
PASSING THE LEGACY: DEPENDENCE ON GOD

Psalms 127 and 128 both talk about family. They are both called *Songs of Ascents (Shir Hamma'loth)* in the superscriptions. This meant that they were sung by pilgrims whenever the people ascended to worship the LORD God in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Remember that Hebrew poetry has a feature that is unique. It is called *parallelism*. There are four basic types, three of which occur in these psalms:

1. *Synonymous* – similarity of ideas between the 1st and 2nd lines (v.1)
2. *Antithetical* – opposite or contrasting thoughts (1:6)
3. *Synthetic* – 2nd line develops the idea of the first (v.2)
4. *Emblematic* – one line is a metaphor for the other (v.4)

Psalms also have thematic structures. *How would you title each of these five stanzas according to their themes?*

127:1-2 _____

127:3-5 _____

128:1-2 _____

128:3 _____

128:4-6 _____

What is useless 'vain' (127:1-2)? Why?

There was a time when farm families needed lots of children for labor, but in the modern industrial age kids are considered a liability. *How should we view children (127:3)?*

What does the image of 'arrows and quiver' mean (127:4-5)?

How would you bring this image into the 21st century?

What makes working hard blessed (128:1-2)?

How does this work out in one's family (128:3)?

What is the benefit of long life and walking in God's ways (128:5-6)?

Why is this good for a nation?