**Polygamy in the Line of Judah**

# Introduction

## Polygamy is the practice of a single husband having more than one wife. This is practiced for a variety of reasons, chiefly being men’s sexual desires and desire to have as many sons as possible to continue their lineage and secure their throne.

## Since God blessed Adam with Eve in Eden, God’s ideal has always been one woman for one man. However, pagan views of antiquity convinced kings and wealthy men that their strength and blessing were shown in having multiple wives.

# How Large were the Families in the Kingdom of Judah?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***King*** | ***Wives*** | ***Concubines*** | ***Total*** | ***Sons*** | ***Daughters*** | ***Ref*** |
| David OTS270 | 8+ | Yes | Many | 20+ | Many | 1 Sam 27:3; 2 Sam. 3:2-5; 5:13-16 |
| Solomon | 700 | 300 | 1000 |  |  | 1 Kings 11:3; 1 Chron. 3:10 |
| Rehoboam | 18 | 60 | 78 | 28 | 60 | 2 Chron. 11:21 |
| Abijah | 14 |  | 14+ | 22 | 16 | 2 Chron. 13:21 |
| Jehoram | Many |  |  |  |  | 2 Chron 21:14 |
| Joash | 2 |  |  |  |  | 2 Chron. 24:3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Applications Today

## Scripture shows the many problems of deviating from God’s ideal in the Garden of Eden. These problems follow those with multiple sexual partners:

### Bitterness and rivalry often resulted from the numerous wives.

### Various sons who each had a different mother complicated the second generation, too

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## The blessings of faithfulness to a single partner are numerous:

### Lack of guilt—the sexual life of a monogamous husband is blessed (Prov. 5:15-19)

### Simplicity in the home rather than jealousy between wives or sexual partners

# Do You Agree or Disagree?

To explore your ideas on this vital subject, please mark them as A, U, or D beside each statement below to show whether you agree, are Uncertain, or disagree with the teaching.

## God allowed the kings of Judah to marry several wives.

## Polygamy is always wrong.

## Polygamists who become Christians should divorce the rest of their wives who came after their initial marriage.

# Conclusion

In today’s so-called “sexual revolution,” people are honored if they have had multiple sexual partners. The late NBA basketball star Wilt Chamberlain was said to have had sex with over 50,000 women (this averaged three daily during his ages 20-60).

However, man is never happier than when he follows God’s instructions, which applies particularly in the sexual realm.