Ps 127:1 <<A Song of degrees for Solomon.>> Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

(This is a Family Psalm)

* There is a song to sing.
* There is worship to be shown, that’s what true singing is all about.
* There is a house to build. Divine building with human building
* There is labor to give, that’s what obedience is all about.
* There is a city to keep.
* There is watching to be done.
* There is healthy fellowship around the table needed.
* There is rest for His Beloved.
* There are children to raise up.
* There are enemies to destroy.

The Key note of this Psalm is heard ringing out clearly three times

Ps 127:1 <<A Song of degrees for Solomon.>> Except the LORD build the house, they labour in **vain** that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in **vain**.

2 It is **vain** for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

1. It is ***vain*** to build without the Lord’s blessing and Divine building Plan.
2. It is ***vain*** for the watchman to wake up and watch without the Lord’s Protection and watchful eye of Providence.
3. It is ***vain*** to rise up early or sit up late if the Lord does not give you natural and spiritual rest.

**Songs of Degrees**, Songs of Ascents, which are also variously called **Gradual Psalms**, **Songs of Steps** or **Pilgrim Songs**. We can’t be perfectly sure what this means. Very likely, these were hymns sung by pilgrims as they ascended, either up to Jerusalem and Mount Zion during the yearly festivals, maybe ascending to the Holy City after the Babylonian captivity. Or maybe, simply walking up the grand stairs to the temple.

**When things are in question we need to be careful not to draw a conclusion from them, such as the phrase “songs of degrees.”**

Have you ever begun something incorrectly and then found you had to start over to make it right?

- In cooking, if you don't have the right base ingredients, you have to start over.  
- On a journey, if you go in the wrong direction, you miss your destination.  
- In building a house, if you don't build properly, your house will not stand.