

Proverbs 1:21

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,

Analysis

Wisdom 'crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words.' This personification shows wisdom actively seeking hearers in public spaces—not hidden but proclaimed openly. The marketplace, city gates, and public squares host wisdom's appeal. This demonstrates accessibility—no one can claim ignorance because wisdom wasn't available. God's truth is public, not esoteric. Wisdom's public proclamation condemns those who reject her; they had opportunity to hear.

Historical Context

Ancient Near Eastern city gates served as courts, marketplaces, and public forums. Elders judged cases, merchants conducted business, and prophets proclaimed messages at gates. The 'chief place of concourse' (marketplace) was the commercial and social hub. Wisdom's crying in these locations emphasizes public accessibility—not confined to scholarly circles but available to all. This foreshadows gospel proclamation in public squares.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does wisdom's public proclamation challenge the excuse that God's truth is hidden or inaccessible?
2. What does wisdom's crying in marketplaces teach us about bringing biblical truth to secular public spaces?

Interlinear Text

בָּרָאשׁ הַמִּתְּבָנָה בְּפִתְּחָה שְׁעָרִים
in the chief place of concourse She crieth in the openings of the gates
H7218 H1993 H7121 H6607 H8179

תֹּאמֶר: אָמַרְתִּי בְּעִיר
in the city her words she uttereth
H5892 H561 H559

Additional Cross-References

Acts 5:20 (Word): Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.

Proverbs 9:3 (Parallel theme): She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

Matthew 10:27 (Parallel theme): What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops.

Matthew 13:2 (Parallel theme): And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore.