

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

לִיד	שְׁעַר יָם	לְפִי	קַרְת	מָב וְא	פְּתַח יָם	תִּרְנָה:
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!