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G R E E K T E X T · T R A N S L A T I O N · I N T E R L I N E A R · D I S C O U R S E S T R U C T U R E

The Book of Psalms, Chapter 126

ΨΑΛΜΟΙ ΠΚΖ΄

Each verse opens with the running Greek, an English translation, and a **discourse note** (its connective, relation, and role in the argument). Below follows the word-by-word breakdown in six tiers: gloss, case (color), parsing, *syntax*, **semantic force**, and a | lexical note.

CASE ■ Nominative ■ Genitive ■ Dative ■ Accusative ■ Vocative ■ Verb (no case) ■ Indeclinable

Discourse notes head each verse: **relation** · connective · clause-flow. Indentation marks prominence — flush-left = main line of argument; indented = supporting / subordinate material.

Theme

House, city, labor, sleep, and children are all re-read through dependence on the Lord's gift.

Translation & textual notes

The Greek text of Psalms 126 follows the standard critical text of the Septuagint as established in the Rahlfs-Hanhart edition (Septuaginta, rev. ed. 2006), an ancient and public-domain text; the critical apparatus is not reproduced. House, city, labor, sleep, and children are all interpreted through dependence on the Lord, who alone turns anxious striving into secure household blessing. House-building, city-guarding, and early-rising toil are all exposed as vain when severed from the Lord's granting action, and the center counters anxious bread with the sleep God gives his beloved. The last movement redefines household wealth in covenantal terms: sons are the Lord's inheritance and reward, like arrows that furnish

a man with confidence before his enemies at the gate. Versification follows the LXX.

Discourse structure of the chapter

- A · 126:1 **Building and guarding are vain without the Lord**
Household labor and civic vigilance alike are declared futile unless the Lord himself acts first.
- B · 126:2 **Anxious toil cannot secure what God gives**
The psalm critiques exhausting self-reliance and contrasts it with the sleep God grants to his beloved.
- C · 126:3 **Children are named as the Lord's inheritance**
The argument shifts from toil to gift by defining sons as divine heritage and womb-fruit as reward.
- D · 126:4 **Sons become a warrior's arrows**
A martial simile portrays children as resources of strength and readiness in a vulnerable world.
- E · 126:5 **A full household gives public confidence**
The blessed man is not shamed at the gate because his sons furnish honor and support before his enemies.

1 ὥδῃ τῶν ἀναβαθμῶν τῷ Σαλωμων ἐὰν μὴ κύριος οἰκοδομήσῃ οἶκον εἰς μάτην ἐκοπίασαν οἱ οἰκοδομοῦντες αὐτόν ἐὰν μὴ κύριος φυλάξῃ πόλιν εἰς μάτην ἡγρύπνησεν ὁ φυλάσσων

A Song of Ascents. Of Solomon. Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labored in vain; unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman kept awake in vain.

Foundational dependence ὥδῃ

House-building and city-guarding are both declared futile when severed from the Lord's agency.

ὥδή

song

N1 NSF · ὥδή

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

ὥδή: meaning 'song'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

τῶν

the

RA GPM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τῶν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἀναβαθμῶν

ἀναβαθμός

N2 GPM · ἀναβαθμός

genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality

→ relational specification

ἀναβαθμός: meaning 'ἀναβαθμός'; it serves as genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality.

τῷ

for the

RA DSM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τῷ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

Σαλωμων

Salomon

N DSM · Σαλωμών

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

Σαλωμων: meaning 'Salomon'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐάν

if

C · ἐάν

connective or conjunction linking the clause to its context

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ἐάν: meaning 'if'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

μή

not

D · μή

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

μή: meaning 'not'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

κύριος

Lord

N2 NSM · κύριος

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

κύριος: meaning 'Lord'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

οικοδομήση

builds

VA AAS3S · οικοδομέω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ subjunctive contingency

οικοδομέω: meaning 'builds'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

οἶκον

house / household

N2 ASM · οἶκος

accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal

→ object specification

οἶκος: meaning 'house'; it serves as accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal.

εἰς

into

P · εἰς

preposition governing its complement phrase

→ spatial or relational framing

εἰς: meaning 'into'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition governing its complement phrase.

μάτην

in vain

D · μάτην

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

μάτην: meaning 'in vain'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἐκοπίασαν

grow weary

VAI AAI3P · κοπιάω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ constative aorist

κοπιάω: meaning 'grow weary'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

οἱ

the

RA NPM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

οἱ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

οἰκοδομοῦντες

building

V2 · παπνπμ οἰκοδομέω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ verbal action or state

παπνπμ οἰκοδομέω: meaning 'building'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

αὐτόν

it

RP ASM · αὐτός

pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause

→ participant reference

αὐτόν: meaning 'it'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause.

ἐάν

if

C · ἐάν

connective or conjunction linking the clause to its context

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ἐάν: meaning 'if'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

μή

not

D · μή

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

μή: meaning 'not'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

κύριος

Lord

N2 NSM · κύριος

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

κύριος: meaning 'Lord'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

φυλάξη

guards

VA AAS3S · φυλάσσω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ subjunctive contingency

φυλάσσω: meaning 'guards'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

πόλιν

city

N3I ASF · πόλις

accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal

→ object specification

πόλις: meaning 'city'; it serves as accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal.

εἰς

into

P · εἰς

preposition governing its complement phrase

→ spatial or relational framing

εἰς: meaning 'into'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition governing its complement phrase.

μάτην

in vain

D · μάτην

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

μάτην: meaning 'in vain'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἡγρύπνησεν

kept watch

VAI AAI3S · ἡγρυπνέω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ constative aorist

ἡγρυπνέω: meaning 'kept watch'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

ὁ

the

RA NSM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

ὁ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

φυλάσσω

guard / preserve

V1 · παπνσμ φυλάσσω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ verbal action or state

παπνσμ φυλάσσω: meaning 'guard'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

2 εἰς μάτην ὑμῖν ἐστὶν τοῦ ὀρθρίζειν ἐγείρεσθαι μετὰ τὸ καθῆσθαι οἱ ἔσθοντες ἄρτον ὀδύνης ὅταν δῶ τοῖς ἀγαπητοῖς αὐτοῦ ὕπνον

It is in vain for you to rise early, to get up after sitting down, you who eat the bread of pain, when he gives sleep to his beloved.

Critique of anxious toil εἰς

The psalm rebukes exhausting self-reliance and contrasts it with the rest God grants.

εἰς

into

P · εἰς

preposition governing its complement phrase

→ spatial or relational framing

εἰς: meaning 'into'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition governing its complement phrase.

μάτην

in vain

D · μάτην

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

μάτην: meaning 'in vain'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ὑμῖν

with you

RP DP · σὺ

pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause

→ participant reference or interest

ὑμῖν: meaning 'with you'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause.

ἐστὶν

is

V9 PAI3S · εἰμί

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ ongoing verbal process

εἰμί: meaning 'is'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

τοῦ

to

RA GSN · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ὀρθρίζειν

to rise early

V1 PAN · ὀρθρίζω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ infinitival complement

ὀρθρίζω: meaning 'to rise early'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

ἐγείρεσθαι

to rise

V1 PMN · ἐγείρω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ infinitival complement

ἐγείρω: meaning 'to rise'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

μετά

with

P · μετά

preposition governing its complement phrase

→ spatial or relational framing

μετά: meaning 'with'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition governing its complement phrase.

τὸ

the

RA ASN · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τὸ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

καθῆσθαι

to sit down

V5 PMN · ἦμαι + κατά

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ infinitival complement

ἦμαι + κατά: meaning 'to sit down'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

οἱ

the

RA NPM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

οἱ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἔσθοντες

esthontes

V1 · παπνπμ ἐσθίω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ verbal action or state

παπνπμ ἐσθίω: meaning 'esthontes'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

ἄρτον

bread

N2 ASM · ἄρτος

accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal

→ object specification

ἄρτος: meaning 'bread'; it serves as accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal.

ὀδύνης

grief

N1 GSF · ὀδύνη

genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality

→ relational specification

ὀδύνη: meaning 'grief'; it serves as genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality.

ὅταν

whenever

D · ὅταν

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὅταν: meaning 'whenever'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

δῶ

he give

VO AAS3S · δίδωμι

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ subjunctive contingency

δίδωμι: meaning 'he give'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

τοῖς

for the

RA DPM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῖς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἀγαπητοῖς

beloved

A1 DPM · ἀγαπητός

dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient

→ sphere or reference

ἀγαπητός: meaning 'beloved'; it serves as dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient.

αὐτοῦ

his

RP GSM · αὐτός

pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause.

ὑπνον

sleep

N2 ASM · ὕπνος

accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal

→ object specification

ὕπνος: meaning 'sleep'; it serves as accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal.

3 ἰδοὺ ἡ κληρονομία κυρίου υἱοί ὁ μισθὸς τοῦ καρποῦ τῆς γαστρὸς

Behold, sons are the inheritance of the Lord, the reward of the fruit of the womb.

Children as divine gift ἰδοὺ

The argument shifts from frustrated labor to the received gift of offspring.

ἰδοὺ

ιδού

I · ἰδού

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ἰδοὺ: meaning 'ιδού'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

ἡ

the

RA NSF · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

ἡ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

κληρονομία

inheritance

N1A NSF · κληρονομία

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

κληρονομία: meaning 'inheritance'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

κυρίου

κύριος

N2 GSM · κύριος

genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality

→ relational specification

κύριος: meaning 'κύριος'; it serves as genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality.

υἱοί

son

N2 NPM · υἱός

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

υἱός: meaning 'son'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

ὁ

the

RA NSM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

ὁ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

μισθός

reward

N2 NSM · μισθός

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

μισθός: meaning 'reward'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

τοῦ

of the

RA GSM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῦ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

καρπού

fruit

N2 GSM · καρπός

genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality

→ relational specification

καρπός: meaning 'fruit'; it serves as genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality.

τῆς

the

RA GSF · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τῆς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

γαστήρ

womb

N3 GSF · γαστήρ

genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality

→ relational specification

γαστήρ: meaning 'womb'; it serves as genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality.

4 ὥσεί βέλη ἐν χειρὶ δυνατοῦ οὕτως οἱ υἱοὶ τῶν ἐκτετιναγμένων

Like arrows in the hand of a mighty man, so are the sons of the cast-out.

Martial simile for sons ὥσεί

The comparison presents sons as sources of strength and readiness in a threatening world.

ὥσει

like

X · ὥσει

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὥσει: meaning 'like'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

βέλη

arrows

N3E APN · βέλος

accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal

→ object specification

βέλος: meaning 'arrows'; it serves as accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal.

ἐν

in

P · ἐν

preposition governing its complement phrase

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition governing its complement phrase.

χειρὶ

with hand

N3 DSF · χεῖρ

dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient

→ sphere or reference

χεῖρ: meaning 'with hand'; it serves as dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient.

δυνατοῦ

possible

A1 GSM · δυνατός

genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality

→ relational specification

δυνατός: meaning 'possible'; it serves as genitive nominal element defining relation, possession, source, or quality.

οὕτως

thus

D · οὕτως

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

οὕτως: meaning 'thus'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

οἱ

the

RA NPM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

οἱ: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

υἱοὶ

sons

N2 NPM · υἱός

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

υἱός: meaning 'sons'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

τῶν

the

RA GPM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τῶν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐκτετιναγμένων

of the cast-out

VK · χπγπμ τινάσσω + ἐκ

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ verbal action or state

χπγπμ τινάσσω + ἐκ: meaning 'of the cast-out'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

5 μακάριος ἄνθρωπος ὃς πληρώσει τὴν ἐπιθυμίαν αὐτοῦ ἐξ αὐτῶν οὐ καταισχυνθήσονται ὅταν λαλῶσι τοῖς ἐχθροῖς αὐτῶν ἐν πύλῃ

Blessed is the man who will fulfill his desire from them; they shall not be put to shame when they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Public confidence at the gate

μακάριος

A full household yields honor and resilience in the place of civic contest and judgment.

μακάριος

blessed

A1A NSM · μακάριος

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

μακάριος: meaning 'blessed'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

ἄνθρωπος

man / human being

N2 NSM · ἄνθρωπος

nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition

→ participant prominence

ἄνθρωπος: meaning 'man'; it serves as nominative element functioning as subject, predicate, or apposition.

ὃς

who

RR NSM · ὃς

pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause

→ participant reference

ὃς: meaning 'who'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause.

πληρώσει

will fill

VF FAI3S · πληρώω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ future

πληρώω: meaning 'will fill'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

τὴν

the

RA ASF · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τὴν: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐπιθυμίαν

desire

N1A ASF · ἐπιθυμία

accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal

→ object specification

ἐπιθυμία: meaning 'desire'; it serves as accusative element functioning as object, extent, or goal.

αὐτοῦ

his

RP GSM · αὐτός

pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause

→ relational specification

αὐτοῦ: meaning 'his'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause.

ἐξ

from

P · ἐκ

preposition governing its complement phrase

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐξ: meaning 'from'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition governing its complement phrase.

αὐτῶν

them

RP GPM · αὐτός

pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause

→ relational specification

αὐτῶν: meaning 'them'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause.

οὐ

not

D · οὐ

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

οὐ: meaning 'not'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

καταισχυνθήσονται

they will be ashamed

VC FPI3P · αἰσχύνω + κατα

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ future

αἰσχύνω + κατα: meaning 'they will be ashamed'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

ὅταν

whenever

D · ὅταν

adverbial or particle element shaping the clause or phrase

→ discourse linkage or contrast

ὅταν: meaning 'whenever'; conjunction or particle linking this unit with the surrounding discourse.

λαλῶσι

λαλέω

V2 PAS3P · λαλέω

verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause

→ subjunctive contingency

λαλέω: meaning 'λαλέω'; it carries the action, process, or state of the clause; here it functions as verbal form carrying the action, process, or state of the clause.

τοῖς

for the

RA DPM · ὁ

article marking the following noun phrase

→ noun-phrase marking

τοῖς: Greek article marking definiteness and the role of the accompanying noun phrase.

ἐχθροῖς

enemies

N2 DPM · ἐχθρός

dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient

→ sphere or reference

ἐχθρός: meaning 'enemies'; it serves as dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient.

αὐτῶν

them

RP GPM · αὐτός

pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause

→ relational specification

αὐτῶν: meaning 'them'; pronoun marking person, possession, or reference within the clause; here it functions as pronominal form marking person, reference, or participant role within the clause.

ἐν

in

P · ἐν

preposition governing its complement phrase

→ spatial or relational framing

ἐν: meaning 'in'; here it marks the relation signaled by preposition governing its complement phrase.

πύλη

gate

N1 DSF · πύλη

dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient

→ sphere or reference

πύλη: meaning 'gate'; it serves as dative nominal element marking relation, instrument, sphere, or recipient.

On the labels. Parsing gives Tense·Voice·Mood·Person·Number (+ Case·Number·Gender for participles) and lemma. The *syntactic-function* and **semantic-force** tiers follow standard intermediate-grammar categories (e.g. Wallace, *Greek Grammar Beyond the Basics*); both involve interpretive judgment, and the majority reading has been chosen where opinions differ. Lexical notes condense commonly cited data (etymology, sense range, synonym contrasts, NT frequency, OT/LXX echoes) and are no substitute for a lexicon.

On the discourse tier. Discourse structure operates above the word, so it is shown at the clause/verse level (the connective, the relation it signals, and the role of the clause) and summarized in the chapter outline. Relation labels, any proposed chiasm, and the paragraph divisions reflect a common reading of the argument; other discourse analyses segment and label some relations differently.