

# Dr. August Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 9, Historical Israel 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 9, Historical Israel, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL**

Dr. Konkel's lecture, "Historical Israel," focuses on the Chronicler's account of David's reign. The lecture specifically examines how the Chronicler presents David's kingdom as a representation of God's kingdom. It highlights David's military campaigns against the Philistines, Moabites, and Edomites, emphasizing their strategic importance for territorial control and access to trade routes. Konkel also analyzes David's wars against the Ammonites and Arameans, referencing the Dead Sea Scrolls' expanded account of the Ammonite conflict. The lecture further notes the Chronicler's interpretation of David's victories, including the defeat of Goliath's brother, to illustrate the expansion of David's kingdom into an empire through military success and tribute collection.

**2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 9 – 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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on09.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 9, Historical Israel

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and important ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Chronicles, Session 9, "Historical Israel."

#### **Briefing Document: Konkel on Chronicles, Session 9 - Historical Israel**

**Source:** Excerpts from "Konkel\_Chro\_EN\_Session09.pdf" (Dr. August Konkel, Chronicles, Session 9)

**Main Theme:** Dr. Konkel's lecture focuses on how the Chronicler presents David's kingdom and its expansion as a representation of God's kingdom. The lecture details the wars and conquests that enabled David to establish a significant kingdom/empire, particularly emphasizing the Chronicler's perspective on these events.

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

- **David's Kingdom as a Model:** The Chronicler portrays David's kingdom as an idealized version, both for David's time and the Chronicler's own. Konkel states, "These next chapters are ones in which the chronicler essentially leads us to the administration of David's kingdom in relation to the Levites and the state officials and all of the events. So, the chronicler in chapter 18 here moves back to talk about some of the wars that enabled David to acquire territory."
- **Territorial Expansion through War:** A crucial aspect of establishing a kingdom is acquiring territory. David's military campaigns are highlighted as essential for creating a substantial kingdom. The lecture focuses on wars with the Philistines, Moab, Edom, Ammon, and the Arameans. Konkel notes, "You know, if there is going to be a nation, if there is going to be a kingdom of some kind, there has to be territory."
- **Strategic Importance of Conquests:** David's conquests weren't just about land; they were about strategic control. For example, the conquest of Edom was essential for gaining access to the port of Ezion-Geber on the Gulf of Aqaba, providing access to trade routes. "This territory was really occupied by a loose federation of peoples...But it was very important always to Israel, and it was conquered by David in order to gain access to the port, Ezion-Geber, which is on the Gulf of Aqaba."

- **Administration and Officials:** David had a well-organized administration, including military leaders (Benaiah, Joab), administrative officials/priests/scribes (Zadok), and palace guards. This underscores the structured nature of David's kingdom.
- **The Ammonite Conflict and the Dead Sea Scrolls:** Konkel highlights the background of the conflict with the Ammonites. He draws attention to a passage found in the Dead Sea Scrolls' version of Samuel that describes the brutality of Nahash, king of the Ammonites, towards the tribes of Gad and Reuben. "Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had been grievously oppressing the people of Gad and Reuben, who lived east of the Jordan River... So, he gouged out the right eyes of each of the Israelites living there, and he didn't allow anyone to come and rescue them." The significance of gouging out the right eye was to disable Israelite warriors.
- **The Defeat of Goliath's Brother:** Konkel addresses the apparent contradiction between Samuel and Chronicles regarding who killed Goliath. The Chronicler interprets the texts to say that Elhanan defeated the brother of Goliath, offering an alternative reading of the biblical text.
- **David as an Empire Builder:** The lecture concludes by emphasizing that David transformed his kingdom into an empire by exercising jurisdiction over conquered territories, appointing leaders, and collecting tribute. "In other words, the Chronicler is here telling us the way in which David becomes an empire."

#### Key Quotes:

- "These next chapters are ones in which the chronicler essentially leads us to the administration of David's kingdom in relation to the Levites and the state officials and all of the events."
- "You know, if there is going to be a nation, if there is going to be a kingdom of some kind, there has to be territory."
- "This territory was really occupied by a loose federation of peoples...But it was very important always to Israel, and it was conquered by David in order to gain access to the port, Ezion-Geber, which is on the Gulf of Aqaba."
- "Nahash, king of the Ammonites, had been grievously oppressing the people of Gad and Reuben, who lived east of the Jordan River... So, he gouged out the right eyes of each of the Israelites living there, and he didn't allow anyone to come and rescue them."

- "In other words, the Chronicler is here telling us the way in which David becomes an empire."

## 4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 9, Historical Israel

### Chronicles: David's Kingdom and Expansion

#### Study Guide

This study guide is designed to help you review the key concepts covered in Dr. Konkel's lecture on "Historical Israel" from Chronicles, Session 9. Focus on understanding David's role in establishing the kingdom, his military conquests, and the Chronicler's interpretation of these events.

#### Key Concepts

- **The Chronicler's Perspective:** Understand that the Chronicler isn't simply recounting history, but presenting a specific interpretation of it to reflect the ideal kingdom in both David's time and the Chronicler's own.
- **Territorial Expansion:** Note the significance of David's conquests in establishing the kingdom of Israel, extending its influence and control over surrounding regions.
- **David's Wars:** Identify the key enemies David fought (Philistines, Moabites, Edomites, Ammonites, Arameans) and the strategic importance of these victories.
- **The Significance of Edom:** Understand the importance of Edom, including access to the port of Ezion-Geber on the Gulf of Aqaba.
- **Administration:** Recognize the importance of David's organized kingdom, including military leaders, administrative officials, priests, and scribes.
- **The Ammonite Conflict:** Analyze the reasons for conflict with the Ammonites, the brutality of the warfare, and the expanded account found in the Dead Sea Scrolls.
- **David vs. Elhanan:** Understand the Chronicler's interpretation of the passage in Samuel regarding who killed Goliath.
- **The Extent of David's Empire:** Recognize the boundaries of David's expanded kingdom, from the Gulf of Aqaba to the Lebanon ranges.
- **Tribute:** Understand that the tribute collected from the conquered territories was a sign of David's power and influence.

#### Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. How does the Chronicler's purpose in describing David's kingdom differ from a purely historical account?
2. Why was the conquest of Philistia and Moab important for David's kingdom?
3. Why was the conquest of Edom significant?
4. According to the Dead Sea Scrolls, how did Nahash, king of the Ammonites, oppress the tribes of Gad and Reuben?
5. What was the strategic reason behind Nahash gouging out the right eyes of Israelite warriors?
6. Why did the Ammonites seek help from the Arameans?
7. How did the Chronicler reconcile the accounts of David and Elhanan killing Goliath?
8. What territories did David conquer to the east of the Jordan River?
9. What territories marked the northern and southern boundaries of David's empire?
10. How does Dr. Konkel explain the concept of Haplography?

### **Quiz Answer Key**

1. The Chronicler presents an idealized version of David's kingdom, emphasizing its role as a representation of God's kingdom. This goes beyond a simple recitation of historical facts to convey a theological message.
2. These conquests secured Judah's borders and provided territory necessary for establishing a nation and kingdom. The Philistines had been long-term enemies, and Moab controlled valuable land east of the Dead Sea.
3. The conquest of Edom provided access to the port of Ezion-Geber on the Gulf of Aqaba. This access was vital for trade and communication with the south, especially with the Phoenicians and Tyre to the north.
4. According to the Dead Sea Scrolls, Nahash oppressed the tribes of Gad and Reuben by gouging out the right eyes of each of the Israelites living there and not allowing anyone to come and rescue them.

5. Gouging out the right eye of Israelite warriors would disable them in battle, since most warriors used their right eye to aim their arrows.
6. The Ammonites sought help from the Arameans because they realized they were no match for the Israelites. They formed an alliance to strengthen their forces and resist David's expansion.
7. The Chronicler interpreted the passage in Samuel to mean that Elhanan killed the *brother* of Goliath. This interpretation reconciled the apparent contradiction between the accounts of David and Elhanan.
8. David conquered territory to the east of the Jordan River through victories over the Ammonites and Arameans. These conquests extended his influence and control over the region.
9. David's empire extended from the Gulf of Aqaba in the south to the Lebanon ranges in the north, specifically the territory of Aram-zoba. This vast territory was a testament to his military success and political influence.
10. Haplography is an error in scribal copying where a scribe skips from one line to another because of similar words or letters. The scribes omitted the verses in Samuel's records that mentioned King Nahash grievously oppressing the people of Gad and Reuben.

## Essay Questions

1. Discuss the Chronicler's perspective on David's kingdom. How does it serve a theological or ideological purpose beyond simply recording historical events?
2. Analyze the strategic and economic importance of David's conquests, focusing on specific examples like Philistia, Moab, and Edom.
3. Examine the conflict between David and the Ammonites. How does the Dead Sea Scrolls passage shed light on the brutality of warfare in this period?
4. Compare and contrast the accounts of David and Elhanan killing Goliath in Samuel and Chronicles. What does the Chronicler's interpretation reveal about his approach to source material?
5. Evaluate the extent and nature of David's empire. How did his control over conquered territories shape the political landscape of the region?

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the books of Chronicles in the Hebrew Bible, who reinterprets earlier historical accounts from a specific theological perspective.
- **Philistines:** A people who inhabited the coastal plains of Canaan and were frequent enemies of Israel.
- **Moab:** A kingdom located east of the Dead Sea, often in conflict with Israel.
- **Edom:** A kingdom located south of the Dead Sea, controlling territory towards the Gulf of Aqaba.
- **Ammon:** A kingdom located east of the Jordan River, known for its conflicts with Israel.
- **Arameans (Aram):** A people inhabiting the region north of Israel, often allied with other enemies of Israel.
- **Ezion-Geber:** A port city located on the Gulf of Aqaba, providing access to trade routes in the south.
- **Haplography:** A scribal error in which a word or passage is accidentally omitted due to similar wording appearing in close proximity.
- **Aram-zoba:** An Aramean kingdom located north of Israel, representing the northern extent of David's influence.
- **Tribute:** Payments made by conquered territories to a ruling power as a sign of submission and a source of revenue.



## **5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 9, Historical Israel, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)**

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

### **FAQ**

#### **1. According to the Chronicler, what was significant about David's reign and the establishment of his kingdom?**

The Chronicler presents David's kingdom as a representation of God's kingdom, both in David's time and in the Chronicler's own time. The focus is on the administration of David's kingdom, particularly in relation to the Levites and state officials. A key element was the acquisition of territory, transforming the relatively small tribe of Judah into a kingdom/empire.

#### **2. What territories did David conquer according to the Chronicler?**

David conquered Philistia (including cities like Gaza, Ekron, and Ashdod), Moab (territory north of the Arnon River), Edom (from the southern tip of the Dead Sea to the Gulf of Aqaba), Ammon, and Aram. These conquests significantly expanded Israel's territory.

#### **3. Why was the conquest of Edom important?**

The conquest of Edom was crucial for gaining access to the port of Ezion-Geber on the Gulf of Aqaba. This provided Israel with access to the south, supplementing their Mediterranean access, which was vital for the functioning of David and Solomon's empires, especially with the help of mariners from Phoenicia (Tyre and Sidon).

#### **4. How did the Chronicler depict David's administration?**

The Chronicler emphasizes that David had a well-organized kingdom with military leaders (like Benaiah and Joab), administrative officials, priests, and scribes (like Zadok), and palace guards. This demonstrates a structured state capable of expanding into a kingdom.

#### **5. What was the conflict with the Ammonites about, and how did the Dead Sea Scrolls shed light on it?**

The Ammonites, located east of the Jordan River near the Jabbok River, provoked conflict. The Dead Sea Scrolls reveal an omitted portion of Samuel that details the Ammonite king Nahash's brutal oppression of the tribes of Gad and Reuben, including the gouging out of the right eyes of Israelite warriors to disable them.

**6. Why was gouging out the right eye considered a strategic act of war?**

Gouging out the right eye was a strategic move to disable Israelite warriors, as they typically used their right eye for aiming when drawing back an arrow with their right hand. This act significantly hampered their ability to fight effectively.

**7. How did David defeat the Ammonites and Arameans?**

The Chronicler attributes David's victory over the Ammonites and their Aramean allies to David's faithfulness and God's support. Despite being outnumbered, David's forces defeated the alliance, leading to the destruction of the Ammonite capital at Rabah.

**8. How does the Chronicler resolve the apparent contradiction between 2 Samuel and Chronicles regarding who killed Goliath?**

The Chronicler interprets his sources to mean that Elhanan defeated the brother of Goliath, resolving the apparent contradiction in Samuel where it is David who kills Goliath. The Chronicler does not eliminate contradictions in his sources, but offers an alternate interpretation of this event.