

# Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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## Psalm 127 and Contraception

(Jerry Fite)

Psalm 127 is attributed to Solomon, and one of the Psalms sung by the Israelites when they went up to Jerusalem to celebrate the appointed feasts. The inspired Solomon exalts Jehovah by writing, “*Lo, children are a heritage of Jehovah; and the fruit of the womb is His reward. As arrows in the hand of the mighty man, so are the children of youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be put to shame, when they speak with their enemies in the gate*” (vs.3-5).

Having children is God’s blessing to a husband and wife. Children from one’s youth are like an heirloom; something inherited from God that will be part of the family for generations. The fruit of the womb is also like a reward from the Lord given to benefit all. Children complement the mighty man as arrows in his hand. They are ready to be directed at his command. The abundance of children is a blessing, like having one’s quiver full of arrows. Their numbers speak forcefully when enemies approach the gates to do harm.

Psalm 127 reminds us that our children are a gift from God, and we should focus upon

their benefits. Sadly, abortion advocates seem to focus on the negatives of children: how they will complicate and even ruin one’s life. Having children can be such a perceived negative to one’s life that the living babe in the womb can be terminated, even when it is being partially born. An innocent human life, possessing individuality early in the developmental process, is being destroyed as a mere fetus. Psalm 127 is surely a needed positive reminder regarding children, while one million babies in our country are killed yearly because a mother could only see the negatives.

While abortion as means of birth control is wrong, what about deliberate means of conception control? Contraception is defined as “*the deliberate use of artificial methods or other techniques to prevent pregnancy as a consequence of sexual intercourse.*” While Psalm 127 speaks “positives” in the face of abortion’s “negatives”, does it also speak against contraception? Some think so

God created the woman, and gave her to the man as his wife. He did so because “*it is not good that the man should be alone*” (Gen. 2:18), and instituted

marriage with these words: “*Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*” (Gen. 2:24). The New Testament exalts marriage exhorting all to honor it: “*Let marriage be had in honor among all...*” (Heb. 13:4).

Do these passages exalting marriage condemn those who choose to remain single? Is Paul a heretic because in certain circumstances he advocates singleness over being married (*I Cor. 7:1,7, 26*)? Using Psalm 127, which exalts children, to condemn means of contraception would also require one to condemn singleness merely because God exalts marriage for all. Consistency demands it.

God provided the sexual relationship in marriage for intimacy (*cf. Gen. 2:18, I Cor. 7:3-5*), not merely for procreation. Can we give room to a couple who takes non-abortive measures to limit the number of children they will have to comply with their responsibility to provide for their own (*I Tim. 5:8*)? Psalm 127 does not condemn contraception, nor should our use of the passage ignore other blessings and responsibilities in marriage.