



Wisdom's Righteous Beauty

How Proverbs 8:1-11 Points to Jesus

- ❖ Lady Wisdom personifies God's wisdom (Prov 8:1-36)
- ❖ Her words are princely (8:6)
- ❖ Her words are truth (8:7)
- ❖ Her words conform to God's righteousness (8:8)
- ❖ Her words are better than anything else (8:11) because they are about...
- ❖ Jesus IS God's wisdom (1 Cor 1:30)
- ❖ Jesus is Messiah the Prince who came preaching the kingdom of God (Dan 9:25; Lk 8:1)
- ❖ Jesus is THE truth (Jn 14:6)
- ❖ Jesus IS God's righteousness (1 Cor 1:30)
- ❖ Jesus who IS better than anything else (whole book of Hebrews)

Proverbs 8:1-11 - Message

Lady Wisdom appeals to mankind to take advantage of her more excellent wisdom

Proverbs 8 – Structure – Wisdom is Better

Righteous beauty of Lady Wisdom's teaching (1-11)

Relational bonds of Lady Wisdom's experience (12-31)

Power to influence those who love her in the present (12-21)

Pleased to serve Yahweh in the past (22-31)

Rich blessings for Lady Wisdom's close companions (32-36)



LADY WISDOM OFFERS HEAVENLY WISDOM TO US ON EARTH PROVERBS 8

“A chapter which is to soar beyond time and space, opens at street-level, to make it clear, first, that the wisdom of God is as relevant to the shopping-centre (2, 3) as to heaven itself (22)”

(Derek Kidner, *Proverbs*, pp. 76-7)

Proverbs 8:1-11

- I. Lady Wisdom calls out openly to attract an audience (1-3)**
- II. Lady Wisdom invites all mankind to benefit from her teaching (4-5)**
- III. Lady Wisdom motivates by advertising her excellent virtues (6-9)**
- IV. Lady Wisdom motivates by advertising her superior rewards (10-11)**

Ancient Dan, city gate & podium



Dan – paved street leading from main gate



Dan – City walls

“At the top of the
heights upon the way”
(Prov 8:2)



Dan – Plaza, city gate, crossroads



Proverbs 8:5

Understand

- To know something thoroughly
- To have insight into some truth or situation so that you grasp its meaning to know:
 - what it truly is
 - what are its parts
 - how it works
- To perceive the real essence of something
- “I comprehend” or “I have a solid grasp”



Proverbs 8:5

Prudence

- Being shrewd
- The skill to develop a plan with godly tactics to: avoid danger (22:3), ignore insults (12:16), to walk uprightly (14:8, 15), etc.
- To understand prudence then is to gain the necessary insight into how things work then to skillfully use that to develop the necessary plan



Proverbs 8:5

Understand “heart”

- To comprehend:
 - what thinking is
 - what it involves
 - how to do it
- Knowing how to apply your mind to weigh the biblical options before acting
- To do the quality of thinking required to navigate life well
- Being “*transformed by the renewing of your mind*” (Rom 12:2)



Facets of Lady Wisdom's dazzling beauty (Prov 8:6-9)

1. **Noble things** – “princely”, excellent in character, right or straight, trustworthy (Phil 4:8)
2. **Upright** – going “straight in line”, aligned with the moral standard
3. **Truth** (Heb., *emeth*) – true, firm, reliable; see Prov 3:3; opposite of concealed in heart (7:10); see Prov 51:6
4. **In righteousness** – in the realm of, conforming to God's righteous standard (Job 29:14); a way of life, a pattern of life that conforms to God's ethical standards
5. **Straightforward** (lit., “straight”) – in line with God's straight path
6. **Right** (geometric, perfectly aligns with something fixed)

Wisdom impacts the inner man

*“Behold, You delight in **truth** in
the innermost being, and in the
hidden part You will make me
know **wisdom**” (Ps 51:6)*

Lady Wisdom proclaims,
*“Listen...For my mouth will utter
truth” (Prov 8:7)*

