

# Song of Solomon 6:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number.

## Analysis

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**There are threescore queens, and fourscore concubines, and virgins without number**—the bridegroom contrasts the multitude of potential lovers (sixty queens, eighty concubines, countless virgins—categories of women in a royal harem) with his exclusive choice. The numbers (60, 80, innumerable) suggest abundance and possibility. In Solomon's actual life, he eventually had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:3), but this poetic statement makes a point about exclusive choice amid many options.

The verse sets up the declaration in verse 9—despite all these possibilities, the bridegroom chooses only one. This celebrates the exclusivity and preciousness of covenant love. God could have chosen any nation, but He chose Israel (Deuteronomy 7:6-8). Christ could have countless followers, but He loves each believer with unique, particular affection. The imagery rejects polygamy and harem culture, affirming monogamous covenant as God's design. Love's value comes not from scarcity of options but from deliberate, exclusive choice.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern kings often maintained large harems as displays of wealth, power, and political alliance (foreign wives sealed treaties). Solomon's eventual 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1-3) led to spiritual disaster, as foreign wives brought idolatry. The Song's mention of multiple women serves to heighten the significance of choosing one beloved exclusively. This poetic hyperbole

contrasts with the biblical pattern of monogamous marriage from Eden (Genesis 2:24) and God's exclusive covenant relationship with Israel. Church interpretation saw the queens and concubines as false religions or worldly attractions, while Christ chooses His one Church. The Reformation emphasized that God's electing love is particular—He doesn't love humanity generically but chooses specific individuals for salvation.

## Related Passages

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**Psalms 19:1** — Heavens declare God's glory

**Colossians 1:16** — All things created through Christ

## Study Questions

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1. How does God's exclusive choice of you—amid all possible options—increase your sense of being valued and loved?
2. What 'queens, concubines, and virgins' (worldly alternatives to Christ) compete for your devotion, and how do you maintain exclusive loyalty?
3. How does the biblical pattern of monogamous covenant challenge cultural patterns of non-committed relationships or 'keeping options open'?

## Interlinear Text

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שָׁשׁ יָם	וְשִׁמֹּנִי יָם	וְעַלְמֵי וְתִ	וְשִׁמֹּנִי יָם	וְעַלְמֵי וְתִ	וְשִׁמֹּנִי יָם
There are threescore	queens	and fourscore	concubines	and virgins	
H8346	H4436	H8084	H6370	H5959	
מִסְפָּר:	אֵין				
without number					
H4557	H369				

## Additional Cross-References

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**Psalms 45:14:** She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee.

**Psalms 45:9:** Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir.

**1 Kings 11:1:** But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

**1 Kings 11:3:** And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

**Revelation 7:9:** After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

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