

"Unless"

P s a l m s 1 2 7 *

One of the most telling features of this 'Song of Ascent' is that it singles out four of our most universal preoccupations—building, security, work, and rearing a family—and makes us ask what they all amount to, and to whom we owe them.

Constructing a house (1a)

Guarding a city (1b)

Earning a living (2)

Cultivating a family (3-5)

“Down they come, one after another; down they come, and every time for lack of righteousness . . . When a nation no longer possesses a real effective belief in things spiritual, strong enough to inspire and to direct action, it decays.” Down they come —Matthew Arnold, (1822-1888)

* These notes are prayerfully provided to aid, not replace, your personal study of God's Word.