

# THE LIFE OF SOLOMON

Solomon's Family:  
"Blended" and Dysfunctional

Dr. William J. Senn, III  
Tri-City Baptist Church  
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# SOLOMON'S FAMILY TREE:

## His Parents

- Solomon's Father – David
- Solomon's Mother – Bathsheba or Bathshua

# SOLOMON'S FAMILY TREE: His Father's Wives and Concubines

Eight of David's wives are named in the Bible:

- Michal – King Saul's Daughter
  - Ahinoam - the Jezreelitess
  - Abigail – Nabal's widow, the Carmelitess
  - Maacah – daughter of Talmai, king of Geshur
  - Haggith
  - Abital
  - Eglah
  - Bathsheba – wife of Uriah the Hittite
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- **2 Samuel 5:13**, And David took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.

# Most Pagan Kings and Ancient Cultures promoted Multiple Wives

- THE BABYLONIAN KING - BELSHAZZAR
- **Daniel 5:2**, Belshazzar, while he tasted the wine, commanded to bring the golden and silver vessels which his father Nebuchadnezzar had taken out of the temple which *was* in Jerusalem; that the king, and his princes, **his wives, and his concubines**, might drink therein.
- THE PERSIAN KING – AHASUERUS
- Queen Vashti – Queen Esther
- **Esther 2:14**, In the evening she went, and on the morrow she returned into the second house of the women, to the custody of Shaashgaz, the king's chamberlain, which kept **the concubines**: she came in unto the king no more, except the king delighted in her, and that she were called by name.

# The Future Kings of Israel Were Admonished not to Multiply Wives

- **Israel wanted to be ruled like the world:**
- **1 Samuel 8:5**, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.
- **The kings of Israel largely ruled like the world:**
- **Deuteronomy 17:17**, Neither shall he multiply wives to himself, that his heart turn not away: neither shall he greatly multiply to himself silver and gold.
- **1 Kings 11:3**, . . . and his (Solomon's) wives turned away his heart.

# PAGAN CULTURES: Harems were a status symbol for wealth/greatness

- NAHOR, ABRAHAM'S BROTHER, HAD A WIFE AND A CONCUBINE - Land of Ur of the Chaldees
- **Genesis 11:29**, And Abram and Nahor took them wives: the name of Abram's wife was Sarai; **and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah**, the daughter of Haran, the father of Milcah, and the father of Iscah.
- **Genesis 22:24**, **And his (Nahor's) concubine, whose name was Reumah**, she bare also Tebah, and Gaham, and Thahash, and Maachah.

# ISRAEL'S HISTORY OF HAREMS: Abraham - The Father of Israel

- **Genesis 25:6**, But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son, while he yet lived, eastward, unto the east country.
- **1 Chronicles 1:32**, Now the sons of Keturah, Abraham's concubine: she bare Zimran, and Jokshan, and Medan, and Midian, and Ishbak, and Shuah. And the sons of Jokshan; Sheba, and Dedan.

# JACOB'S WIVES & CONCUBINES:

## Israel is Named after Jacob

- **Genesis 35:22**, And it came to pass, when Israel dwelt in that land, that Reuben went and lay with Bilhah his father's concubine (Jacob): and Israel heard *it*. Now the sons of Jacob were twelve:
- Leah – Jacob's wife
- Rachel – Jacob's wife
- Bilhah – Jacob's concubine – wife (Gen. 30:4)
- Zilpah – Jacob's concubine – wife (Gen. 30:9)

# HAREMS DURING THE TIME OF THE JUDGES

- **A description of the days of the judges:**
- **Judges 21:25**, In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.
- **GIDEON – A JUDGE HAD A HAREM**
- **Judges 8:22**, Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.
- **Judges 8:30**, And Gideon had threescore and ten sons of his body begotten: **for he had many wives.**

# SAUL, ISRAEL'S FIRST KING, HAD A HAREM

- **2 Samuel 3:7**, And Saul had a **concubine**, whose name *was* **Rizpah**, the daughter of Aiah:
- **2 Samuel 12:8**, And I gave thee thy master's house, and **thy master's wives** . . .

# DAVID, ISRAEL'S SECOND KING, HAD A HAREM

- David Inherited King Saul's wives and concubines when he became king of Israel.
- **2 Samuel 12:8**, And I gave thee thy master's house, and **thy master's wives** into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.*

# DAVID MULTIPLIED MORE WIVES

- **2 Samuel 5:13**, And David took *him* more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem, after he was come from Hebron: and there were yet sons and daughters born to David.
- **2 Samuel 20:3**, And David came to his house at Jerusalem; and the king took the ten women *his* concubines (10), whom he had left to keep the house, and put them in ward, and fed them, but went not in unto them. So they were shut up unto the day of their death, living in widowhood.
- **Song of Solomon 6:8**, There are threescore (60) queens, and fourscore (80) concubines, and virgins without number.

# SOLOMON, ISRAEL'S THIRD KING, HAD THE LARGEST HAREM

- **Solomon would have inherited his father's wives and concubines. he number of queens and concubines seen when Solomon married the Shulamite in his youth:**
- **Song of Solomon 6:8** There are threescore queens (60), and fourscore concubines (80), and virgins without number.
- **The number of wives and concubines at the end of Solomon's reign:**
- **1 Kings 11:3** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses (700), and three hundred concubines (300): and his wives turned away his heart.
- An increase of 640 wives (11.6x) and 220 concubines (2.75x).

# REHOBAM: Solomon's Son and Fourth King of Israel had a Harem

**2 Chronicles 11:21**, And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: for he took eighteen wives (18), and threescore concubines (60); and begat twenty and eight sons (28), and threescore daughters (60).

# MANY OF THE KINGS OF JUDAH HAD HAREMS (Southern Kingdom)

- KING ABIJAH – REHOBOAM'S SON
- **2 Chronicles 11:23**, And he dealt wisely, and dispersed of all his children throughout all the countries of Judah and Benjamin, unto every fenced city: and he gave them victual in abundance. **And he desired many wives.**
- **2 Chronicles 13:21**, But Abijah waxed mighty, and **married fourteen wives** (14), and begat twenty and two sons, and sixteen daughters.
- KING JEHORAM
- **2 Chronicles 21:17**, And they came up into Judah, and brake into it, and carried away all the substance that was found in the king's house, and his sons also, **and his wives**; so that there was never a son left him, save Jehoahaz, the youngest of his sons.
- KING JEHOIADA
- **2 Chronicles 24:3**, And Jehoiada **took for him two wives**; and he begat sons and daughters.

# MANY OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL HAD HAREMS (Northern kingdom)

- KING AHAB
- **1 Kings 20:2**, And he sent messengers to Ahab king of Israel into the city, and said unto him, Thus saith Benhadad,
- **1 Kings 20:5**, And the messengers came again, and said, Thus speaketh Benhadad, saying, Although I have sent unto thee, saying, Thou shalt deliver me thy silver, and thy gold, **and thy wives**, and thy children;
- **1 Kings 20:7**, Then the king of Israel called all the elders of the land, and said, Mark, I pray you, and see how this *man* seeketh mischief: for he sent unto me for **my wives**, and for my children, and for my silver, and for my gold; and I denied him not.

# MOST OF ISRAEL'S LEADERS WERE POLYGAMOUS

- From the Patriarchs to the Judges
- From the Judges to King Saul
- From Saul to the Divided Kingdom
- From the Divided Kingdom to the Babylonian Captivity
- **2 Kings 24:15**, And he carried away Jehoiachin (Josiah's son) to Babylon, and the king's mother, **and the king's wives**, and his officers, and the mighty of the land, *those* carried he into captivity from Jerusalem to Babylon.

# The Problems of Blended and Dysfunctional Families

- **Deuteronomy 21:15-17**, If a man have two wives, **one beloved, and another hated**, and they have born him children, *both* the beloved and the hated; and *if* the firstborn son be hers that was hated: Then it shall be, when he maketh his sons to inherit that which he hath, that he may not make the son of the beloved firstborn before the son of the hated, which is indeed the firstborn: But he shall acknowledge the son of the hated for the firstborn, by giving him a double portion of all that he hath: for he is the beginning of his strength; the right of the firstborn is his.

# The Need of Blended/Dysfunctional Homes is the Love of God

- **II Samuel 12:24-25**, Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: **and the LORD loved him.**  
<sup>25</sup> And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name **Jedidiah**, because of the LORD.