

"Uncommon Sense" from Proverbs 5-9

Sunday Evening, September 20, 2026 – WOCC – Rich Howell

BOOK INTRODUCTION:

- 1) A proverb is a short, pithy statement of wisdom, wit or irony. Written proverbs date back to Hammurabi (2000 BC), and were also prevalent in the ancient cultures of the Far East – most notably in the writings and recorded annals of Confucius (551-479 BC?).*
- 2) The Hebrew word for proverb (mashal) is defined as "A rule in the form of similitude, representation or comparison." Proverbs are rules for living right before God and man. And these rules are not merely stated, they are often illustrated with clear, concise pictures from everyday life.*
- 3) According to 1 Kings 3:7-15 and 4:29-34, we learn that God gave King Solomon (971-931 BC) a degree of wisdom beyond all who have ever lived (except for Jesus – Mat 12:42!). We also learn that Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs (of which 800-900 are recorded in this book, and another 100 or so in Ecclesiastes). He also wrote 1005 songs, which most likely include the Song of Songs!*
- 4) I've heard it said that Proverbs is just a book of good old fashioned "common sense" but I prefer calling this inspired collection "Uncommon Sense!" What we read in this book is a higher wisdom that Yahweh God graciously gave to King Solomon to enlighten, guide and bless all wisdom-seeking people of every generation!*

I. (1:1-7) INTRODUCTION

📖 (1:1) BOOK TITLE, AUTHORSHIP (*See also 10:1; 22:17-23; 25:1; 30:1; 31:1*)

📖 (1:2-6) BOOK OBJECTIVES

📖 (1:7) BOOK PREMISE (*See also 9:10; Job 28:28*)

Wisdom defined: *Wisdom is insight and understanding into the true nature of things – what is good, right and true. It is knowledge applied with discernment and good judgment. Wisdom is more than knowing "what" – it is knowing why and knowing how. And, true wisdom is only available to God-fearing people!*

II. (1:8-9:18) SOLOMON'S WISE SAYINGS ABOUT WISDOM

A series of 16 "fatherly" discourses on the virtues of wisdom.

1. (1:8-19) BAD COMPANY
2. (1:20-23) THE CRY OF WISDOM
3. (2:1-22) THE BLESSINGS OF WISDOM
4. (3:1-18) THE PATH TO WISDOM
5. (3:19-26) THE SECURITY OF WISDOM
6. (3:27-35) WISE DEALINGS
7. (4:1-27) THE LEGACY OF WISDOM

Outline continues on the back ...

8. (5:1-23) THE WISDOM OF _____ PURITY
9. (6:1-5) SETTLING SERIOUS _____
- 10.(6:6-11) ADMONITION TO THE _____
- 11.(6:12-19) THE LORD'S _____
- 12.(6:20-35) THE _____ OF ADULTERY
- 13.(7:1-27) THE _____ OF ADULTERY
- 14.(8:1-21) WISDOM _____
- 15.(8:22-36) THE _____ OF WISDOM
- 16.(9:1-18) WISE _____ VS. FOOLISH _____

ANSWER LIST for #9-16 (Scrambled, of course!):

WOMAN	LAZY
LIST	ORIGIN
PERSONIFIED	FOLLY
WAYS	HATE
SEXUAL	WOMAN
DEBTS	