

Proverbs 8:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

Analysis

Wisdom calls from the highest places of the city. The Hebrew 'ro'sh' (head/chief/highest) and 'merkavah' (public square) describe prominent positioning. Wisdom doesn't hide but publicly proclaims truth from highest visibility. Unlike the seductress who lurks in corners (7:12), wisdom stands in open, calling loudly. Truth doesn't need secrecy; it thrives in light. Deception requires shadows; wisdom seeks exposure.

Historical Context

Ancient cities had elevated locations where public proclamations occurred - gates, market high points, prominent intersections. Prophets often proclaimed at these locations (Jonah in Nineveh, John Baptist in wilderness, Jesus on mountains). Public proclamation demonstrated confidence in message. Modern equivalent might be mainstream media, public square, open debate - wisdom doesn't fear scrutiny.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does wisdom's public prominence contrast with secret temptations in your life?
2. What truths should you proclaim more publicly rather than keeping privately?
3. How can you ensure you're listening to wisdom's public call rather than seduction's private whisper?

Interlinear Text

כָּלֹם	נְ כֹחִים	לְמַבִּינִי	וְיֹשֶׁרִים	לְמֵ צִדִּיקִים
H3605	They are all plain	to him that understandeth	and right	to them that find
	H5228	H995	H3477	H4672

דַּעַת:
knowledge
H1847

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 14:6 (Parallel theme): A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

James 1:5 (Parallel theme): If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Proverbs 15:24 (Parallel theme): The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

John 6:45 (Parallel theme): It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.