

Some questions in regard to your worldview and practice:

1. Do you see what the Bible says and the difference between the two kinds of people?
2. What are you committed to as a grandparent, church and community member, citizen and neighbor in this world?
3. What are you going to do about it?

Central Truth: ***Arrows are formed in the arena of \_\_\_\_\_ in a life of trust and dependence on the LORD.***

4. Do your prayers reflect this reality?

## Raising Arrows

The Art and Foundations of Parenting, for Everyone  
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### The Family and the Family business:

**The Family** -- the purpose of the family is to live in and experience God's presence -- to be known, liked and loved by God in belonging to HIm in His home in creation, and as He is with us in our homes.

**The Family Business** - the LORD's original mandate in Genesis 1 -- the home and family exists to cultivate and create kings and queens who will embody His PRESENCE in all of life. His family who will bring the LORD's goodness, care, blessing and flourishing with them wherever they go and whatever they do in filling the earth and creating civilization!

That Family and Family Business went awry in Genesis 3-11. Children are now born into and exist in "The Upside Down". But God is a God of purpose, work and mission and He always includes His people in what He is doing. The Family Business has been adjusted because we are in the Upside Down.

Psalm 127: 3 The sense of "heritage" is that children are the LORD's \_\_\_\_\_ which He gives to us as a gift. Children being a reward is a re-establishment of God's blessing with His people [Lev. 26:9; Deut 28:4,11] from creation and the original mandate and vocation.

V. 4 Like arrows-- that means children are like \_\_\_\_\_ !

V. 5 Gates were the weak spots and places of \_\_\_\_\_ to enter and plunder a city's inhabitants.

Vv. 3-5 are saying that children are a gift from God, who like arrows are shaped, aimed and released into the world to make an impact in God's mission and family business to defeat the enemy.

Consider this in the larger story in the Upside Down:

Humanity is carrying out the cultural and historical mandate in rebellion against the LORD, under the oppression, trickery and spiritual deception of the most shrewd and calculating enemy. That is what we are up against in the story we are living in.

The NT Scriptures give the same picture of the upside down as the arc of the story in Genesis 3-11:

*"And you, although you were dead in your trespasses and sins"* - this is the living \_\_\_\_\_ described in Genesis 3.

*"in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world"* - there is a course this world is \_\_\_\_\_ in terms of culture and world history

*"according to the ruler of the authority of the air"* -- The course this world is taking is under the leadership of the ruler of authority who is oppressing it in \_\_\_\_\_ in the living death in rebellion against the LORD

*"the spirit now working in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all formerly lived in the desires of our flesh, doing the will of the flesh and of the mind"* -- People \_\_\_\_\_, as children, to the spirit that is in authority over this world, which is evident by their desires

*"and we were children of wrath by nature, as also the rest of them were."*  
*Ephesians 2:1-3 LEB* - Who people actually are in body, soul and mind. Wrath is always reserved for God's enemies - God's wrath and God's enemies go together.

*... the god of this age has blinded the minds of the unbelievers* 2 Cor 4:4a HCSB

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the stratagems of the devil, because our struggle is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the world rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.*  
*Ephesians 6:11-12 LEB*

*Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour.* 1 Peter 5:8 HCSB

Psalms 127: 1 If God isn't in this, what you are doing is a \_\_\_\_\_ of time.

V. 2 A contrast of those who work so hard on their own and those who \_\_\_\_\_ in the LORD.

This is what sets God's people apart, makes heroes and is central to raising arrows -- those who TRUST in and live a life of DEPENDENCE on the LORD. Those who trust in and depend on the LORD are part of His family business.