

Proverbs 8

JPS [\[Online\]](#)

The Excellence of Wisdom

¹Doth not wisdom call, And understanding put forth her voice?

2In the top of high places by the way, Where the paths meet, she standeth;
3Beside the gates, at the entry of the city, At the coming in at the doors, she crieth aloud:
4Unto you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men.
5O ye thoughtless, understand prudence, And, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.
6Hear, for I will speak excellent things, And the opening of my lips shall be right things.
7For my mouth shall utter truth, And wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
8All the words of my mouth are in righteousness, There is nothing perverse or crooked in them.
9They are all plain to him that understandeth, And right to them that find knowledge.
10Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold.
11For wisdom is better than rubies, And all things desirable are not to be compared unto her.
12I wisdom dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge of devices.
13The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, And the froward mouth, do I hate.
14Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine.
15By me kings reign, And princes decree justice.
16By me princes rule, And nobles, even all the judges of the earth.
17I love them that love me, And those that seek me earnestly shall find me.
18Riches and honour are with me; Yea, enduring riches and righteousness.
19My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; And my produce than choice silver.
20I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice;
21That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance, And that I may fill their treasuries.
22The LORD made me as the beginning of His way, The first of His works of old.
23I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, Or ever the earth was.
24When there were no depths, I was brought forth; When there were no fountains abounding with water.
25Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills was I brought forth;

- 26 While as yet He had not made the earth, nor the fields, Nor the beginning of the dust of the world.
- 27 When He established the heavens, I was there; When He set a circle upon the face of the deep,
- 28 When He made firm the skies above, When the fountains of the deep showed their might,
- 29 When He gave to the sea His decree, That the waters should not transgress His commandment,
When He appointed the foundations of the earth;
- 30 Then I was by Him, as a nursling; And I was daily all delight, Playing always before Him,
- 31 Playing in His habitable earth, And my delights are with the sons of men.
- 32 Now therefore, ye children, hearken unto me; For happy are they that keep my ways.
- 33 Hear instruction, and be wise, And refuse it not.
- 34 Happy is the man that hearkeneth to me, Watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.
- 35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, And obtaineth favour of the LORD.
- 36 But he that misseth me wrongeth his own soul; All they that hate me love death.'