

Proverbs 8:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

Analysis

Wisdom cries 'at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.' Gates were where elders sat to judge disputes, conduct business, and make civic decisions. Wisdom addresses public, consequential matters—not private mysticism but practical righteousness affecting community life. This aligns with Reformed emphasis on the lordship of Christ over all spheres: family, church, commerce, and government. God's wisdom speaks to every dimension of human existence.

Historical Context

City gates served as ancient Israel's courthouse, marketplace, and town hall. Ruth's redemption was settled at the gate (Ruth 4), and Abraham purchased Sarah's burial plot there (Genesis 23). These were spaces of covenantal and legal significance.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does God's wisdom speak to your professional, civic, and family decisions, not just 'spiritual' matters?
2. In what areas of life have you compartmentalized faith from practical decision-making?
3. How can the church better proclaim God's wisdom in the public square?

Interlinear Text

תְּרִבָּה: פִּתְחֵה יְמֵן לִידֵךְ שַׁעַר יְמֵן לְפִי קַרְתָּה כְּרָתָה מִבְּזָא מִבְּזָא פִּתְחֵה יְמֵן תְּרִבָּה:
at the gates at the entry of the city at the coming in at the doors She crieth
H3027 H8179 H6310 H7176 H3996 H6607 H7442

Additional Cross-References

Job 29:7 (Parallel theme): When I went out to the gate through the city, when I prepared my seat in the street!

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