

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 6, The Nation of Israel Resources from NotebookLM

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

1. Abstract of Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 6, The Nation of Israel, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's session focuses on the Chronicler's portrayal of Israel, emphasizing the relationships between its people and their history. **The lecture addresses the misconception of the "ten lost tribes,"** asserting that all of Israel is present and accounted for in Yehud. **Konkell explains the significance of various tribes**, including Issachar, Benjamin, and Ephraim, and highlights their roles and representation in the Chronicler's records. **He points out the unbroken continuity** between the people of Israel in the Chronicler's time and their ancestors, noting their registration and presence in Jerusalem. **The session concludes by describing the Chronicler's community**, with Jerusalem at its center, surrounded by priestly families, Levites, gatekeepers, and a summary of all Israel.

2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 6 – 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).



Konkell_Chron_Session06.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 6, The Nation of Israel

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. August Konkel's Session 6 lecture on "The Nation of Israel" from his Chronicles series.

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Chronicles, Session 6 - The Nation of Israel

Overview:

This session focuses on the Chronicler's portrayal of Israel, specifically addressing the notion of "lost tribes" and emphasizing the continuity of *all* Israel throughout history, up to the Chronicler's present (the late Persian Empire in Yehud). The lecture highlights the importance of genealogy and tribal relationships for understanding the present identity of Israel. Dr. Konkel emphasizes that the Chronicler's aim is to demonstrate that the people of Israel in Yehud are a direct continuation of all of Israel from the past.

Key Themes and Ideas:

- **Rejection of the "Ten Lost Tribes" Myth:** A central argument is that the idea of ten lost tribes of Israel is a false and misleading concept. Dr. Konkel states firmly, "That's a completely concocted myth of history. Nobody in Israel was lost." He asserts that the Chronicler wants to demonstrate that *all* the tribes are vital and present, even in Yehud and Jerusalem.
- **Importance of Genealogy and Relationships:** Dr. Konkel underscores the significance of genealogies for understanding present relationships and identity. He notes, "we cannot understand present relationships if we don't understand something about past relationships." These relationships helped them understand who they were in the present time. Knowledge of tribal affiliations (e.g., Levites, Judah, sons of David) was crucial.
- **Integration of North and South:** The Chronicler presents David's establishment of Jerusalem as the capital as a unifying act, bringing together the warring factions of tribes, specifically Judah and Benjamin. Konkel highlights the geographical importance of Benjamin, "Benjamin is the tribe that is adjacent to Jerusalem...the boundary of Benjamin and the boundary of Judah run right through the city of Jerusalem. So, in the new capital city, both north and south were included."

- **Tribal Representation and Significance:** The lecture discusses the tribes of Issachar, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, and Asher. The absence of Zebulun in the Chronicler's records is noted. The Chronicler often uses large numbers for specific tribes as representative of a blessing and strength. "For the Chronicler, these huge numbers of tribes always represent a blessing. They represent that you are God's army."
- **Ephraim and Joshua:** Dr. Konkel points out a potential ambiguity in the Chronicler's account of Ephraim, specifically how Joshua, from the tribe of Ephraim, had a presence in the land of Israel despite the lack of explicit record of his lineage connecting directly back to the Ephraim who was in Egypt. Konkel acknowledges, "it seems to me we need to accept the Chronicler's ambiguity at that point."
- **Continuity and Identity in Yehud:** The core message is the unbroken continuity of Israel from the past to the present in Yehud (the late Persian Empire). Dr. Konkel highlights the verse, "All of Israel was registered," as evidence that Israel is present. He also emphasizes, "These families belonged in Jerusalem, and they knew that their property was in Jerusalem... These are the principal residents of Jerusalem. They never lost track of who they were and who their properties were."
- **Community Structure:** The Chronicler describes the community structure in Yehud as centered on Jerusalem, surrounded by priestly families, Levites, and gatekeepers who provide security to the temple and protect the holy premises.

Quotes:

- "That's a completely concocted myth of history. Nobody in Israel was lost."
- "we cannot understand present relationships if we don't understand something about past relationships."
- "Benjamin is the tribe that is adjacent to Jerusalem...the boundary of Benjamin and the boundary of Judah run right through the city of Jerusalem. So, in the new capital city, both north and south were included."
- "For the Chronicler, these huge numbers of tribes always represent a blessing. They represent that you are God's army."
- "it seems to me we need to accept the Chronicler's ambiguity at that point."
- "All of Israel was registered."

- "These families belonged in Jerusalem, and they knew that their property was in Jerusalem... These are the principal residents of Jerusalem. They never lost track of who they were and who their properties were."

Conclusion:

Dr. Konkel's lecture on Chronicles emphasizes the Chronicler's deliberate effort to establish the continuity and unbroken lineage of all Israel, refuting the notion of lost tribes and highlighting the importance of understanding the past to define present identity within the context of Yehud. This understanding was essential for understanding the promise to David and the present kingdom of Yahweh.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 6, The Nation of Israel

The Chronicler's Vision of Israel: A Study Guide

I. Review Topics

- **The Chronicler's Purpose:** Understand the Chronicler's main goal in writing Chronicles, particularly his emphasis on the unity and continuity of all Israel.
- **Genealogies and Their Significance:** Analyze the importance of genealogies in ancient histories, especially in understanding present relationships and identity.
- **The "Lost Tribes" Narrative:** Explain why the Chronicler rejects the idea of the "lost tribes" of Israel.
- **Tribal Geography:** Be able to locate the general areas occupied by the tribes discussed (Issachar, Benjamin, Dan, Naphtali, Manasseh, Ephraim, Asher) and their relation to Jerusalem.
- **The Importance of Benjamin and Jerusalem:** Explain the historical significance of the tribe of Benjamin, the role of Saul, and why Jerusalem became the uniting capital.
- **Military Organization:** Understand the role of the militia, particularly in relation to Benjamin, and the locations of different militia groups.
- **Continuity and the Term *Rishon*:** Comprehend the Chronicler's emphasis on the unbroken continuity of Israel and how the term *Rishon* is used to support this idea.
- **The Structure of the Chronicler's Community:** Understand the Chronicler's description of the community in Yehud, with Jerusalem at the center, surrounded by priestly families, Levites, and gatekeepers.
- **The Role of the Levites:** Understand the various duties of the Levites, particularly their role in security as gatekeepers.
- **The Tribe of Ephraim:** Discuss the complicated presentation of the Tribe of Ephraim, the ambiguity between the Patriarch in Egypt and Joshua's line.

II. Short-Answer Quiz

1. What is the main purpose of the genealogies in Chronicles, and why were they important to the Chronicler's audience?
2. According to the Chronicler, what happened to the so-called "lost tribes" of Israel after the deportations?
3. Why was the tribe of Benjamin particularly important in the history of Israel, as presented by the Chronicler?
4. How did David's establishment of Jerusalem as the capital contribute to the unity of the tribes of Israel?
5. What do the large numbers associated with certain tribes, such as Issachar and Benjamin, signify for the Chronicler?
6. Why does the Chronicler not explicitly mention the tribe of Zebulun in his account?
7. What is unusual or ambiguous about the Chronicler's presentation of the tribe of Ephraim, and why might this be the case?
8. What does the Chronicler emphasize regarding the presence of "all Israel" in Yehud during his time?
9. What does the Hebrew word *Rishon* mean in Chronicles 9:2, and why is it significant to the Chronicler's overall message?
10. How is the community of Yehud organized, according to the Chronicler, and what role do the Levites play in this structure?

III. Short-Answer Quiz: Answer Key

1. The genealogies in Chronicles serve to establish identity, understand present relationships, and connect the Chronicler's audience to their historical roots. They were important because they reinforced the idea of a continuous and unbroken link to the past.
2. The Chronicler believed that none of the tribes were truly "lost." He argued that they were still present in Yehud and Jerusalem, constituting a vital part of God's promise to all Israel.
3. The tribe of Benjamin was significant because Saul, the first king of Israel, came from it. Additionally, the boundary of Benjamin ran through Jerusalem, making it a key element in uniting the northern and southern tribes.

4. By establishing Jerusalem as the capital, David symbolically united the often-warring tribes of Israel. The location on the border of Benjamin and Judah facilitated the integration of both northern and southern factions.
5. For the Chronicler, the large numbers associated with tribes like Issachar and Benjamin represent a sign of God's blessing and strength. They indicate that these tribes are part of God's army and are favored by Him.
6. The Chronicler does not explicitly mention Zebulun, possibly because its records were unavailable or deemed less relevant to his purpose. The reasons for its omission remain unclear in the text.
7. The Chronicler presents an ambiguous account of the tribe of Ephraim, not explicitly connecting the Patriarch in Egypt with Joshua's lineage, perhaps due to a disruption or lack of clear records. This ambiguity allows him to emphasize Joshua's prominence without a definitive genealogical link.
8. The Chronicler insists that "all Israel" was registered in Yehud, emphasizing their documented presence and continuity with the past. This registration serves as evidence against the idea of lost tribes and affirms their current existence in the land.
9. In Chronicles 9:2, *Rishon* signifies "principal" or "first" in terms of residence and belonging. It underscores the idea that these families had long-standing ties to Jerusalem and never lost their connection to their property and heritage.
10. The Chronicler portrays the community of Yehud as centered in Jerusalem, surrounded by priestly families, Levites, and gatekeepers. The Levites, especially the gatekeepers, are crucial for maintaining security and protecting the temple and its sacred space.

IV. Essay Questions

1. Discuss the Chronicler's purpose in writing Chronicles, focusing on his emphasis on the unity of Israel. How does he use genealogies and historical narratives to support his argument against the idea of "lost tribes?"
2. Analyze the role of Jerusalem in the Chronicler's vision of Israel. How does the establishment of Jerusalem as the capital city contribute to the unity and continuity of the nation, and what significance does it hold for the tribes of Judah and Benjamin?
3. Examine the Chronicler's portrayal of the Levites and their duties, particularly their role as gatekeepers. How does their service contribute to the security and sanctity of the temple, and what does this reveal about the Chronicler's priorities?
4. Compare and contrast the Chronicler's presentation of the tribes of Benjamin and Ephraim. What makes these tribes significant in his narrative, and how does he address any ambiguities or historical challenges associated with their genealogies?
5. Explain the significance of the term *Rishon* in Chronicles 9:2 within the broader context of the Chronicler's message. How does this word choice reinforce his argument for the unbroken continuity of Israel from the past to his present time in Yehud?

V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the books of Chronicles in the Hebrew Bible, writing in the post-exilic period.
- **Genealogy:** A record or account of the ancestry and descent of a person, family, or group.
- **Yehud:** The Aramaic/Persian name for the province of Judah during the Persian Empire.
- **Levites:** Members of the tribe of Levi who were dedicated to the service of the sanctuary and had various religious duties.
- **Gatekeepers:** Levites who were responsible for guarding the entrances to the temple and ensuring its security.
- **Lost Tribes:** The idea that the ten northern tribes of Israel were dispersed and lost to history after the Assyrian conquest in 722 BCE.
- **Rishon:** A Hebrew word meaning "first," "beginning," or "principal," used in Chronicles to emphasize continuity and priority.
- **Militia:** A military force composed of citizen-soldiers, as opposed to a standing professional army.
- **Masoretic Text:** The authoritative Hebrew text of the Hebrew Bible, established by Jewish scholars known as the Masoretes.
- **Sargon II:** The Assyrian king who conquered the northern kingdom of Israel in 722 BCE, leading to the deportation of many Israelites.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 6, The Nation of Israel, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on the Chronicler's View of Israel

- **Why are genealogies so important to the Chronicler's historical account?**
- The Chronicler emphasizes the importance of genealogies because they establish present-day relationships by demonstrating the historical connections between people and their roles in society. This helps the audience understand their identity and place within the larger community of Israel. The Chronicler wants his audience to see that understanding past relationships is crucial to understanding their place in God's plan.
- **What is the Chronicler's perspective on the "ten lost tribes" of Israel?**
- The Chronicler strongly rejects the idea that the northern tribes were "lost" after being deported. He insists that all of Israel, meaning all twelve tribes, are still present and accounted for. The Chronicler is adamant that these tribes remain vital and are part of God's promise to all of Israel.
- **How does the Chronicler portray the relationship between Judah and Benjamin?**
- The Chronicler highlights the significant role of Benjamin, particularly in relation to Judah. The establishment of Jerusalem as the capital by David united these tribes, effectively including both north and south. Saul, the first king of Israel, was from the tribe of Benjamin.
- **How does the Chronicler interpret large tribal numbers?**
- For the Chronicler, large numbers within the tribes are seen as a sign of God's blessing, indicating that they are part of God's army. It signifies strength and divine favor upon the people.
- **What is unique about the Chronicler's portrayal of the tribe of Ephraim?**
- The Chronicler presents a somewhat ambiguous account of Ephraim. While acknowledging that Ephraim was in Egypt with the other patriarchs, he notes a disruption in the genealogy, particularly concerning Joshua's lineage. The Chronicler wants to emphasize Joshua's connection to this leading tribe, but without definitively linking him to the patriarch.

- **What is the significance of Chapter 9, verse 1a in Chronicles?**
- Chapter 9, verse 1a ("All Israel was registered") is crucial because it signifies that all of Israel is present in Yehud (Judah). The Chronicler emphasizes that records exist proving their presence, underscoring the continuity of the Israelite people.
- **What does the Chronicler mean by the use of the word "Rishon" in Chapter 9 verse 2?**
- The Chronicler uses "Rishon" (meaning "first" or "beginning") to emphasize the continuity of the families in Jerusalem. He highlights that these families have maintained their connection to Jerusalem and their properties, demonstrating an unbroken link to their past.
- **What is the Chronicler's view of the Levites and their role in the community?**
- The Chronicler portrays the Levites as playing a central role, especially in the security of the temple. They are responsible for protecting the temple's valuables and maintaining its sanctity. The community is structured with Jerusalem at the center, surrounded by priestly families, Levites, and gatekeepers, with a summary of all Israel.