

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 15, Kingdom of Solomon 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 15, Kingdom of Solomon, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's session focuses on the Chronicler's portrayal of Solomon's reign. The Chronicler emphasizes Solomon's kingdom as an ideal, highlighting its grandeur and international influence. The text examines Solomon's economic and diplomatic relationships with regions like Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt, including trade and labor practices. It also discusses the significance of temple worship, particularly the Feast of Tabernacles, and the Queen of Sheba's visit. Ultimately, the Chronicler presents Solomon as a man of peace, embodying an ideal vision of God's kingdom, despite knowing the more complex reality of his reign as described elsewhere.

**2. 19 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 15 – 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
15.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 15, Kingdom of Solomon

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Chronicles, Session 15 - Kingdom of Solomon

This briefing document summarizes the main themes and ideas presented by Dr. August Konkel in Session 15 of his Chronicles series, focusing on the Kingdom of Solomon. The session interprets the Chronicler's portrayal of Solomon, highlighting its purpose within the broader narrative of Chronicles.

Main Themes:

- **God's Kingdom and Blessings:** The Chronicler presents the reign of Solomon to illustrate what it means to be part of God's kingdom and the blessings that come with trusting in God. This isn't unconditional, as future kings will face difficulties.
- **Temple Focus:** The Chronicler heavily emphasizes the temple as a central element of Solomon's reign, reflecting its importance to the Chronicler's message. "The greatest part of his story, therefore, is devoted to the temple..."
- **Idealized Portrayal:** The Chronicler presents an idealized vision of Solomon's reign, showcasing it as a model for what the Kingdom of God should ideally look like, even acknowledging the conflicts Solomon experienced later in life (which are omitted in this section of the text). "The reign of Solomon is depicted in the most ideal fashion to show us what the kingdom of God is meant to look like in the ideal."
- **International Significance:** Solomon's kingdom had significant international influence, with economic and political relationships with neighboring regions like Lebanon and Syria. "He, in the presentation of Chronicles, is not some minor player in world affairs, but rather he truly does represent significance in terms of the presence of God."

Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Relationship with Lebanon and Syria:** The Chronicler highlights the economic relationship between Solomon's kingdom and Lebanon and Syria. The Phoenicians provided timber, skills, and maritime expertise, while Solomon supplied grain.
- **Conscripted Labor (Mass):** The Chronicler presents a different perspective on conscripted labor compared to Kings. According to the Chronicler, Solomon used

primarily non-Israelite residents (gerim) for this labor, a contrast to the book of Kings.

- **Fest of Tabernacles:** The Chronicler emphasizes the worship practices during Solomon's reign, specifically mentioning the Fest of Tabernacles (Sukkot) which coincided with Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement) in the fall.
- **Maritime Activity:** Solomon's kingdom engaged in extensive maritime trade, with Phoenician assistance, reaching as far as the Gulf of Aqaba and beyond. These voyages could take up to three years due to seasonal winds and long distances. "So, really, according to the Chronicler, a ship's journey could be up to three years."
- **Queen of Sheba:** The Chronicler mentions the visit of the Queen of Sheba, highlighting her admiration for Solomon's kingdom and its grandeur.
- **Royal Pageantry:** The Chronicler provides details about Solomon's royal pageantry, including ceremonial shields used to display the nation's military power, and a throne with six steps (seven levels), adorned with lion's heads or cherubim.
- **Tarshish Ships:** These large cargo ships, named after the long distance they could travel, were used for commercial trade. "Tarshish ship was a large cargo ship capable of sailing great distances with a lot of freight."
- **Cavalry and Horse Trade:** Solomon engaged in horse training and trade with Egypt and southern Turkey to build his cavalry.

Quotes:

- "The greatest part of his story, therefore, is devoted to the temple..."
- "He, in the presentation of Chronicles, is not some minor player in world affairs, but rather he truly does represent significance in terms of the presence of God."
- "So, really, according to the Chronicler, a ship's journey could be up to three years."
- "Tarshish ship was a large cargo ship capable of sailing great distances with a lot of freight."
- "The reign of Solomon is depicted in the most ideal fashion to show us what the kingdom of God is meant to look like in the ideal."

Conclusion:

Dr. Konkel's analysis emphasizes the Chronicler's agenda in portraying Solomon as a model king, focusing on his devotion to God, the importance of the temple, and the international reach of his kingdom. This idealized depiction serves to teach the Chronicler's audience about the nature of God's kingdom and the blessings associated with faithfulness.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 15, Kingdom of Solomon

Solomon's Kingdom: A Study Guide to Chronicles, Session 15

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. What is the Chronicler's primary concern when presenting the reign of Solomon?
2. According to the Chronicler, what can those who trust in God expect?
3. What role do Lebanon and Syria play in Solomon's kingdom, according to the Chronicler?
4. What is "the Mass" described by the Chronicler, and how does it relate to Solomon's labor force?
5. When does the Feast of Tabernacles take place, and what other significant religious event occurs around the same time?
6. Describe the scope of Solomon's maritime trade according to the Chronicler.
7. Why would a ship's journey take up to three years?
8. What is the significance of the ceremonial shields described by the Chronicler?
9. What is a Tarshish ship, and what was its purpose in Solomon's kingdom?
10. How does the Chronicler portray the end of Solomon's reign?

Quiz: Answer Key

1. The Chronicler is primarily concerned with the community understanding God, who God is, and what it means to be part of His kingdom in this world.
2. Those who look to God as the life-giver and trust Him can expect that God will care for them and bless them.
3. Lebanon and Syria are trading partners with Solomon. The Phoenicians of Lebanon provide timber, skills, and maritime activities, while Solomon supplies them with food.
4. "The Mass" refers to conscripted labor. The Chronicler depicts Solomon as relying on non-Israelite residents (gerim) for this labor, rather than Israelites themselves.

5. The Feast of Tabernacles takes place in the fall, around October. It occurs in the same month as Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.
6. Solomon's maritime trade was extensive, reaching west, south (Gulf of Aqaba/Red Sea), and east. He conducted trade largely through the Phoenicians.
7. A ship's journey could take up to three years due to the need to wait for favorable seasons and winds to navigate the large distances involved.
8. The ceremonial shields were not used in warfare but were part of royal pageantry to demonstrate the nation's military powers.
9. A Tarshish ship was a large cargo ship designed for long-distance travel and carrying significant freight. Solomon used them for commercial trade.
10. The Chronicler portrays the end of Solomon's reign as a time of grandeur, peace, and shalom, depicting an idealized version of God's kingdom.

Essay Questions

1. How does the Chronicler's portrayal of Solomon differ from the portrayal found in the Book of Kings, and what might explain these differences?
2. Discuss the importance of international relations in the Chronicler's depiction of Solomon's kingdom, focusing on the roles of Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt.
3. Analyze the economic aspects of Solomon's reign as presented by the Chronicler, including taxation (the Mass), trade, and resource management.
4. Examine the Chronicler's emphasis on temple worship and religious observances, such as the Feast of Tabernacles, in the context of Solomon's reign. What purpose do these details serve in the overall narrative?
5. Consider the Chronicler's idealized portrayal of Solomon's kingdom. What theological or political messages might the Chronicler be trying to convey to his audience through this idealization?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the books of Chronicles, who selectively retells the history of Israel, often with a particular theological or political agenda.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship for the Israelites, built by Solomon in Jerusalem. The Chronicler gives it special emphasis.
- **Gerim:** (Hebrew) Non-Israelite residents living among the Israelites. According to the Chronicler, they were often conscripted for labor under Solomon.
- **Feast of Tabernacles:** A Jewish festival celebrated in the fall (around October), commemorating the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness. Also known as Sukkot.
- **Yom Kippur:** (Hebrew) The Day of Atonement, a solemn religious observance focused on purification and atonement for sins.
- **Shalom:** (Hebrew) A state of peace, wholeness, and well-being, often used to describe an ideal relationship with God and others.
- **Mass:** Conscripted labor, a form of taxation where people are required to work for the state.
- **Tarshish Ship:** A large, durable cargo ship used for long-distance trade.
- **Phoenicia:** An ancient region located in modern-day Lebanon, known for its maritime skills and trade.
- **Gulf of Aqaba:** A gulf at the northern tip of the Red Sea, important for Solomon's maritime trade.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 15, Kingdom of Solomon, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Solomon's Kingdom in Chronicles

- **What is the primary concern of the Chronicler in presenting the reign of Solomon?**
- The Chronicler is primarily concerned with helping his community understand God: who God is, and what it means to be part of God's kingdom in the world. He highlights Solomon's reign to illustrate key features of this relationship, particularly focusing on the importance of trusting God and looking to Him as the life-giver. Those who do this can expect to be cared for and blessed.
- **How does the Chronicler portray Solomon's international influence?**
- The Chronicler emphasizes Solomon's significant international presence. Solomon is depicted as a major player in world affairs, not a minor one, representing the presence of God through his interactions with other nations. He established economic and diplomatic relationships with regions such as Lebanon, Syria, and Phoenicia, engaging in trade and resource exchange.
- **What is the "Mass" and how did Solomon use it according to the Chronicler?**
- The "Mass" refers to conscripted labor. Unlike the book of Kings, where Israelites were also subject to conscripted labor, the Chronicler depicts Solomon as exclusively using non-Israelite residents (gerim) for this labor, particularly in projects like building the Temple. These non-Israelites, who had not chosen to become Israelites, often paid the biggest price in terms of taxes and labor.
- **What significance does the Feast of Tabernacles hold in the Chronicler's account of Solomon's reign?**
- The Feast of Tabernacles, celebrated in the fall (around October), is highlighted as an example of worship during Solomon's reign. It is presented alongside the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur) as a time of purification for both the temple and the people, illustrating the importance of ritual and worship in Solomon's kingdom.

- **How did Solomon engage in maritime activities and trade?**
- Solomon engaged in extensive maritime trade through alliances with the Phoenicians. While the Phoenicians conducted trade to the west, Solomon also utilized their expertise on the Gulf of Aqaba (Red Sea) to facilitate trade to the south and east. These voyages could take up to three years due to the need to wait for favorable seasons and winds.
- **What is the significance of the Queen of Sheba's visit in the Chronicler's narrative?**
- The Queen of Sheba's visit emphasizes the grandeur and glory of Solomon's kingdom. Her impression of Solomon's kingdom, which exceeded even her expectations, serves to highlight the power and prosperity that God had bestowed upon Solomon.
- **How does the Chronicler describe Solomon's throne and military displays?**
- The Chronicler provides detailed descriptions of Solomon's throne, including its six steps, which likely meant the platform sat on the seventh step, and the lion heads (or cherubim) on each step. He also describes ceremonial shields, used in pageantry rather than warfare, to showcase the nation's military power, similar to modern military parades.
- **How does the Chronicler depict the end of Solomon's reign?**
- In the Chronicler's version, Solomon's kingdom ends in grandeur and with a positive portrayal. He is presented as a man of peace (shalom), embodying what God asks for. This idealized depiction contrasts with the more conflicted portrayal found in the book of Kings, where Solomon faces issues such as conflict with Jeroboam. The Chronicler focuses on presenting Solomon's reign as an ideal example of God's kingdom.