

Except the Lord the house doe make

The Whole Booke of Psalmes (1621) - *Psalm 127*

George KIRBYE (c. 1565 - 1634)

CANTUS

MEDIUS

TENOR
or Faburdon

BASSUS

1. High Dutch Tune

Ex - cept the Lord the house do make, And there - un - to do set his hand:

Ex - cept the Lord the house do make, And there - un - to do set his hand:

Ex - cept the Lord the house do make, And there - un - to do set his hand:

Ex - cept the Lord the house do make, And there - un - to do set his hand:

3

S. What men do build it ca - not stand. Like - wise in vain men un - der - take

A. What men do build it can - not stand. Like - wise in vain men un - der - take

T. What men do build it can - not stand. Like - wise in vain men un - der - take

B. Wat men do build it can - not stand. Like - wise in vain men un - der - take

5

S. Ci - ties and holds to watch and ward, Ex - cept the Lord be their safe - guard.

A. Ci - ties and holds to watch and ward, Ex - cept the Lord be their safe - guard.

T. Ci - ies and holds to watch and ward, Ex - cept the Lord be their safe - guard.

B. Ci - ties and holds to watch and ward, Ex - cept the Lord bee their safe - guard.

2. Though ye rise early in the morn,
And so at night go late to bed,
Feeding full hardly with brown bread,
Yet were your labor lost and worn:
But they whom God doth love and keep
Receive all things with quiet sleep.

3. Therefore mark well, when ever ye see
That men have hearts t'enjoy their land
It is the gift of God's own hand:
For God himself doth multiply,
Of his great liberality,
The blessing of posterity.

4. And when the children come to age,
they grow in strength and activeness,
In person and in comeliness:
So that a shaft shot with courage
Of one that hath a most strong arm,
Flyeth not to swift nor doth like harm.

5. O well is him that hath his quiver,
Furnish'd with such artillery:
For when in peril he shall be,
Such one shall neither shake nor shiver,
When that he pleadeth before the judge
Against his foes that beat him grudge.

Critical notes:

Medius bar 5, note 2 is F in the original;
this setting is similar to the one of Psalm 112 & "The Lord's Prayer" from the same book;
text somewhat modernised