

Proverbs 8:2

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

Analysis

Wisdom (personified as female, Hebrew 'chokmah') stands 'in the top of high places' and 'where the paths meet.' This public positioning contrasts sharply with the adulteress who lurks in corners and darkness (7:8-9). Divine wisdom is accessible, visible, and inviting—God makes truth available to all. The Reformed doctrine of general revelation affirms that God's wisdom is evident in creation and conscience. Wisdom's public stance demolishes excuses for ignoring God's truth.

Historical Context

High places and city gates were centers of commerce, justice, and public discourse in ancient Near Eastern cities. Wisdom's location in these places indicates her universal availability and relevance to all aspects of civic life.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Where is God's wisdom publicly displayed in creation and His Word that you might be overlooking?

2. How does wisdom's accessibility contrast with excuses we make for foolish decisions?
3. In what ways can you position yourself to hear wisdom's voice more clearly?

Interlinear Text

בְּרָאשׁ	מְרֹמֵי יָם	עָלַי	דְּרֹךְ	בֵּית	נְתִיב וְתִיב
in the top	of high places	H5921	by the way	in the places	of the paths
H7218	H4791		H1870	H1004	H5410

נִצָּבָה:
She standeth
H5324

Additional Cross-References

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

Proverbs 9:14 (Parallel theme): For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,