want. And this really is 'in vain' (useless) because we can't take any of the 'thing's we've worked so hard to get (even with deceit and/or fraud) with us when we die! Therefore, it's very important for us to keep our priorities straight and work at studying God's Word (so we can learn how to manage our time, and money, wisely) instead of working for the 'pleasures of the flesh'. So, no matter *how* hard we work (even working to find crooked ways to get what we want), our labor will *always* be **in vain** *without* God's blessing our labor. And, while following the Lord (YHVH) does not mean we *have* to be poor, it does mean that we ***shouldn't*** *covet*. As Jesus taught us, we cannot serve two 'masters', i.e. we *cannot serve God and 'mammon'* (wealth, riches, etc., Mth 6:24). And that's why, while it's not a sin to be rich, it is a sin to *lust for* riches (as Paul pointed out in 1 Tim 6). And Jesus also taught us we shouldn't 'take thought' (which means *not to worry* about) what we'll eat, drink, clothing, housing, etc. (i.e. our basic needs) because IF we keep our priorities straight, God will provide the things we need (*not* lust for). As He said in Mth 6:33, "*But seek ye **first** the kingdom of God, **and** his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*". So, while

we need to think about what we'll eat and drink, what we wear, where we live (etc.) we shouldn't worry about it, nor should that be our *top* priority in life, i.e. our heart shouldn't be 'set' upon things of this life (Rom 8:5-8; Gal 5:24). Further, we also learned that those who do keep their priorities straight *will* be God's '**beloved**' (***loved***, #3039) and they *will* be able to get a *good* night's sleep *because* they won't have to work all the time just to pay the bills; and their sleep will also be *very* good because they are not *worrying* about bills (or anything else)!

And then we learned that sons (and grandsons, etc.) are truly a heritage (an inheritance) 'of' (or *from*) the Lord (YHVH). And that's simply because, it's truly the Lord (YHVH) who puts the spirit of the child into the flesh body, that's in the womb (Eccl 12:8; Ps 139:13-16). Yet, Solomon also pointed out that daughters are a blessing too, for he also wrote that "*the fruit of the womb is his reward*". So, children really are a blessing from God because (if they are raised well) they truly do benefit us, especially in our old age. And even before they grow up, they often give us much joy, love and even entertainment! And, while the 'world' today tells us that children are a burden, that's *only* to those who are *not* well pleasing to the Lord (YHVH). For those who do study God's Word, and earnestly strive to obey Him, will raise their children to fear, revere, love and obey God. As Prov 22:6 says, "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*". And that certainly makes *all the* difference between children being a 'blessing' to their parents verses a 'burden'. And Solomon well knew about this for, because he had so many wives, he also had *many* children. And even though Hezekiah was childless when he decided to use this song, the Lord (YHVH) had *promised* he would have a son (2 Kings 20:18). And, therefore, Hezekiah's use of this song was truly his way of rejoicing in God's promise to give him a son to be his heir – and that truly shows how *much faith* Hezekiah had in God's Word!

And then we learned that, just as arrows are incredibly useful fighting tools in the hand of a very powerful (strong) warrior, so too are 'children' (sons, grandsons, etc. #1121) of the 'youth' (young people, #5271) considered strength. And the reason is simply because, as we age, our physical strength declines (obviously). So, when a person has children in their younger years, their children are grown up by the time we begin to age and need help with things. And this certainly applies those who adopt children too. However, even in the *spiritual* sense, people who we share truth with (and they accept it, and grow up spiritually) can be blessings to us as well. That's why Paul called several men who he brought to the truth his 'sons' (2 Tim 2:1, 18, 2 Tim 1:2, Titus 1:4, and Philem 10) *because* he was the one who taught them the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And, they truly were a *big* blessing to Paul; for they helped him in his ministry, often going to places when Paul wasn't able to (ex: 2 Cor 7:13, 8:16, Heb 13:23) and ministering to him as well (2 Tim 2:16-18; Acts 19:22; Phil 2:25).

And then we learned that, those who have a lot of children won't be ashamed (when they raise them to fear, love and obey God) because they'll 'speak with the enemies in the gate', which

simply means that a strong Christian family will 'stick together' when problems arise. So, be it false accusations, a corrupt judgment, or any kind of enemy they had to deal with, a man would have a lot of 'help' if he had many sons to come to his aide. And, even in our own day and age, a strong Christian family helps each other when hard times come, from *whatever the source*. However, as a Christian, we are a part of God's eternal family! And that means we too should help fellow Christians, even as though they were a part of our flesh family. That is, after all, why Jesus Christ commanded us to love one another, even as He loves us (John 13:34). And Paul points out (in 1 Cor 12 14 and Eph 4) that God gives us different gifts "*to profit withal*" (vs 7) – meaning, to be a profit (help and edify) *each other*. So, just as a man who has many sons has a 'strong army' to support him, so too should we be for others in the Body of Christ…

*11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;*
*12* ***For the perfecting of the saints****,* ***for the work of the ministry****,* ***for the edifying of the body of Christ:***
*13 Till we* ***all*** *come in the* ***unity of the faith****, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:*
*14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*
*15 But* ***speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:***
*16 From whom the whole body* ***fitly joined together*** *and* ***compacted*** *by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part,* ***maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.***
Eph 4:11-16

AMEN.