

Dr. August Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 2, Israel in Chronicles Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

1. Abstract of Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 2, Israel in Chronicles, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkel's lecture examines the book of Chronicles, focusing on how it constructs the identity of Israel for its audience. The chronicler seeks to define "who they are, why are they important, and why do they matter" to a people surrounded by hostile groups. To answer this question, the text explores genealogies starting from Adam, emphasizing significant figures and their roles in defining Israel. It then pivots to the reigns of David and Solomon, highlighting the temple's central importance. The lecture also discusses the kings of Judah, especially Hezekiah, who restored the temple, viewing them as examples of ideal Israel. The Chronicler presents genealogies, not as family trees, but to emphasize Samuel as a Levite and priest.

2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 2 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Old Testament → Historical Books → Chronicles).



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on02.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 2, Israel in Chronicles

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. August Konkel's Session 2 on Chronicles, focusing on "Israel and Chronicles":

Briefing Document: Konkel on Chronicles, Session 2 - Israel and Chronicles

Main Themes:

- **Identity Formation for a Vulnerable Community:** The central purpose of Chronicles, according to Konkel, is to define and solidify the identity of the post-exilic Jewish community in Yehud. This community faced animosity and challenges to its existence. The Chronicler's history aims to answer the questions: "who they are why are they important, and why do they matter?"
- **Selective History Focused on Key Defining Elements:** The Chronicler presents a highly selective historical narrative, emphasizing aspects crucial to defining "Israel": David, the temple, and the Davidic line. He deliberately omits or downplays events, such as the northern kingdom's fall, that do not directly contribute to this definition. As Konkel states, "what we mean by Israel depends on the temple and David and the promise and what Solomon did in establishing the kingdom."
- **Genealogies as More Than Family Trees:** The genealogies in Chronicles are not simply lists of ancestors. They serve a theological purpose, establishing Israel's place among the nations and highlighting the lineage leading to David and the temple. "The shortest possible way that you can write a history is just to give the names of the people." They are carefully constructed to emphasize certain aspects of Israelite identity.
- **The Temple as Central to Israel's Identity:** The temple is presented as the focal point of Israel's identity and the representation of God's presence. The Chronicler emphasizes David's preparations for the temple, Solomon's construction of it, and Hezekiah's restoration of it. Konkel points out that the Chronicler focuses on "David and the function of the temple."

- **Hezekiah as a Pivotal Figure:** King Hezekiah is portrayed as a key figure in the restoration of the temple and the renewal of Israel's covenant with God. Konkel emphasizes the significance, stating, "for the chronicler, what Hezekiah did is the key to understanding the kingdom of Yahweh."

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **The Chronicler Assumes Reader Knowledge:** The Chronicler presumes that his audience is familiar with the broader narrative of Israel's history and has access to the same historical records. "He assumes that the people who read him and understand him have access to the same written records that he is using."
- **David and Solomon's Significance:** The Chronicler prioritizes the reigns of David and Solomon. David is crucial for establishing the kingdom and preparing for the temple, and Solomon is the temple builder.
- **The Northern Kingdom's Omission:** The Chronicler largely ignores the history of the northern kingdom of Israel, focusing almost exclusively on Judah and the Davidic line. "There is no mention ever of the north being a second kingdom."
- **Genealogies' Different Forms:** Konkel identifies two types of genealogies used by the Chronicler: segmented (focused on a particular family, like David's) and linear (listing a series of descendants).
- **Samuel as a Levite:** The Chronicler emphasizes Samuel's Levitical identity, diverging from the portrayal in Samuel, to further emphasize the importance of the priesthood and temple service. "The Chronicler wants us to understand Samuel as a Levite and as a priest."
- **Israel's Place Among the Nations:** The genealogies trace Israel's origins back to Adam and Noah, connecting them to the broader history of humanity and establishing their place among the nations of the world as described in Genesis 10.
- **Abraham's Name Change:** The Chronicler highlights the significance of God changing Abram's name to Abraham, emphasizing the promise that he would be the father of a great nation. "Abraham that is the one who is Abraham...God changed Abraham's name because he was going to be the father of a great nation."
- **The Sons of Israel:** The Chronicler gives his "own order" of the sons of Israel, emphasizing Leah and Rachel and their sons.

Quotable Highlights:

- "Our point was that the history of Chronicles, the way that it is written for its time, is to create an identity for this small group of people who are so hated by Ammonites and Samaritans and others all around them who don't want them building walls around their city or protecting their temple. The question is: who they are why are they important, and why do they matter?"
- "What we mean by Israel depends on the temple and David and the promise and what Solomon did in establishing the kingdom."
- "For the chronicler, what Hezekiah did is the key to understanding the kingdom of Yahweh."

Conclusion:

Konkel's analysis highlights how the Chronicler used history and genealogy to construct a specific understanding of Israelite identity, centered on the temple, the Davidic line, and the covenant with God. This was designed to provide a sense of belonging and purpose for the post-exilic community in Yehud.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 2, Israel in Chronicles

Chronicles: Israel and Identity - A Study Guide

I. Key Concepts and Themes

- **Identity Formation:** Understand how the Chronicler uses history and genealogy to define Israel and its unique relationship with God, especially for a post-exilic audience.
- **The Temple:** Analyze the central role of the temple in defining Israel's identity and the Chronicler's emphasis on its restoration and proper worship.
- **Davidic Covenant:** Explore the significance of David and his dynasty in the Chronicler's narrative, including the establishment of the kingdom and preparations for the temple.
- **Genealogy as Theology:** Appreciate how the Chronicler uses genealogies not just as lists of names but as a way to make theological points about Israel's origins, its place among the nations, and the lineage of key figures.
- **Selective History:** Recognize that the Chronicler is not providing a comprehensive history but selectively chooses and interprets events to convey a specific message.
- **Continuity and Restoration:** Consider the Chronicler's focus on the restoration of temple worship and Israel's identity after the exile, drawing parallels between figures like Hezekiah and earlier leaders like Solomon.
- **The Kingdom of Judah:** Understand why the Chronicler focuses on the southern kingdom of Judah and largely ignores the northern kingdom of Israel.

II. Quiz (Short Answer)

1. What was the primary question the Chronicler wanted to answer for the small group of people who returned to Yehud after the exile?
2. What is the shortest possible way to write a history, according to the Chronicler? What does the Chronicler assume about the readers of these "short histories?"
3. What are the three key elements of Israelite history that the Chronicler emphasizes after establishing Israel's identity through genealogy?

4. Why is the northern kingdom of Israel largely absent from the Chronicler's account?
5. Why does the Chronicler find Hezekiah to be a particularly significant king?
6. What is the difference between segmented and linear genealogies, according to Konkel? Give an example of each.
7. How does the Chronicler's depiction of Samuel differ from the depiction in 1 Samuel?
8. According to Genesis 10, who are the descendants of Ham, Japhet, and Shem?
9. Why was the number 70 significant to the Chronicler?
10. Why does Jacob's name not appear in Chronicles, according to Konkel?

III. Quiz Answer Key

1. The primary question was: Who are they, why are they important, and why do they matter? The people of Yehud were hated by surrounding peoples (Ammonites, Samaritans, etc.) who resented their attempts to rebuild.
2. The shortest possible way is to give the names of the people. The Chronicler assumes his readers have access to and understand the same written records that he is using.
3. The Chronicler emphasizes the account of David, the account of the founding of the kingdom, and the account of the preparation of the temple. The Chronicler sees these figures and actions as central to Israel's identity.
4. The Chronicler focuses on the temple, David, the promise, and Solomon's establishment of the kingdom, all of which are linked to Judah, not Israel. Therefore, the northern kingdom is deemed less relevant to the Chronicler's purpose.
5. Hezekiah is significant because he represents Solomon in restoring the temple. His restoration is a key to understanding the kingdom of Yahweh, particularly in the context of post-exilic restoration efforts.
6. Segmented genealogies focus on all the descendants of an individual and their spouses, whereas linear genealogies simply list a series of descendants. The story of David is segmented, whereas the list of kings descended from David is linear.

7. In 1 Samuel, Elkanah is an Ephraimite. In Chronicles, Samuel is a Levite. The Chronicler wants the audience to understand Samuel as a Levite and a priest, not primarily as a prophet.
8. Ham is all the nations of Africa, Japhet is all the nations of Greece, and Shem is all the nations of what we today call Iraq and Syria.
9. The number 70 represents all the nations of the world. It links back to Deuteronomy 32:8 and the assigning of territories, and it connects with the number of sons of Israel in Genesis 46.
10. Chronicles tells us that the sons of Abraham were Esau and Israel. It is Israel that matters.

IV. Essay Questions

1. How does the Chronicler use genealogy to construct a specific identity for Israel in the post-exilic period?
2. Analyze the significance of the temple in the Chronicler's narrative. How does the Chronicler connect the temple to Israel's identity and relationship with God?
3. Compare and contrast the Chronicler's portrayal of David with that found in Samuel-Kings. What specific aspects of David's life and reign does the Chronicler emphasize and why?
4. Discuss the Chronicler's selective use of history. What motivations might the Chronicler have had for including certain events and omitting others?
5. In what ways does the Chronicler present Hezekiah as a model for restoration and renewal in the kingdom of Judah? How does Hezekiah's story relate to the challenges faced by the post-exilic community?

V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicles:** A book of the Hebrew Bible that retells the history of Israel, focusing primarily on the southern kingdom of Judah and the Davidic line.
- **Chronicler:** The author (or school of authors) of the books of Chronicles.

- **Genealogy:** A record or account of the ancestry and descent of a person, family, or group. In Chronicles, genealogies are more than just lists; they're theological statements.
- **Israel:** In the context of Chronicles, refers primarily to the southern kingdom of Judah and the people associated with the Davidic dynasty and the temple in Jerusalem.
- **Yehud:** The Aramaic name for the Persian province that encompassed the former territory of Judah after the Babylonian exile.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship for the Israelites, located in Jerusalem. The Chronicler emphasizes its importance as a symbol of God's presence and the center of Israelite identity.
- **Davidic Covenant:** God's promise to David that his descendants would rule over Israel forever (2 Samuel 7). This is a central theme in Chronicles.
- **Syncretism:** The mixing of different religious beliefs and practices. The Chronicler often portrays this as a negative influence that corrupts true worship.
- **Exile:** The period in Israelite history when the people of Judah were deported to Babylon after the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 586 BCE.
- **Restoration:** The process of rebuilding and renewing the temple, the city of Jerusalem, and the Israelite community after the exile.
- **Hezekiah:** King of Judah known for his religious reforms, particularly the restoration of temple worship.
- **Solomon:** Son of David, known for building the first temple in Jerusalem.
- **Linear Genealogy:** A genealogy that lists a series of descendants.
- **Segmented Genealogy:** A genealogy that traces all descendants of an individual.
- **Semites:** People of Middle Eastern origin.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 2, Israel in Chronicles, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source:

FAQ on Chronicles Based on Dr. Konkel's Session 2

- **Why does the Chronicler write his history?**
 - The Chronicler writes to establish an identity for the small group of people in Yehud who face animosity from Ammonites, Samaritans, and others. His goal is to answer the questions of who they are, why they are important, and why they matter in the post-exilic period.
- **How does the Chronicler approach the writing of history?**
 - The Chronicler begins with the genealogies, tracing lineage from Adam to his present time. He uses these names as an abbreviated history, assuming his audience is familiar with the stories behind these figures and has access to the same written records he uses. He then focuses on key defining periods of Israel's history, particularly the reign of David and Solomon.
- **What is the significance of David in Chronicles?**
 - David is central to the Chronicler's understanding of Israel. The Chronicler emphasizes David's role in founding the kingdom and, most importantly, in preparing for the building of the temple. For the Chronicler, the story of Israel's history starts with David and focuses on the function of the temple.
- **How does the Chronicler view the Northern Kingdom of Israel?**
 - The Chronicler focuses solely on the kings of Judah and omits any mention of the northern kingdom. While he and his readers were aware of the Northern Kingdom's existence and its fall to the Assyrians, the Chronicler doesn't consider it relevant to his purpose of defining Israel, which is tied to the temple, Davidic line, and Solomon's temple building.
- **Why is King Hezekiah so important to the Chronicler?**
 - Hezekiah is considered significant because he restored the temple, mirroring Solomon's actions. His story in Chronicles presents a contrast to the account in Kings. Hezekiah's restoration is a key to understanding the kingdom of Yahweh.

- **What is the nature of the genealogies in Chronicles?**
- The genealogies in Chronicles are not merely family trees. They sometimes present segmented genealogies (focusing on the descendants of an individual, like David) and sometimes linear genealogies (listing a series of descendants). The Chronicler uses genealogies to emphasize specific theological points and to define Israel's identity.
- **How does the Chronicler present Samuel differently from the books of Samuel?**
- While 1 Samuel identifies Elkanah (Samuel's father) as an Ephraimite, Chronicles presents Samuel as a Levite. This difference is significant because the Chronicler emphasizes Samuel's role as a Levite and a priest, rather than as a prophet, highlighting his connection to temple worship.
- **What is the importance of Genesis 10 (the Table of Nations) to the Chronicler?**
- The Chronicler uses Genesis 10, which lists 70 nations descended from Shem, Ham, and Japheth after the flood, to establish the context of Israel among all the nations of the world. The number 70, tied to the sons of Israel in Genesis 46, represents all the nations of the world, emphasizing the universal scope of God's plan. He then narrows his focus to Shem, leading to Abraham and the chosen people.