

Trashformation [Psalm 127]
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INTRODUCTION

1. This current eco-friendly era is not only pushing people to recycle, but to repurpose as well
 - a. Years ago, at the Reds game, they gave out ballcaps made of recycled materials.
 - b. Plastic Bottles, Glass bottles, Shipping containers, and even boats are repurposed.
 - c. Basically, this is one of the reasons Pinterest exists: to figure out how to repurpose stuff.
 - 1) Often times, the goal is to make something useless and make it extremely helpful.
 - d. This kind of repurposing would once draw the ire of people, making you look cheap.
 - 1) But there's been a renaissance in creativity of this ilk, and now it's savvy.
2. This evening, I want to discuss TRASHFORMATION.
 - a. We're not talking specifically about this recycling movement, but more about your life.
 - 1) If you've used a computer, you know that sick feeling that comes w/ losing a file
 - 2) That's why you push "save," because you don't want to have wasted your time.
 - b. How do we ensure that's we're not merely trashing our lives? Tonight's psalm reveals it.

PREFACE.

A song of ascents. Of Solomon.

1. This psalm isn't ascribed to David, but his son Solomon.
 - a. There's a story in the Bible (1 Kings 3) where God visited Solomon to grant him a request
 - 1) Solomon asked for wisdom and was regarded as one of the wisest in the ANE.
 - b. Additionally, Solomon was tasked with building the first permanent temple to the Lord.
 - 1) It was said to be an ancient wonder, built near the apex of Jerusalem
 - 2) As you can see, the city is on a hill, with most of the dwellings in the lower area.
 - c. Thus, going to the temple to worship required an ascent.
 - 1) You would proceed up the hill, often singing psalms, specifically 120-134.
 - 2) So this psalm we study tonight was likely a song on the lips of worshippers.
2. One final note: a march up the hill will prepare you for worship.
 - a. On our vacation, we went for a hike on the mountains of St Croix.
 - 1) Reaching the apex is a rewarding feeling, as is arriving for worship.

VERSE 1

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.

1. How we prefer to see the Bible is often different than the original intention.
 - a. I've seen this first verse used in songs/memory verses as making it familial.
 - 1) It's as if this psalm is all about building a family, something we Americans enjoy.
 - b. While that is a possible interpretation, it's not the predominant one.
 - 1) Throughout Psalms, the writer uses "house" interchangeably with "royal dynasty"
 - a) In this context, written by a king, perhaps it's a monarchy piece of advise.
 - 2) Yet also in Psalms and elsewhere, house connotes the HOUSE OF GOD: the temple
 - c. With the ascent context, I'm going to suggest that this is the best way to view it.
 - 1) Although, it's likely ambiguous so that you can assume it consumes all three.
 2. These two stanzas, in the Hebrew, begin with another word instead of "unless."
 - a. It's actually USELESS. And we see here two actions that are deemed useless without God
 - 1) FIRST, a construction project and SECOND a security detail.
 - a) Building requires plans; without them, **you're the worst architect in the world.**
 - b) City defense too. Even security alarms fail and can't protect your stuff.
 3. There is a link between God's involvement and something becoming useful.

VERSE 2

²In vain you rise early and stay up late,
toiling for food to eat—for he grants sleep to those he loves.

1. The “in vain” is the same word for “useless”
2. I'm all about the hustle . . . If you love God, you'll sleep well

VERSES 3-5

³Children are a heritage from the LORD, offspring a reward from him.

⁴Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth.

⁵Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.

1. Now let's go on an interesting journey right here and see where we land.
 - a. Throughout Christian history, there is the tendency to latch on to certain concepts
 - 1) Even if only mentioned briefly in the Bible, people feel emboldened about it
 - 2) One of those verses is the very text we just read.
 - 3) As I noted at the beginning of the chapter, many adopt PS127 as all about family
 - 4) Thus, this is a manifesto to be followed all the way through.
 - b. So if, as Verse One suggested you want to “let the Lord build the house” then you do it.
 - 1) And they see these verses as how you do it: reproduce like bunnies.
 - 2) This is actually called the **quiverfull movement**: that you obey by making babies.
 - 3) The most famous of these adherents are the **Duggar clan** of reality TV fame.
 - c. While we can scoff at this, the implications are great for many of us here tonight.
 - 1) If it takes kids to be blessed, what if you have none (or 1?) or are single?
2. Before even grappling with this, I have to point something out often overlooked here.
 - a. The author of this psalm, Solomon, was very wise, but not in all of his actions.
 - 1) The biggest example, Solomon loved the ladies.
 - 2) In **1 Kings 11:1-3** “King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women . . . he had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray.”
 - b. If going to guess that Solomon had plenty of full quivers in the front closet.
 - c. If I'm going to think all this was about putting out kids, I shouldn't follow Solomon's path
3. Let me take us in a healthier direction so we can understand this better.
 - a. In the ANE, poverty reigned and the only form of social security was your family.
 - 1) Mortality rates were bleak, with few children surviving past childhood.
 - 2) But you needed children to survive so that you too could survive.
 - b. This is the context of PS127. In verse two, we see someone living the hustle.
 - 1) They're going to try to DO everything they can to outsmart the world.
 - 2) Childbirth on the other hand, was tricky. It wasn't about the hustle at all
 - a) Think of all the science we have to help us understand it today.
 - b) If you lived in ancient times, you had no idea what was happening
 - c. Even today there's a MYSTERY about childbirth that is impossible to understand.
 - 1) And this is really what the psalmist is trying to tell the people going to worship.
4. Your ability to achieve success is based upon this mysterious process . . .
. . . a process that the Lord God fully oversees. It's all about his provision.

CONCLUSION

Revisit the idea of *Trashformation*. We don't want a live of refuse, but of revelation.

Revelation 21:5

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”