

The other psalm attributed to Solomon is Psalm 72.

According to 1 Kings 4:32 he wrote 1,005 songs. What happened to them?

Apparently God didn't think they were worth preserving.

God gave Solomon the wisdom he needed in his dream. (1 Kings 3)

# Historical/Linguistic

The builders of Babel are an example of people building and laboring in vain. (Genesis 11:1-9)

## Cross references:

Zech 4:10 'Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the LORD of hosts.

John 5:19 "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, unless *it is* something He sees the Father doing; for whatever *the Father* does, these things the Son also does in like manner.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing

John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.

Heb. 11:6 And without faith it is impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that* He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

A song of ascents,  
of Solomon

## He Gives to His Beloved

## Psalm 127

This first verse was seen written on a government building in Communist East Germany in 1979, just 10 years before the Berlin wall came down!

Some think that David may have written the psalm for his son Solomon. Rabbi Radak: David regretted that he had not begotten Solomon in his youth. Onerabbi records that Solomon was 12 years old when he ascended to the throne at his father's death at 70. Therefore David would have been 58 when Solomon was born.

Some have connected **the songs of degrees** (ascents) to Hezekiah. In Isaiah 38 he is distressed when God tells him he is going to die. Some say his distress had to do with dying with no heir. So he prayed, the sun went back ten steps/degrees (same word as in the psalm title) and God added 15 years (the number of the songs of ascents) to his life. When he died 15 years later his little son Manasseh was 12 years old. Of these 15 psalms 4 are ascribed to David and one to Solomon. Some say that Hezekiah wrote the other 10 and made this arrangement. In Isaiah 38:20 Hezekiah says "*The LORD will surely save me; so we will play **my songs** on stringed instruments All the days of our life at the house of the LORD.*"

Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in **vain** who build it; Unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman keeps awake in **vain**. It is **vain** for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for **He gives to His beloved** even in his sleep.

Behold, **children** are a gift of the LORD; the **fruit of the womb** is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the **children** of one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of **them**;

They shall not be ashamed, when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

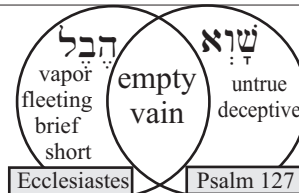
### Vanity of vanities

His repetition of "in vain" reminds you of Solomon's mood in Ecclesiastes.

This is the central song (8th) in the 15 "Songs of Ascent." These psalms have been called "a little Psalter".

"His beloved" - This is reminiscent of 1 Sam. 12:24-25 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and went in to her and lay with her; and she gave birth to a son, and he named him Solomon. Now the LORD loved him and sent word through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the LORD's sake. Jedidiah means "beloved of the Lord." So God sent Nathan the prophet to give the new little baby his own nickname for him.

שׁוֹן noun - emptiness, vanity, falsehood. It's not just empty or pointless, it's a lie.



Deuteronomy 5:20 'You shall not bear **false** witness against your neighbor.

Psalm 12:2 They speak **falsehood** to one another; With flattering lips and with a double heart they speak.

This is a different word than the word in Ecclesiastes for vanity.

הֶבֶל (hebel) noun, vapor, breath.

הֶבֶל (habal) verb, act emptily, become vain.

Shav (שׁוֹן) seems to be like we use the word "baloney". A sort of combination between meaningless and deceptive, like an empty promise that leads the other person on, but it's not real. Other words in common use for the same: bunk, hooey, bull, poppycock, drivel, hogwash, balderdash, nonsense, rigamarole, rubbish, tommyrot, malarkey, jive.

So it's not that it's empty (hebel) here in Psalm 127, it's that it's deceptive and that it's not going to end well. It's that it looks like something that it isn't.