

# Dr. August Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 5, Rally Round the Temple 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 5, Rally Round the Temple, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkel's lecture focuses on the Chronicler's emphasis on the Levites and their pivotal roles within the kingdom of Yahweh. The Chronicler highlights the Levites' priestly lineage, tracing it back to Levi and emphasizing their significance even after the exile. **A key theme is the shift in the Levites' function, transitioning from transporting the tabernacle to leading worship and music in the temple.** The lecture stresses how the Chronicler uses genealogies and historical context, drawing from books like Numbers and Joshua, to illustrate the Levites' expanded roles as judges, teachers, and administrators of justice within Levitical cities. **Konkel concludes by emphasizing the Chronicler's message: the kingdom of God is about relationships, teaching, and living according to God's law, with the Levites playing a crucial part in facilitating these aspects of daily life.**

**2. 10 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 5 – 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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on05.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 5, Rally Round the Temple

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. August Konkel's session on Chronicles, specifically focusing on "Rally Round the Temple":

#### **Briefing Document: Konkel on Chronicles, Session 5 - Rally Round the Temple**

**Subject:** Analysis of the Chronicler's perspective on the Temple, the Levites, and the nature of the Kingdom of God in Chronicles.

**Source:** Excerpts from "Konkel\_Chro\_EN\_Session05.pdf" (Dr. August Konkel, Chronicles, Session 5, Rally Round the Temple, © 2024 Gus Konkel and Ted Hildebrandt)

#### **Main Themes:**

1. **The Temple as the Center of the Kingdom of Yahweh:** The Chronicler emphasizes that the kingdom is not David's, but Yahweh's. Therefore, the temple becomes the central point of focus and representation of God's rule. "This is not the kingdom of David... this is the kingdom of Yahweh." The temple and its functions are paramount in understanding the true significance of Israel.
2. **The Central Role of the Levites:** The Chronicler dedicates significant attention to the Levites, detailing their lineage, organization, and function. They are central to understanding the kingdom of God. Though they own no land, their role in worship, teaching, and the judicial system is critical. "So, the Chronicler wants us to understand who is at the center of the kingdom of God. Who is it that matters the most to us knowing what the significance of Israel is all about? And there what we have is the description of the Levites."
3. **The Levites' Evolving Functions (Music, Judgment and Teaching):** Konkel highlights that the Levites' role evolves from transporting the tabernacle (as described in Numbers) to serving in various capacities within the temple structure. The Chronicler highlights the importance of the Levites as musicians, prophets, judges, and teachers.
4. **Levites and Priests:** Konkel points out a difference between the Chronicler's view and that of Numbers and Leviticus. The Chronicler seems to consider all Levites as being in the tribe from which priests come ("Levitical priests"), as in Deuteronomy.

5. **The Importance of Worship and Music:** Worship, and especially music, play a vital role in the temple and are therefore essential to the kingdom. David designates specific musicians and assigns them roles. The musicians are so important, according to the chronicler, that they can be considered prophets and lead the charge to victory.
6. **Levitical Cities and the Judicial System:** The Levites resided in specific cities scattered throughout Israel, with a high concentration around Jerusalem, providing proximity to the temple. These cities, particularly those around Judah, also served as cities of refuge and centers for judicial activity. The Levites were integral to the judicial system.
7. **Human Relationships as the Core of the Kingdom of God:** Beyond territorial control, the Chronicler emphasizes the importance of relationships within the kingdom, living according to God's teaching (Torah), and resolving conflicts through the Levites' guidance. The Levites play an essential role in navigating the human relationships within the kingdom.

#### **Key Ideas and Facts:**

- The Chronicler's purpose is to show that the kingdom belongs to God, not David.
- The Levites are a distinct tribe without land ownership but with vital responsibilities.
- The sons of Kohath had a very particular role in relation to the temple.
- The Chronicler includes Samuel in the genealogy of the priests.
- The Chronicler draws from Joshua 21 but revises it to emphasize the importance of the cities of Simeon and Benjamin (near Jerusalem).
- Levitical cities served as cities of refuge.
- The Levites functioned as musicians, prophets, judges, and teachers.
- The Chronicler's message is aimed at the people of Yehud, encouraging them to "rally around the temple."
- "They need to learn and understand God's teaching, his Torah. They need to live according to that teaching in all their daily relationships, and the key role there is the function of the Levites, especially in teaching, especially in leading in worship."

**Quotes:**

- "This is not the kingdom of David... this is the kingdom of Yahweh."
- "So, the Chronicler wants us to understand who is at the center of the kingdom of God. Who is it that matters the most to us knowing what the significance of Israel is all about? And there what we have is the description of the Levites."
- "They need to learn and understand God's teaching, his Torah. They need to live according to that teaching in all their daily relationships, and the key role there is the function of the Levites, especially in teaching, especially in leading in worship."

**Implications:**

The Chronicler presents a vision of Israel where the temple is central, the Levites are key functionaries, and the focus is on proper worship, adherence to God's law, and the maintenance of right relationships within the community. The size of territory is not important to the chronicler, instead he wants to know how the people can live with one another in peace.

## 4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 5, Rally Round the Temple

### Rally Round the Temple: A Study Guide to Chronicles

#### Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. According to Dr. Konkel, what is the Chronicler's second real concern in the books of Chronicles, and why is it important?
2. How does the Chronicler portray the role of the Levites in relation to the priesthood, and how does this differ from the books of Numbers and Leviticus?
3. What specific role did the sons of Kohath have in relation to the tabernacle before the temple was built?
4. How does the Chronicler include Samuel in the priestly lineage, and why is this significant?
5. According to Dr. Konkel, what is a very important part of worship, and how does the Chronicler emphasize this in Chronicles?
6. Beyond worship, what other important function did the musicians perform, according to the Chronicler?
7. What is a Levitical city, and what purpose did it serve?
8. How did the Levites function within the judicial system?
9. According to Dr. Konkel, what is the Chronicler trying to tell the people of Yehud?
10. How do the Levites help represent the kingdom of God?

#### Quiz Answer Key

1. The Chronicler's second real concern is the function of the temple. This is important because the Chronicler emphasizes that the kingdom is not David's but Yahweh's, so the temple becomes the center of God's rule within the kingdom.
2. The Chronicler views all Levites as being in the tribe from which priests come, using the term "Levitical priests." This differs from Numbers and Leviticus, which restrict the priesthood to the descendants of Aaron, a subset of the Kohathites.

3. The sons of Kohath were responsible for the transportation and maintenance of the tabernacle, which was considered their avoda, or work. This role changed significantly with the construction of the temple.
4. The Chronicler includes Samuel as one of the sons of Kohath through his genealogy, acknowledging his priestly function. This inclusion highlights Samuel's importance and integrates him into the Levitical lineage.
5. A very important part of worship is music, and the Chronicler emphasizes this by dedicating a section to David's designation and assignment of musicians, organizing them into guilds like those of Heman, Asaph, and Ethan.
6. Beyond their role in worship around the temple, the musicians are described as acting as prophets, even winning battles, as seen in the story of Jehoshaphat. The Chronicler elevates their role to more than just musical performance.
7. Levitical cities were cities spread throughout Israel that were assigned to the Levites since they had no tribal land of their own. These cities served as places of residence, centers for teaching, judicial administration, and refuge.
8. The Levites functioned as judges within the judicial system, interpreting the covenant and applying it to daily life. They helped resolve complex legal situations, determining liability and penalties.
9. According to Dr. Konkel, the Chronicler is trying to tell the people of Yehud that the size of their territory is not the most important issue; rather, it is about how they represent the kingdom of God through their relationships with each other.
10. The Levites represent the kingdom of God by embodying its structural relationships. The Levites lead in teaching and worship and help to resolve conflict, showing how the kingdom belongs to God by following God's teachings in daily relationships.

## Essay Questions

Consider the following essay questions and formulate well-supported arguments based on the source material.

1. Discuss the significance of the Chronicler's focus on the temple in relation to the concept of the kingdom of Yahweh.

2. Analyze the ways in which the Chronicler utilizes genealogies to emphasize specific points about the roles and relationships of different groups within Israel.
3. Compare and contrast the Chronicler's portrayal of the Levites with their depiction in other Old Testament books, such as Numbers, Leviticus, and Deuteronomy.
4. Explain how the Chronicler uses historical narratives, like the assignment of Levitical cities, to convey messages relevant to his own time.
5. Explore the connections between worship, music, and prophecy as presented in the Chronicler's account, and explain how these elements contribute to the overall message of Chronicles.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the books of Chronicles in the Hebrew Bible.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship for the Israelites, located in Jerusalem.
- **Levites:** A tribe of Israel responsible for various religious duties, including temple service, teaching, and judicial functions.
- **Priests:** Specifically, those Levites who performed sacrificial duties and led in worship within the temple.
- **Avoda:** Hebrew word meaning "work" or "service," particularly used in relation to the duties performed by the Levites in the tabernacle.
- **Genealogies:** Lists of ancestors used to establish lineage, tribal affiliations, and the legitimacy of certain roles or claims.
- **Levitical Cities:** Cities assigned to the Levites throughout Israel, serving as their places of residence and centers for their various functions.
- **Cities of Refuge:** Cities designated as safe havens for those who accidentally caused a death, providing them with protection from blood vengeance.
- **Kingdom of Yahweh:** The Chronicler's understanding of the Israelite kingdom as ultimately belonging to God, emphasizing divine rule and the importance of proper worship and relationships.
- **Yehud:** The Aramaic name for the Persian province of Judah, referring to the post-exilic Jewish community.

## 5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 5, Rally Round the Temple, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided excerpts from Dr. Konkel's lecture on Chronicles:

- **Why does the Chronicler emphasize the tribe of Judah so much?**
  - The Chronicler highlights the tribe of Judah because it is from Judah that the leadership comes. While Joseph's descendants (Ephraim and Manasseh) inherit the rights of the firstborn, and Reuben loses his prominence, Judah rises to become the leading tribe, a fact the Chronicler considers very important.
- **According to the Chronicler, what is the central focus of the kingdom of Israel?**
  - The Chronicler emphasizes that the kingdom of Israel is not David's kingdom but the kingdom of Yahweh (God). Therefore, the central focus is on God and the proper recognition of God's rule within the kingdom. The temple, and particularly the Levites' role within it, becomes crucial to demonstrating this focus.
- **What is the Chronicler's view of the Levites and their role?**
  - The Chronicler views the Levites as a central and vital tribe, even though they do not possess land like other tribes. Their role is entirely different, centered around the temple and its functions. They serve as priests, musicians, judges, and teachers, facilitating worship, administering justice, and instructing the people in God's law. The Chronicler emphasizes their structural importance in the kingdom's functions.
- **How does the Chronicler portray the role of priests differently than the books of Numbers and Leviticus?**
  - In Numbers and Leviticus, the priesthood is specifically limited to the descendants of Aaron, through Kohath. The Chronicler, however, presents a broader view. For him, all Levites are essentially part of the tribe from which priests come, using the term "Levitical priests" to emphasize their tribal affiliation.
- **How does the Chronicler present Samuel in the genealogy of the Levites?**
  - The Chronicler includes Samuel in the genealogy of the sons of Kohath. This is because Samuel functionally acted as a priest, even though the traditional understanding might not place him within the specific priestly lineage.



- **What significant change in the Levites' function does the Chronicler highlight, especially after the temple is built?**
- The Chronicler notes a shift in the Levites' role from the transportation and maintenance of the tabernacle (as described in the book of Numbers) to the performance of various functions within the temple, especially worship. Music becomes a very important part of this function, with specific musicians and guilds being assigned roles.
- **What role did the Levitical cities play in the judicial system?**
- The Levitical cities served as cities of refuge, where individuals who accidentally caused another person's death, such as in the case of an ox that killed someone, could flee to seek protection and judgment. The Levites also functioned as judges, administering justice according to the covenant and helping resolve conflicts.
- **What is the Chronicler trying to teach the people of Yehud about the Kingdom of God?**
- The Chronicler is trying to teach the people that the kingdom of God is not defined by the size of their territory, but by their relationships with one another. The Levites, in their teaching, worship, and judicial roles, serve as a model for how people should live together in accordance with God's law, essentially a "rally around the temple" where people come together under God's rule and law.