

Dr. August Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 7, King David

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 7, King David, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkel's session focuses on the Chronicler's portrayal of King David and his significance to the nation of Israel. The lecture explains that the Chronicler presents David as God's chosen leader, contrasting him with Saul, who was deemed unfaithful. **The Chronicler emphasizes David's immediate and unified support from all of Israel, highlighting God's plan for David to be king.** Key themes are faithfulness to God (darash) and the consequences of unfaithfulness (ma'al). **The session explores how the Chronicler uses narratives and details, such as David's warriors and coronation, to demonstrate David's divinely ordained kingship and the unity of Israel under his rule.**

**2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 7 – 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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3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 7, King David

Briefing Document: Konkel on Chronicles, Session 7 - King David

Overview: This session focuses on the Chronicler's presentation of King David, emphasizing his divinely ordained role and unified support across all of Israel. The Chronicler's perspective contrasts with that of Samuel and Kings, particularly regarding the transition of power from Saul to David and the unification of the kingdom. The Chronicler aims to demonstrate to his Persian-era audience (Yehud) why they are significant, framing them as the inheritors of a kingdom promised to David and representing God's chosen people.

Main Themes & Ideas:

- **David as God's Chosen King:** The Chronicler focuses on the divine selection of David, in contrast to Saul, positioning David as the embodiment of God's plan and salvation. According to Konkel, "Because God has chosen David, David will represent God's work and salvation, which is the kingdom of God." The Chronicler emphasizes that David is "after the heart of God," not in the sense that David chose God, but that God chose David.
- **The Significance of Unfaithfulness (*ma'al*) and Seeking (*darash*):** Konkel highlights the Chronicler's use of specific vocabulary to explain Saul's downfall and David's success. Saul was removed as king because he was *unfaithful* (*ma'al*) to the covenant and did not *seek* (*darash*) the Lord. Saul's unfaithfulness led him to seek a necromancer, a prohibited act, solidifying his disqualification. The Chronicler is setting up that "The way to experience God's blessing is through faithfulness. And the way to experience God's blessing is by seeking."
- **Unified Israel Under David:** The Chronicler presents a picture of a united Israel, wholeheartedly supporting David as king, "all Israel, north to south, everywhere, supports David." Konkel points out that the Chronicler omits details of the power struggles and wars mentioned in Samuel, like the conflict between Abner and Joab. This unified support is a key element in demonstrating the divine plan at work.

- **The Chronicler's Selective Focus and Purpose:** Konkel emphasizes that the Chronicler has a specific agenda and selects/omits details to achieve it. For example, the Chronicler never mentions the Bathsheba incident, showcasing how David could be considered "Blessed is he whose sin is forgiven, whose transgression is covered." The Chronicler is less concerned with historical chronology and sequence and more interested in illustrating God's overarching plan and David's divinely appointed role.

Key Facts/Points:

- The Chronicler is writing to a specific audience in the Persian state of Yehud, seeking to explain their significance as descendants of the Davidic kingdom.
- The Chronicler contrasts David with Saul to emphasize the importance of faithfulness to the covenant and seeking God's guidance. "Saul was judged because he was unfaithful."
- The Chronicler uses the Hebrew words *ma'al* (unfaithfulness) and *darash* (seek) as key concepts in understanding the relationship between God and the king.
- The Chronicler downplays any divisions within Israel during David's rise to power, portraying a unified nation supporting him.
- The Chronicler emphasizes the symbolic acts of loyalty and sacrifice by David's warriors to highlight the unwavering support he received. The story of the water drawn from the well demonstrates that "they will sacrifice their lives to support David and they will do for David whatever they need to do."
- The expression of loyalty in 1 Chronicles 12:18, "We are yours, O David, and we have a covenant with you," is in direct contrast to Sheba's mocking words expressing disloyalty to David in 2 Samuel.

Implications/Significance:

- Understanding the Chronicler's perspective is crucial for interpreting the books of Chronicles. It reveals the author's purpose in constructing a particular narrative of Israel's history, focusing on the Davidic covenant and the importance of faithfulness to God.
- This session provides insights into the theological and political concerns of the post-exilic community in Yehud. The Chronicler seeks to reassure them of their place in God's plan by highlighting the enduring promise made to David.
- Konkel's analysis offers a valuable lens for examining the Chronicler's selective use of historical sources and his emphasis on specific themes and vocabulary.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 7, King David

King David in Chronicles: A Study Guide

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. According to the Chronicler, why is David considered more significant than Moses in the establishment of the nation of Israel?
2. What is the significance of the Hebrew word *ma'al* in the Chronicler's understanding of why Saul was removed as king?
3. How does the Chronicler portray the relationship between faithfulness and seeking God in relation to experiencing God's blessing?
4. What is the Chronicler's perspective on the historical conflict and division within Israel during the transition from Saul to David?
5. What is the significance of the "covenant that all Israel has with David" in the Chronicler's account of David's enthronement?
6. Why does the Chronicler include the story of David's warriors breaking through Philistine lines to fetch water for him?
7. Why does the Chronicler mention warriors from the east side of the Jordan River supporting David?
8. What is the significance of the poem "We are yours, O David, and we have a covenant with you" in the context of David's reign?
9. How does the Chronicler portray the idea that Israel is one nation under David?
10. What is the significance of David being described as "after the heart of God?"

Quiz: Answer Key

1. The Chronicler focuses on the promise of redemption that God made to David. This promise, rather than the establishment of the nation with Moses, is central to the Chronicler's interest because David represents God's choice and the kingdom of God.
2. *Ma'al*, translated as "unfaithful," represents the sin that brings about God's judgment. In Saul's case, his unfaithfulness to the covenant, his failure to trust God, and his disobedience led to his removal as king.

3. The Chronicler suggests that experiencing God's blessing is directly linked to both faithfulness and seeking God. By remaining loyal to the covenant and actively seeking God's guidance, individuals and the nation can receive God's favor.
4. The Chronicler downplays the historical conflict and division, presenting a unified vision of Israel supporting David. He emphasizes God's plan being worked out, where all of Israel, north to south, supports David.
5. This covenant signifies that David has the support of all Israel, not just Judah, solidifying his position as king of a united nation. It highlights David's ability to cultivate loyalty from people all over Israel.
6. The story illustrates the warriors' unwavering loyalty and willingness to sacrifice their lives for David. It emphasizes their commitment to David and his kingship.
7. The mention of warriors from the east side of the Jordan emphasizes that support for David came from all regions of Israel, not just Judah. This further strengthens the idea of a unified nation under David.
8. This poem expresses the loyalty of the soldiers and their covenant with David, contrasting it with the disloyalty expressed towards David during Absalom's rebellion. It symbolizes the renewed allegiance to David as the rightful king.
9. The Chronicler sees Israel as one nation under David, united by their covenant with him and living out God's promise of a kingdom. This united vision is in contrast to the historical reality of warring tribes and a divided kingdom.
10. It signifies that God chose David to represent God's work and salvation, specifically related to the kingdom of God. The phrase implies that David's actions align with God's plan and purpose.

Essay Format Questions

1. Compare and contrast the Chronicler's portrayal of Saul and David. What are the key differences in their actions and motivations, and how do these differences explain their fates?
2. Discuss the Chronicler's emphasis on the unity of Israel under David. How does this perspective differ from the accounts in Samuel, and what might be the Chronicler's purpose in presenting this unified vision?

3. Analyze the role of covenant in the Chronicler's narrative of David's rise to power. How does the covenant between David and the people contribute to the Chronicler's overall message?
4. Examine the significance of the Chronicler's selective inclusion and exclusion of events from the life of David. What aspects of David's story does the Chronicler emphasize, and what aspects does he omit, and why?
5. Evaluate the Chronicler's theological perspective on kingship and divine favor. How does the Chronicler understand the relationship between a king's faithfulness and God's blessing on the nation?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the books of Chronicles in the Hebrew Bible.
- **David:** The second king of Israel, considered to be a righteous king and a key figure in the Chronicler's narrative.
- **Saul:** The first king of Israel, whose failures serve as a contrast to David's faithfulness in the Chronicler's account.
- **Ma'al:** A Hebrew word meaning "unfaithful," used by the Chronicler to describe Saul's sin and the reason for his downfall.
- **Darash:** A Hebrew word meaning "seek," emphasizing the importance of actively seeking God's guidance.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement between God and his people, or between people, signifying loyalty and obligation.
- **Hebron:** A city where David was first anointed king over Judah, and later over all Israel.
- **Jerusalem:** A city conquered by David and established as the political and religious center of Israel.
- **Philistines:** A people who were enemies of Israel, often used as a foil to highlight the strength and righteousness of David and his warriors.
- **Ziklag:** A town granted to David by the Philistines, where he served as a refugee during Saul's reign.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 7, King David, Biblelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: The Chronicler's Perspective on King David

- **Why does the Chronicler focus on David rather than Moses when establishing the identity of the people of Israel?**
- The Chronicler focuses on David because his primary interest is the promise of redemption that God made to David. He presents David as God's chosen representative, the one described in Samuel as "after the heart of God," signifying God's choice of David to represent His work and salvation through the kingdom of God. While acknowledging the significance of Moses in forming the nation, the Chronicler prioritizes the Davidic covenant as central to his message.
- **Why does the Chronicler include the story of Saul's demise if the focus is on David?**
- The Chronicler includes the account of Saul's death to contrast him with David and to explain why Saul was removed as king. Saul's unfaithfulness (*ma'al*) to the covenant and his failure to seek God (*darash*), demonstrated by consulting a necromancer, disqualified him from being "after the heart of God." This sets the stage for David, who, despite his sins, remained faithful to God's intent.
- **What does the Chronicler mean by "unfaithfulness" (*ma'al*) in the context of Saul's reign?**
- In the Chronicler's context, "unfaithfulness" (*ma'al*) signifies a breach of the covenant and a lack of trust in God. It's not simply about committing sins, but about a fundamental failure to maintain loyalty to the covenant relationship with God. Saul's decision to seek guidance from a necromancer instead of God demonstrates this lack of trust and constitutes a rejection of God's authority.

- **How does the Chronicler portray David's rise to kingship, and what details are omitted compared to Samuel?**
- The Chronicler portrays David's rise as immediate and conclusive, emphasizing the unified support of all Israel. He omits details about the seven-year period of conflict after Saul's death, the war between Abner and Joab, and the intricacies of David's political maneuvering. Instead, the Chronicler focuses on presenting a unified vision of all Israel supporting David, showcasing God's plan being seamlessly fulfilled.
- **What is the significance of David being crowned king in Hebron in the Chronicler's account?**
- David's coronation at Hebron symbolizes the united act of all of David's mighty men, representing the collective support of all Israel. The Chronicler emphasizes that this was not just a Judahite affair, but a national endorsement of David as king. This highlights the Chronicler's vision of a unified Israel under David, reflecting God's plan for His kingdom.
- **What is the purpose of including the stories of David's warriors and their feats?**
- The stories of David's warriors serve to illustrate their unwavering loyalty and willingness to sacrifice for David. The episode of the warriors breaking through Philistine lines to fetch water demonstrates their complete devotion, even to the point of risking their lives. It underscores the Chronicler's point that they would do anything for David and that they viewed his mission as most important.
- **How does the Chronicler portray the unity of Israel under David?**
- The Chronicler emphasizes the unity of Israel under David by depicting all tribes, from east to west and north to south, supporting him. The Chronicler presents Israel as "one nation under David," a unified kingdom under God's chosen leader. This is in contrast to any notion of warring tribes or divisions between north and south.

- **What is the Chronicler's overall message regarding David and the kingdom of Israel?**
- The Chronicler's overall message is that David is the divinely chosen king who immediately and conclusively unites all of Israel. He focuses on the promise to David in the books of Samuel, so that Israel can see themselves at the center of the nations and representing God's kingdom. David is portrayed as the ideal leader through whom God's plan for Israel as a unified kingdom is realized, demonstrating God's faithfulness to His covenant and His intention for Israel to fulfill its destiny.