

*How many sons did Saul have? Why are Saul's children by his concubine, Armoni and Mephibosheth, not mentioned in the chronicler's list?*

Regarding Saul's family Joyce G. Baldwin wrote in her commentary:

The names of Saul's sons appear again in 1 Samuel 31:2 (and 1 Chr. 10:2) as Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchishua (cf. also 1 Chr. 8:33; 9:39, where the order is changed and Eshbaal is added). Ishvi and Eshbaal (or Ishbosheth, 2 Sam. 2–4) may be alternative forms of the same name, the former, a corruption of Ishiah, 'the Lord's man', avoiding the ambiguous word 'baal' (which meant 'lord', but was also a male Canaanite deity). Saul's daughters come into the story of David (1 Sam. 18:17–19), but his wife and father-in-law are not otherwise mentioned. It is interesting to discover that Saul's general, Abner, was his cousin. The simplicity of Saul's family life is in marked contrast with that of David, and even more so with that of Solomon.<sup>1</sup>

And Robert D. Bergen wrote:

...Three of Saul's four sons—perhaps only those born to his wife Ahinoam (v. 50)—are mentioned: "Jonathan, Ishvi and Malki-Shua" (v. 49). Elsewhere Ishvi is the same as Ish-Bosheth (2 Sam 2:10) and Esh-Baal (1 Chr 8:33). The reason for Abinadab's (cf. 31:2) omission from this list is unclear; perhaps he was the son of a concubine (Rizpah?; cf. 2 Sam 21:8) and therefore ineligible for inheritance rights...<sup>2</sup>

Concubines are a source of source of trouble (Ge 21:9–14) and they are incompatible with Christianity (Mt 19:5).

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<sup>1</sup> Baldwin, J. G. (1988). 1 and 2 Samuel: An Introduction and Commentary (Vol. 8, p. 120). InterVarsity Press.

<sup>2</sup> Bergen, R. D. (1996). 1, 2 Samuel (Vol. 7, p. 162). Broadman & Holman Publishers.