

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

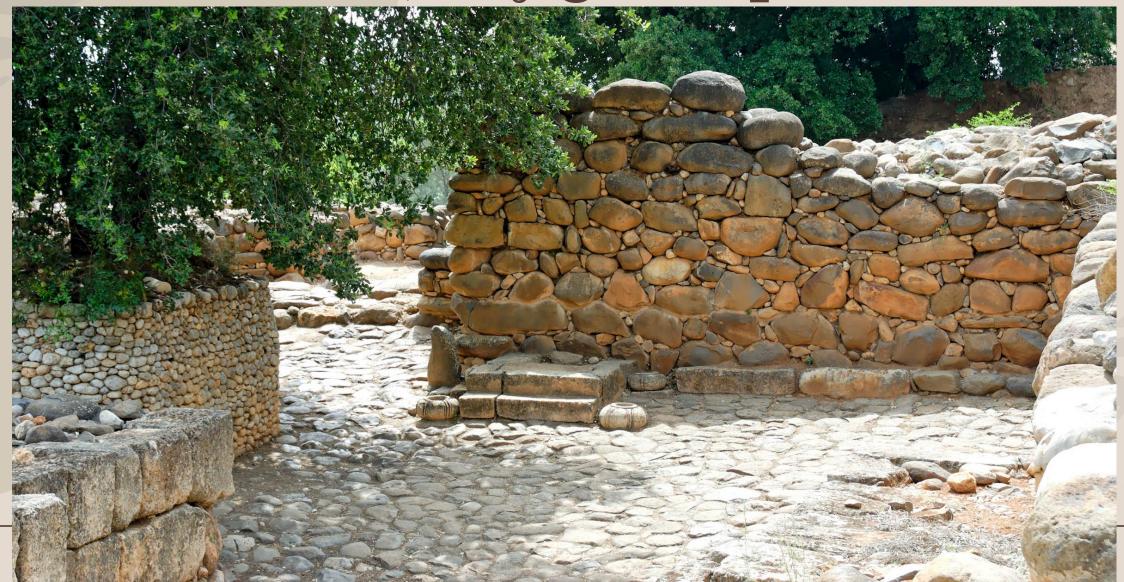
"A chapter which is to soar beyond time and space, opens at street-level, to make it clear, first, that the wisdom of God is as relevant to the shopping-centre (2, 3) as to heaven itself (22)"

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

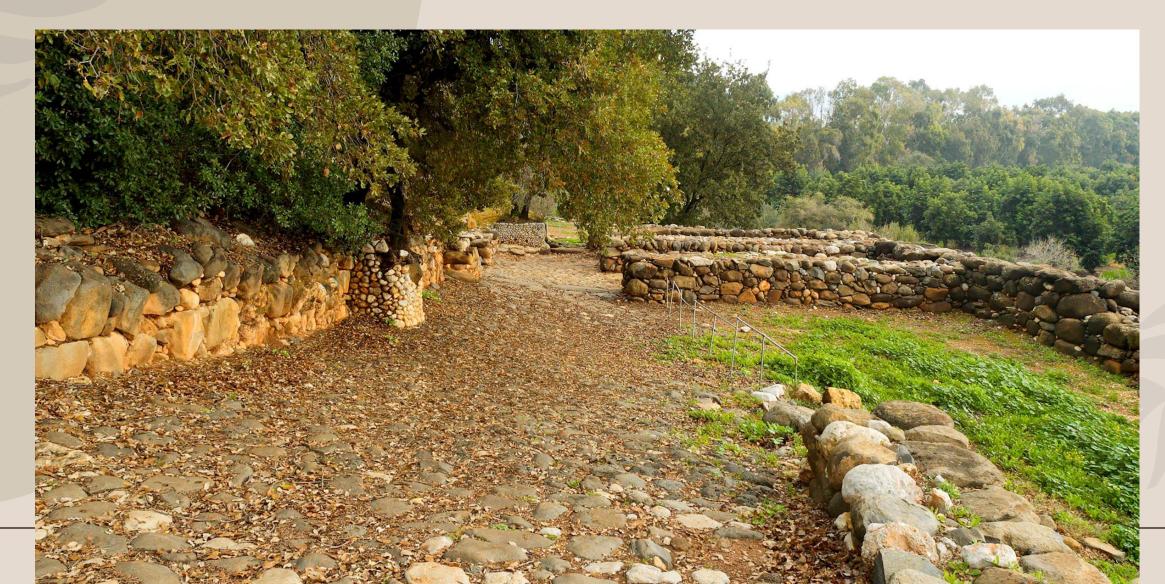
Proverbs 8:1-11

- 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)

