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Sons Were Born to David in Hebron

Second Samuel 3:2-5 and First Chronicles 3:1-4a

David had gone to Hebron with two wives, and while there, he had taken five more (Michal was returned to him at Hebron but she bore him no children), each of the other six, however, bore him one son. These were the sons born to David in Hebron.

1010 BC to 1003 BC

David was on his way to power in the northern kingdom of Isra'el, just as **he** was in the southern kingdom of Judah. As **he** came into the Kingdom that had long been promised to him, it is important to understand how it came about. **David** did not seize the Kingdom; it was a gift from **YHVH**. When **David** finally arrived, **he** was innocent and faultless.

The narrator pauses to provide a reflective comment and to summarize some important information from **David's** seven years **in Hebron**. It is important to understand that **David** did not immediately or easily succeed **Sha'ul**. There was a rather long conflict, during which it was not really clear who would win. The open-ended struggle for power, however, did not preclude hints along the way about the outcome. **David's** eventual succession to power had already been acknowledged by **Y'honatan (First Samuel 23:27)**, **Sha'ul (First Samuel 24:20)**, **Abigail (First Samuel 25:28)**, and **Sha'ul** again (**First Samuel 26:25**). **ADONAI's** desire for **David** to be king of all **Isra'el** might be delayed, but could not be defeated. **David grew stronger and stronger, while Ish-Bosheth grew weaker and weaker (Second Samuel 3:1).**²²³



Already during **David's** reign at **Hebron** the state archives contained records of those who might qualify as heirs to **his** throne. **His firstborn was Amnon the son of Ahinoam of Jezreel (Second Samuel 3:2; First Chronicles 3:1a);** later **he** would rape **his** half-sister and be murdered by **his** half-brother **Absalom (to see link click [Dj - Absalom Kills Amnon](#))**.

His second son was **Kileab (Second Samuel 3:3a)**, who in **First Chronicles** is called **Dani'el (it is commonly accepted that one is the corruption of the other), the son of Abigail the widow of Babal of Carmel (First Chronicles 3:1b)**. Nothing more is said about **him**, and **he** disappeared from the scene.

The third was **Absalom** (Hebrew: *my father is peace*) the **son of Maakah daughter of Talmai**, the Gentile **king of Geshur** on the east side of the Sea of Galilee in what today is called the Golan Heights (**Second Samuel 3:3b; First Chronicles 3:2a**). **This marriage with a foreign princess may have been prompted by political motives, perhaps the desire to secure an ally in the neighborhood of Ish-Bosheth's capital. Absalom** would kill **his** half-brother **Amnon**, and revolt against **his** father **David** (see [Do - Absalom's Conspiracy](#)).

The fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith (First Chronicles 3:2b); he will later try to usurp the throne from **Solomon** (see [En - Adoniyah Sets Himself Up as King](#)), and will be executed by **Solomon (First Kings 2:25)**.

The fifth Shephatiah the son of Abital (Second Samuel 3:4; First Chronicles 3:3a); nothing more is known about **him**.

And the sixth, Ithream the son of David's wife Eglah (First Chronicles 3:3b). Nothing is known of **him**, but **the rabbis teach that Eglah was the same as Michal**.

Six sons were born to David in Hebron, where he reigned seven years and six months (Second Samuel 3:5; First Chronicles 3:4). **David** was ensuring that, even at this early stage, **he** would have **a son** to succeed **him** as **king**, and **his** household of seven **wives** was a sign of prestige.²²⁴

For obvious reasons, Solomon's name is not present. Solomon is born late, not while **David** was at **Hebron**. Solomon was a later player in the struggle for power, but he will be the winner. In the meantime we may only note that **David** functioned like a powerful chieftain with many **wives**, a hint of a royal harem (and problems) to come.²²⁵ After relocating **his** capital to Jerusalem, **David** took even **more wives** and concubines and had thirteen (yes, I



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said thirteen) more named **sons** born to **him** (see [Cp - Children Born to David in Yerushalayim](#)). And you thought Jacob had problems!

It seems **David** had a lust problem and **he** was either ignoring or rationalizing **God's** Word: **The king must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray (Deuteronomy 17:17a)**. It started in **First Samuel 25**, where we saw **David's** desire to kill a man (**Nabal**) and later marry **his wife (Abigail)**. Now **David** was taking *more wives*. **David's** sin with **Bathsheba** would merely be the climax of something that had gone on in **his** life for about 26 years. **His** passionate nature had great potential for both good and evil. These marriages at **Hebron** were merely a foreshadowing of things to come.