

## Psalm 127

Evening Prayer Wednesday Week 3

The title adds the words 'Of Solomon' to the title used by all the psalms in the sub-group Psalms 120-134 which reads: 'A Song of Ascents'. Psalm 72 is the only other psalm to mention Solomon in the title. The psalmist is pointing out that all our human efforts are worthless if we are not relying on YHWH.

**<sup>1</sup>If YHWH\* does not build the house, in vain do its builders labour. If YHWH does not guard the city, the guard keeps watch in vain.**

The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of YHWH that will be established.

– Proverbs 19:21

God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah; and his servants shall live there and possess it; the children of his servants shall inherit it, and those who love his name shall live in it.

– Psalm 69:35-36

YHWH will build up Zion.

– Psalm 102:16

Israel's guard neither slumbers nor sleeps. YHWH is your guard.

– Psalm 121:4-5

**<sup>2</sup>In vain your rising early and going late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil. He nurtures those he loves while they sleep!**

The psalmist is saying that what ultimately matters is our communion with God.

Of Benjamin he said: The beloved of YHWH rests in safety – the High God surrounds him all day long – the beloved rests between his shoulders.'

– Deuteronomy 33:12

He named him Jedidiah [beloved by YHWH], because of YHWH.

– 2Samuel 12:25

**<sup>3</sup>Sons are indeed a heritage from YHWH, the fruit of the womb a reward.**

**<sup>4</sup>Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the sons of one's youth.**

**<sup>5</sup>Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them. He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.**

Sons are considered a special blessing. This is partly due to the erroneous understanding of the day that it was the male seed that carried and handed on life (the woman was only the garden which nurtured the seed). The city and the nation was built up through sons.