

# Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 16, Conflicted Kingdom 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 16, Conflicted Kingdom, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Konkell's lecture** analyzes the books of Chronicles, specifically focusing on the period after Solomon's reign and the division of the kingdom. **The lecture** emphasizes the Chronicler's perspective on the conflicts between the kings of Judah and Israel. **Konkell** highlights the Chronicler's focus on Jerusalem as the center of worship and God's kingdom. **He** explores how the Chronicler portrays Rehoboam and Jeroboam's roles in the kingdom's division, suggesting Jeroboam bears more responsibility. **The analysis** covers King Abijah's speech and actions to show how he restored Judah's borders and preserved the kingdom, making him an exemplary figure.

**2. 18 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 16 – 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  
16.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 16, Conflicted Kingdom

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. August Konkel's session on the book of Chronicles, focusing on the "Conflicted Kingdom" period.

#### Briefing Document: Konkel on Chronicles, Session 16 - Conflicted Kingdom

**Subject:** Analysis of Chronicles' portrayal of the period following Solomon's reign, focusing on the division of the kingdom and the reigns of Rehoboam and Abijah.

#### Main Themes:

- **The Ideal vs. Reality:** The Chronicler presents Solomon's reign as an ideal of peaceful, God-ordained rule. However, the reality after Solomon is one of conflict and division, highlighting the discrepancy between God's desires and the actual course of events. As Konkel states, "The Chronicler has presented to us Solomon's kingdom as a kingdom of peace... The actual reality of things is not always what we would want the ideal to be."
- **The Divided Kingdom:** While the Chronicler doesn't explicitly dwell on the division, it's a crucial backdrop. The focus shifts to the Southern Kingdom of Judah and its kings, particularly their relationship with God and their actions in the face of conflict. "But from this point on, after Solomon, what we really have is a story of kings in conflict in one way or another."
- **Judah as the Focal Point:** The Chronicler prioritizes Jerusalem and the temple as the center of worship and representation of God's kingdom. Consequently, the kings of Judah become the primary subjects of his narrative. "So, the Chronicler is interested in Jerusalem as the place of the temple where God is to be worshipped and where his kingdom is to be represented."
- **Consequences of Disobedience and the Importance of Seeking God:** The kings' actions, especially their obedience or disobedience to God, directly impact their kingdoms' fortunes. Humbling oneself and seeking God's face are presented as ways to experience God's mercy.
- **Assigning Blame for the Division:** While Rehoboam's inexperience is acknowledged, the Chronicler places greater blame on Jeroboam for exploiting the situation and prioritizing his own ambition over reconciliation.

- **Abijah as an Exemplary King:** Abijah is presented as a positive example due to his speech emphasizing God's ideal, his restoration of northern borders, and his prevention of further war.

#### Key Ideas and Facts:

- **Solomon's Legacy:** Solomon's reign, despite its initial promise, ended in conflict, leading to the kingdom's division. This is contrasted with the Chronicler's idealised portrayal of his reign..
- **Rehoboam's Role:** Rehoboam's decision to continue harsh taxation and conscripted labor sparked the revolt in the North. The people were discontent and asked "what portion do we have in David? What future do we have in David? What future do we have in Jerusalem?". This is indicative of their experience being contrary to the affirmation of David.
- **Shemaiah's Intervention:** The prophet Shemaiah averted a war between Judah and Israel by reminding them of their brotherhood.
- **Jeroboam's Ambition:** Jeroboam's ambition and pursuit of power are seen as contributing to the permanent division of the kingdom. "Jeroboam is responsible for that division because he took advantage of this situation to make himself king in the north."
- **Abijah's Speech (Chronicles 13:4-12):** This speech is highlighted as a central moment in Chronicles, emphasizing God's will and promises over mere political expediency.
- **Geographical Significance:** The area around Bethel is noted as the dividing line between the two kingdoms, and Abijah's restoration of those borders is significant.
- **Taxation:** The discussion of taxation highlights the onerous nature of the tax burden placed upon the people of Israel at this time.

#### Quotes:

- "The Chronicler has presented to us Solomon's kingdom as a kingdom of peace. He is the one that represents the ideal of what God's rule is supposed to be."
- "But from this point on, after Solomon, what we really have is a story of kings in conflict in one way or another."

- "So, the Chronicler is interested in Jerusalem as the place of the temple where God is to be worshipped and where his kingdom is to be represented."
- "Jeroboam is responsible for that division because he took advantage of this situation to make himself king in the north."
- "That's 100% taxation, which is not something that I've ever experienced."
- "what portion do we have in David? What future do we have in David? What future do we have in Jerusalem?"

**Implications:**

Konkel's analysis suggests that the Chronicler is using these historical accounts to teach about the consequences of disobedience, the importance of seeking God's will, and the centrality of Jerusalem and the temple in God's plan. The Chronicler appears to use historical events to illustrate his theological points and to offer lessons for his readers, many of whom may have been living in the post-exilic period.

## 4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 16, Conflicted Kingdom

### Chronicles: The Conflicted Kingdom (Solomon to Hezekiah) - Study Guide

#### I. Key Concepts and Themes

- **The Ideal vs. Reality:** The Chronicler presents Solomon's reign as an ideal kingdom, a reflection of God's desired rule. However, this contrasts sharply with the reality of the post-Solomon era, marked by conflict and division.
- **The Division of the Kingdom:** While the Chronicler doesn't explicitly dwell on the split between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah, it serves as a crucial backdrop to the subsequent narratives. The causes of the split are explored, with the Chronicler placing greater blame on Jeroboam.
- **The Kings of Judah:** The Chronicler focuses primarily on the kings of Judah and their relationship to Jerusalem and the Temple. Their actions are presented as reflecting the spiritual state of the kingdom and its adherence to God's covenant.
- **Jerusalem as the Center of Worship:** The Chronicler emphasizes Jerusalem as the divinely chosen site for the Temple and the center of true worship. The actions of the kings in relation to the Temple are a key indicator of their faithfulness.
- **War and Conflict:** The post-Solomon period is characterized by constant conflict, both between Israel and Judah and within Judah itself. The Chronicler uses these conflicts to illustrate the consequences of disobedience and the importance of seeking God's favor.
- **Humility and Seeking God's Face:** The Chronicler highlights the importance of humility and seeking God's face as a means of preserving and experiencing God's mercy. This theme is particularly relevant in the context of the conflicted kingdom.
- **Rehoboam's Role and Responsibility:** Rehoboam's inexperience and handling of taxation contributed to the kingdom's division.
- **Abijah's Exemplary Reign:** Abijah is presented as an exemplary king who prevented war and preserved Judah.

#### II. Quiz (Short Answer)

1. How does the Chronicler portray Solomon's kingdom, and why is this significant in understanding the rest of the book?
2. Although the Chronicler never explicitly refers to the division of the kingdom, why must the audience be aware of it?
3. How does the Chronicler view the northern kingdom of Israel compared to Judah, and what is the basis for this distinction?
4. What role does Jerusalem and the Temple play in the Chronicler's narrative of the kings of Judah?
5. What was the cause of the people's discontent during the reign of Rehoboam?
6. What was the name of the prophet who averted war between Israel and Judah after the kingdom divided? What was the message?
7. According to the Chronicler, who bears more responsibility for the division of the kingdom: Rehoboam or Jeroboam? Explain.
8. What was the result of Abijah's reign? How did the Chronicler present Abijah?
9. How does Abijah's speech in Chapter 13 illustrate the importance of God's ideal for the kingdom?
10. How did Rehoboam try to establish himself as Solomon's successor?

### **III. Quiz Answer Key**

1. The Chronicler presents Solomon's kingdom as an ideal of peace and divine rule. This serves as a stark contrast to the subsequent conflicted reigns, emphasizing how far the reality deviated from God's intentions.
2. His readers must be aware of the division to understand the Chronicler's presentation of the reigns that follow, particularly the focus on the kings of Judah and their relationship to the northern kingdom.
3. The Chronicler focuses primarily on Judah, viewing it as the legitimate continuation of David's line and the center of true worship in Jerusalem. Israel, by contrast, is often depicted as a source of conflict and deviation from God's covenant.
4. Jerusalem and the Temple are central to the Chronicler's narrative, representing God's presence and the proper place of worship. The kings' actions towards the Temple reflect their faithfulness and impact the well-being of Judah.

5. The people were discontent because of the heavy taxation and conscripted labor imposed by Solomon, which Rehoboam intended to continue or even increase.
6. The prophet was Shemaiah; his message reminded them that they were brothers and averted war with Israel.
7. The Chronicler places greater responsibility on Jeroboam, arguing that he exploited Rehoboam's inexperience for his own political gain and ambition, ultimately causing the division.
8. Abijah restored the northern borders and Jeroboam died in judgment. The Chronicler presents Abijah as exemplary in how he intervened and prevented war between the two nations.
9. Abijah's speech is one of the most important in Chronicles, illustrating the option of God's ideal and reminding listeners of God's plan for his kingdom.
10. Rehoboam went to Shechem, a big central city in the northern region, in order to have the northern tribes affirm him.

#### **IV. Essay Questions**

1. Analyze the Chronicler's portrayal of the division of the kingdom. To what extent is Rehoboam responsible, and how does the Chronicler use this event to highlight key themes?
2. Compare and contrast the reigns of Rehoboam and Abijah, focusing on their leadership styles, their relationship with God, and their impact on the kingdom of Judah.
3. Discuss the significance of Jerusalem and the Temple in the Chronicler's account of the kings of Judah. How do the kings' actions regarding the Temple reflect their spiritual state and influence the kingdom's destiny?
4. Explore the theme of conflict in the post-Solomon era as presented by the Chronicler. What are the causes of these conflicts, and what lessons does the Chronicler draw from them regarding obedience, humility, and seeking God's favor?
5. Assess the Chronicler's overall purpose in writing about this period of Israelite history. What message is the Chronicler trying to convey to the audience, and how does he use the stories of the kings to achieve this purpose?

## V. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the books of Chronicles, who reinterprets Israel's history from a priestly perspective, emphasizing the importance of the Temple and the Davidic line.
- **Rehoboam:** Solomon's son and successor, whose heavy-handed policies led to the division of the kingdom.
- **Jeroboam:** The first king of the northern kingdom of Israel after the division.
- **Judah:** The southern kingdom, consisting primarily of the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, which remained loyal to the Davidic dynasty.
- **Israel:** The northern kingdom, consisting of the ten tribes that seceded from Judah after Solomon's death.
- **Jerusalem:** The capital city of Judah and the location of the Temple, considered the center of true worship.
- **Temple:** The house of worship in Jerusalem, built by Solomon, which served as the focal point of religious life in Judah.
- **Shemaiah:** The prophet who prevents Rehoboam from attacking the northern kingdom of Israel.
- **Abijah:** Rehoboam's successor as king of Judah, presented by the Chronicler as an exemplary leader who prevented war.
- **Conscripted Labor:** Forced labor imposed by the government, a major source of discontent during Solomon's reign.



## 5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 16, Conflicted Kingdom, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

### FAQ on the Conflicted Kingdom in Chronicles (Konkel)

- **What is the Chronicler's overall presentation of Solomon's kingdom, and how does it contrast with reality?**
- The Chronicler presents Solomon's kingdom as an ideal kingdom of peace, representing what God desires for his rule. However, this contrasts sharply with the actual reality, as Solomon's reign ended with conflict and ultimately led to the division of the kingdom. The Chronicler acknowledges this discrepancy, implying that the ideal is not always achieved in practice.
- **How does the Chronicler portray the period following Solomon's reign?**
- The Chronicler depicts the period after Solomon as a time of conflict and division among the kings. While some kings are viewed favorably, nearly all experience failures and engage in conflict. Notably, the Chronicler highlights the frequent warfare between the northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. The Chronicler focuses primarily on the kings of Judah, as Judah represented Jerusalem, the temple, and the Davidic line.
- **What was the main grievance of the northern tribes that led to the division of the kingdom?**
- The primary grievance of the northern tribes was the harsh levels of taxation and conscripted labor imposed during Solomon's reign. This led them to reject the affirmation of David, reversing their previous loyalty and questioning their stake in David's lineage and Jerusalem.
- **What role does the prophet Shemaiah play in the initial conflict between Rehoboam and the northern tribes?**
- The prophet Shemaiah intervenes to prevent war between Rehoboam and the northern tribes. He reminds them that they are brothers, averting bloodshed and solidifying the division of the kingdom.

- **How does the Chronicler view Rehoboam's role in the division of the kingdom compared to Jeroboam's?**
- While Rehoboam's inexperience in handling the taxation issue contributed to the division, the Chronicler places greater blame on Jeroboam. Jeroboam is seen as exploiting the situation for his own political ambitions, seizing the opportunity to establish himself as king in the north.
- **What is the significance of Abijah's speech in Chronicles 13?**
- Abijah's speech is one of the most important passages in Chronicles because it outlines the ideals of God's kingdom and what God desires for his people. It emphasizes that the issues at stake go beyond mere political well-being and are rooted in God's promises and intentions for his kingdom.
- **How does the Chronicler portray King Abijah?**
- The Chronicler portrays King Abijah as exemplary. He is presented as intervening to prevent war between Israel and Judah, restoring Judah's northern borders (represented by the area around Bethel), and averting the negative consequences of Jeroboam's rule.
- **What is the Chronicler's primary interest in focusing on Jerusalem and the kings of Judah?**
- The Chronicler is primarily interested in Jerusalem as the location of the temple, where God is to be worshipped, and where his kingdom is to be represented. Focusing on the kings of Judah allows the Chronicler to emphasize the Davidic line and the continuation of God's covenant in the southern kingdom.