



Listen as Wisdom calls out! On the hilltop, along the road, by the entrance gates to the town, on the road leading in, she cries aloud:

“I call to you, to all of you! Listen to me! For I have important things to tell you. My advice is wholesome. My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those with knowledge.”

“I have prepared a great banquet, mixed the wines, and set the table. I invite everyone to come in with me, eat my food, and drink my wine. Leave your old ways behind, and begin to live; learn to use good judgment,” Wisdom urges.

She calls out from the heights overlooking the city:

“I, Wisdom, hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech. Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine.”

“I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me. I have riches and honor, as well as enduring wealth and justice.”

“My gifts are better than the purest gold; my wages better than sterling silver! My wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it. Those who love me inherit enough wealth to fill their treasuries.”

“I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began. I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters, before the mountains were formed, before the hills, before the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil -- I was born when creation began.”

“I was the architect at the Lord’s side, rejoicing with happiness when the world was created; I was His constant delight. Oh! how I rejoiced with the human family!”

“And so, my children, listen to me, for all who follow my ways are joyful. Listen to my instruction and be wise.”

“Don’t ignore my gift, for joyful are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gate, waiting for me outside my home! For whoever finds me finds life. But all who injure me, all who hate me, love death.”

To those who lack good judgment, she proclaims:

“Anyone who rebukes a mocker will receive an insult in return. Anyone who corrects the wicked will get hurt. Don’t bother correcting mockers; they will only hate you.”

“But correct the wise, and they will love you. Instruct the wise, and they will become even wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn even more.”

“Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. If you become wise, you shall benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you and all those around you will be the ones to suffer.”

Ancient Wisdom -- Adapted & Abridged from Proverbs 8 & 9 of Solomon --circa 500 BC