

Proverbs 8:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

Analysis

Wisdom's audience is universal: 'unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.' The Hebrew 'ish' (men) and 'adam' (mankind) emphasize that wisdom addresses all humanity without distinction. This reflects the Reformed understanding that God's common grace extends truth to all people, though saving grace comes only through election. Natural law and conscience witness to God's wisdom universally, making humanity accountable. The gospel call similarly goes out to all, though only the elect respond in faith.

Historical Context

Solomon's court attracted international visitors seeking his wisdom (1 Kings 4:34). This verse reflects both the universal scope of wisdom and the historical reality of Israel as a light to the nations.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How should the universal availability of God's wisdom shape our evangelism and cultural engagement?

2. What is the relationship between common grace (available to all) and saving grace (given to the elect)?
3. How do you respond to the reality that all people have access to God's wisdom through creation and conscience?

Interlinear Text

אֵלֶיךָ	אִישׁ יָם	אֶקְרָא	וּקוֹלִי	אֶל	בְּנֵי	אָדָם:
H413	Unto you O men	I call	and my voice	H413	is to the sons	of man
	H376	H7121	H6963		H1121	H120

Additional Cross-References

Revelation 22:17 (Parallel theme): And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

Psalms 50:1 (Parallel theme): The mighty God, even the LORD, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof.

Matthew 11:15 (Parallel theme): He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.