

# **Proverbs 8**

## **An Exposition about Wisdom**

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### **Introduction:**

Proverbs 8 is an interesting and somewhat difficult chapter to understand, at first glance. In order to grasp its great meaning and significance, the following things must be understood:

- A. In poetic language here, Solomon pictures wisdom as a female. Thus, Proverbs 8 describes wisdom-personified.
- B. The reason for this feminine personification of wisdom has to do with its location in the Book. We have just completed chapters 5-7 where the major focus has been another “she” ---the adulteress. Proverbs 8 now presents to us a better “she,” a wise one, not a foolish one. So the intention of Solomon is to present a contrast in chapter 8 with what has preceded in chapters 5-7.
- C. The “she” of chapters 5-7 is to be rejected. The “she” of chapter 8 is to be passionately pursued.

### **I. WISDOM IS ACCESSIBLE. vv. 1-4.**

- A. Wisdom does not hide, she does not whisper in dark corners. She calls out. (v. 1).
- B. She does not walk in the valley or ravines where she would be difficult to spot. She is on the heights right next to the path where people travel where she is easy to see (v. 2).
- C. She stands at the city gates where the Elders meet and where people come and go. (v. 3).
- D. She raises her voice and calls out to all mankind. (v. 4).

### **II. WISDOM IS DESIREABLE. vv. 5.**

- A. The simple can gain prudence.
- B. The foolish can gain understanding.

### **III. WISDOM IS RELIABLE. vv. 6-9.**

- A. It has worthy things to say. (v. 6).
- B. It speaks what is right. (v. 6).
- C. It speaks what is true. (v. 7).

- D. It's lips detest wickedness. (v. 7).
- E. It's words are just. (v. 8).
- F. It's words will never twist or distort anything. (v. 8).
- G. The discerning and knowledgeable will see her reliability. (v. 9).

#### **IV. WISDOM IS VALUABLE. vv. 10-11.**

- A. Her instruction is more valuable than silver, her knowledge more valuable than gold. (v. 10).
- B. She is more precious than rubies, greater than anything we could ever desire (v. 11).

#### **V. WISDOM'S CHARACTER. vv. 12-14.**

- A. She dwells with prudence. (v. 12).
- B. She possesses knowledge and discretion (v. 12).
- C. She fears the Lord. (v. 13).
- D. She hates evil (v. 13).
- E. She hates pride and arrogance. (v. 13).
- F. She hates evil behavior and perverse speech. (v. 13).
- G. Counsel and sound judgement belong to her. (v. 14).
- H. She has understanding and power. (v. 14).

#### **VI. WISDOM'S IMPACT. vv. 15-16.**

- A. Wise kings make just laws that benefit their land. (v. 15).
- B. Princes and nobles rule effectively by wisdom. (v. 16).

#### **VII. WISDOM'S BENEFITS. vv. 17-21.**

- A. She is good to those who love her. She is found by those who seek her. (v. 17).
- B. She gives true riches and prosperity that endures. (vv. 18-19).
- C. When one walks with her they will walk in the way of righteousness and along the paths of justice. (v. 20).
- D. Those who love wisdom will find that she delights in bestowing prosperity, in the truest sense, on those who love her. (v. 21).

#### **VIII. WISDOM'S ORIGIN. vv. 22-31.**

- A. The ultimate source of wisdom is the infinite, perfectly wise God, Himself. Thus, wisdom has existed throughout eternity past because God has existed throughout eternity past. (vv. 22-23).
- B. Wisdom preceded creation. (vv. 24-26).

- C. Wisdom produced creation. (vv. 27-29).
  - 1. In God's creative work that man may see the beauty and infinity of divine wisdom.
  - 2. This is why creation reveals sufficient knowledge about the existence of God that any who reject that knowledge will be without excuse on the day of judgement. (See Romans 1:18-21).
- D. Wisdom's work is good, thus resulting in joy. (vv. 30-31).
- E. The ultimate delight of wisdom is in mankind, God's special creation. (v. 31).

**IX. WISDOM'S ADMONITION. v. 33.**

- A. Listen to her instruction and be wise. Do not ignore it. (v. 33).

**X. WISDOM'S BLESSING. vv. 34-35.**

- A. The man who listens to her finds life and receives favor from the Lord. (v. 35).

**XI. WISDOM'S SOBER WARNING. v. 36.**

- A. Whoever fails to find her harms himself. (v. 36).
- B. Whoever hates her loves death (v. 26).