

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 14, The Divine Presence 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 14, The Divine Presence, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's session explores the Chronicler's depiction of the temple, emphasizing the Ark's installation as representing God's presence and rule. The Ark's placement in the most holy place symbolizes God's transcendence of time and space, contrasting with the common understanding of dwelling. **The lecture clarifies that "dwelling" signifies God's rule rather than a physical presence.** Konkell highlights the rituals surrounding the temple, stressing their significance lies in understanding their representation of God's creative power. **The chronicler emphasizes the Davidic promise and links it to the temple, pointing to the importance of humility, prayer, and seeking God's face for healing.** He concludes with the idea that the temple represents not God's space, but the place from which he rules.

2. 21 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 14 – 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_Session
14.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 14, The Divine Presence

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Chronicles, Session 14, "The Divine Presence":

Briefing Document: Konkel on Chronicles, Session 14 - The Divine Presence

Source: Excerpts from "Konkel_Chro_EN_Session14.pdf"

Main Themes:

- **The Temple as a Representation of God's Rule, Not His Physical Location:** Konkel emphasizes that the temple, especially the Ark in the most holy place, is not meant to be understood as God's literal dwelling place. Instead, it represents God's rule and reign over creation. He connects this to the ancient practice of kings placing statues in territories to signify their dominion. *"When God says, that's where I dwell, it means this represents my rule."* He directly contradicts the notion that the Hebrews believed in a special physical presence of God being limited to the temple.
- **Holiness and Life as Synonymous:** The lecture stresses the Hebrew understanding of life originating from the holy. Life is seen as a gift from God, not inherent in the earth itself. *"Holiness and life are almost synonymous in the Hebrew mind because life can only come from the holy."* The installation of the Ark is therefore highly significant as a symbol of this life-giving power and God's presence.
- **The Significance of Darkness in Representing God:** The darkness of the most holy place symbolizes God's transcendence of time and space. Konkel explains that because God created time and space, he is not bound by them. *"It represents the fact that God stands outside of time and space. The best way to represent that is in terms of darkness. Because in the darkness, we do not know anything about space, and in the darkness, we don't know anything about time."*
- **Ritual vs. Understanding:** Konkel cautions against viewing temple rituals as having intrinsic power. Rituals are meaningful only when understood within the context of their symbolic representation of God's power and presence. He uses the analogy of a wedding ring ceremony to illustrate how a ritual, devoid of

understanding, becomes meaningless. *"It has significance if you know what it means. But if you don't know what it means, it's just another action."*

- **Humility, Seeking God's Face, and Healing:** Konkel highlights 2 Chronicles 7:14 as a key verse that encapsulates the Chronicler's focus. This verse emphasizes the importance of humility, prayer, and seeking God's face as prerequisites for experiencing God's healing and favor. *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves, will pray, and will seek my face, then will I hear from heaven...and I will heal."* He suggests that these themes—humility, seeking God's face, and divine healing—will be central to understanding the Chronicler's presentation of the kings of Israel.
- **The Davidic Promise:** The Davidic promise is central to the Chronicler's worldview and understanding of the people's identity. Konkel emphasizes that the "sure mercies of David" refer to God's assured mercies *to* David, not mercies performed *by* David. *"As we have seen, the Davidic promise is very, very important to the chronicler. In fact, his whole concept of who they are as a people depends on this Davidic promise. And Isaiah 54 says, God will remember the sure mercies of David."*

Important Ideas/Facts:

- The Ark's placement symbolizes God's rule, not a literal physical dwelling.
- Darkness in the most holy place symbolizes God's transcendence of time and space.
- Temple rituals are only meaningful when understood as representations of God.
- The Chronicler emphasizes humility, prayer, and seeking God's face.
- The Davidic promise is central to the Chronicler's theology.
- The Chronicler draws on Psalm 132 and Isaiah 54 in his presentation of Solomon's prayer.
- The temple represents creation, and the most holy place represents the creator.

In essence, Konkel's lecture excerpt provides a framework for understanding the Chronicler's perspective on the temple. It emphasizes the symbolic nature of the temple and its rituals, highlights the importance of a proper understanding of God's transcendence, and underscores the need for humility and dependence on God.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 14, The Divine Presence

The Divine Presence in Chronicles: A Study Guide

Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences, drawing from the provided text.

1. According to Konkel, why is the placement of the Ark in the temple significant?
2. How does the Chronicler represent the dimension of God's holiness, particularly within the most holy place?
3. What does "dwelling" signify when referring to God and the temple, according to the text?
4. What is the relationship between the sanctuary and creation, as presented in Psalm 134?
5. How does Konkel illustrate the significance of rituals, such as those associated with the temple?
6. How does the Chronicler connect Psalm 132:8-10 with the Ark's placement?
7. What are the "sure mercies of David" that the Chronicler references from Isaiah 54?
8. What three actions does God ask of "my people" in 2 Chronicles 7:14?
9. What question will the chronicler ask of the kings he evaluates?
10. According to the Chronicler, what characterized King Saul?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The placement of the Ark is significant because it represents the relationship between the holy creator and humanity, particularly those who represent God. It symbolizes the divine presence in creation, not as a limitation of God, but as a representation of God's rule.
2. The Chronicler represents the dimension of God's holiness through darkness in the most holy place. Darkness symbolizes God's transcendence of time and space, reminding us that God exists in another dimension beyond our limitations.

3. "Dwelling," when referring to God and the temple, does not signify a physical presence in a specific location. Instead, it signifies God's rule and sovereignty over all the earth, similar to how ancient kings used statues to represent their dominion.
4. Psalm 134 links the sanctuary and creation by stating that the sanctuary represents creation. The most holy place, then, represents the creator, thereby linking all to the temple.
5. Konkel uses the anecdote of forgetting his wedding rings to illustrate the significance of rituals. Rituals, like the wedding ceremony, are not just actions but are imbued with meaning and symbolic weight, emphasizing their importance in representing deeper commitments and truths.
6. The Chronicler connects Psalm 132:8-10 with the Ark's placement, using these verses to emphasize that God's presence and power are now established. It signifies that God is demonstrating his kingship and reign through the Ark's presence in the most holy place.
7. The "sure mercies of David" are not acts of mercy performed by David, but rather the mercies that God assured he would receive. The Chronicler sees God fulfilling these promised mercies through the events unfolding.
8. God asks "my people" to humble themselves, pray, and seek God's face. These actions are essential for experiencing God's healing and favor, and they form a central theme in the Chronicler's evaluation of the kings.
9. The Chronicler will ask whether the kings know how to humble themselves, seek God's face, and experience his healing. These traits are crucial for a king's success.
10. According to the Chronicler, King Saul was ultimately characterized by unfaithfulness. This serves as a warning, as most of the kings were unfaithful as well.

Essay Questions

1. Explore the Chronicler's use of the temple as a symbol of God's presence and rule. How does this portrayal differ from other biblical accounts, and what is the significance of this distinctive perspective?
2. Analyze the Chronicler's understanding of "dwelling" in relation to God and the temple. How does the Chronicler avoid reducing God's holiness, and what does this concept reveal about the Chronicler's theology?
3. Discuss the importance of the Davidic covenant in the Chronicler's narrative. How does the Chronicler connect the Davidic promise with the temple and God's presence, and what implications does this have for understanding Israel's identity?
4. Examine the significance of humility, prayer, and seeking God's face in the Chronicler's portrayal of leadership. How do these qualities relate to the experience of God's healing, and what role do they play in the Chronicler's evaluation of the kings?
5. Compare and contrast the Chronicler's perspective on ritual with the prophetic critique of ritual in the Old Testament. How does the Chronicler balance the importance of ritual with the need for genuine faith and understanding?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Ark of the Covenant:** A sacred chest containing the tablets of the Ten Commandments; symbolizes God's presence and covenant with Israel.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship for the Israelites in Jerusalem, built by Solomon to house the Ark of the Covenant.
- **Most Holy Place:** The innermost sanctuary of the temple, where the Ark of the Covenant was kept, symbolizing God's transcendent holiness.
- **Divine Presence:** The manifestation of God's being and power, often associated with the temple and its rituals.
- **Dwelling:** A term used to describe God's relationship to the temple; signifies God's rule and sovereignty rather than a physical location.
- **Holiness:** The state of being set apart, consecrated, and belonging to God; often associated with purity, righteousness, and transcendence.
- **Davidic Covenant:** God's promise to David that his line would endure forever, establishing a lasting dynasty and kingship in Israel.
- **Humility:** A state of recognizing one's limitations and dependence on God; a crucial virtue for leaders in the Chronicler's perspective.
- **Sure Mercies of David:** The unwavering acts of mercy that God assured David he would receive, not the mercies David showed others.
- **Ritual:** A set of actions performed according to a prescribed order, often with symbolic meaning; can be a means of expressing worship and devotion.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 14, The Divine Presence, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on the Divine Presence in Chronicles

- **What is the significance of the Ark's placement in the temple according to the Chronicler?**
- The placement of the Ark in the Most Holy Place signifies the divine presence in creation, specifically God's rule. It represents the relationship between the holy Creator and humanity, those created in His image. The Ark's location symbolizes God's reign over all the earth, not a physical limitation of God's presence to a specific location.
- **Why is the Most Holy Place represented by darkness?**
- The darkness in the Most Holy Place is a metaphor representing that God is not limited by time or space, dimensions He created. It's a way of symbolizing God's transcendence and otherness, distinct from the created order of light and life.
- **How does the Chronicler understand the concept of God "dwelling" in the temple?**
- The Chronicler clarifies that God "dwelling" in the temple doesn't mean a physical presence is confined there. Instead, it signifies God's rule and authority emanating from that location. Similar to how ancient kings would place statues to represent their rule over a territory, the temple symbolizes God's dominion over all the earth.
- **What is the relationship between the temple and creation, according to the Chronicler?**
- The temple represents creation, while the Most Holy Place represents the Creator. The temple is where the glory and beauty of all creation around us come from God but are represented by the temple.

- **What is the Chronicler trying to emphasize about rituals in the temple?**
- The Chronicler emphasizes that rituals performed in the temple are not inherently powerful in themselves. They are just actions that have significance only if those performing them understand their meaning and what they represent—acknowledgment and worship of God. Without this understanding, they are merely empty actions.
- **How does the Chronicler connect Solomon's petitions to Psalm 132 and Isaiah 54?**
- The Chronicler connects Solomon's petitions to Psalm 132 to highlight David's role in bringing the Ark to its resting place, symbolizing God's power and presence. He links it to Isaiah 54 to emphasize the "sure mercies of David," the promises God assured David, showcasing that God is fulfilling these promises through the temple and the Davidic line.
- **What is the significance of 2 Chronicles 7:14 in the Chronicler's theology?**
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 ("If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves...") is crucial to the Chronicler's theology. It emphasizes the importance of humility, prayer, and seeking God's face. These actions are presented as the means by which God will hear from heaven, forgive sins, and heal the land. The Chronicler uses these concepts to evaluate the kings, examining whether they demonstrate humility and seek God's favor.
- **What is the ultimate criteria by which the Chronicler evaluates the kings of Israel and Judah?**
- The Chronicler evaluates the kings based on their faithfulness to God. He examines whether they humble themselves before God, seek His face, and experience His healing. Ultimately, the Chronicler highlights that unfaithfulness, like that of Saul, leads to negative consequences, while humility and seeking God's face lead to positive outcomes and blessings.