

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 18, God Fights for Us (Holy War) 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 18, God Fights for Us (Holy War), Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's lecture focuses on King Jehoshaphat in the Book of Chronicles, highlighting God's role in warfare. The lecture contrasts the concept of holy war as God fighting *for* his people, not the other way around. **Jehoshaphat's reign exemplifies this, showing how seeking God and relying on Him leads to victory.** Konkell contrasts Chronicles' portrayal of Jehoshaphat with that in Kings, where he is aligned with Ahab, which reflects a less than ideal approach to kingship. **The lecture uses the example of Jehoshaphat's battle against Moab and Ammon, where he employs Levites and a choir instead of soldiers, to illustrate God's active involvement and ultimate triumph.** This story emphasizes reliance on God over military might.

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 18 – 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
18.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 18, God Fights for Us (Holy War)

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpts of Dr. August Konkel's teaching on Chronicles, Session 18, "God Fights for Us, Holy War," focusing on King Jehoshaphat.

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Chronicles, Session 18: "God Fights for Us, Holy War"

Subject: Analysis of King Jehoshaphat's story in Chronicles as an example of "holy war" where God fights for His people.

Source: Excerpts from "Konkel_Chro_EN_Session18.pdf" (Dr. August Konkel, Chronicles, Session 18, God Fights for Us, Holy War)

Main Themes and Key Ideas:

- **God Fights for Us (Holy War in the Christian Context):** The central theme is the concept of holy war as presented in Chronicles, particularly in the reign of Jehoshaphat. Konkel emphasizes a critical distinction between the Christian understanding of holy war and its contemporary (specifically Islamic) interpretation. In the Christian context, it is *God* who fights for humanity, not humanity fighting for God. "Holy war in Chronicles is one in which God fights for us." This is contrasted with the idea of sacrificing one's life in a war for God. Konkel argues, "You can't do anything for God that's going to help God out. Rather, it is God who can do something for you."
- **Jehoshaphat as an Exemplar:** Jehoshaphat's reign is presented as a prime example of God's active intervention in battle. He demonstrates "that God is the victor in war and that war is not won by the power of your own armies." Konkel highlights Jehoshaphat's actions, like seeking the Lord during the Moab and Ammonite threat, as key to understanding this principle.
- **Importance of Seeking the Lord:** Jehoshaphat's response to the threat from Moab and Ammon illustrates the importance of seeking God's will in times of crisis. His lament and prayer for guidance are central to the Chronicler's message. As Konkel states, "You need to seek the Lord, and that is precisely what Jehoshaphat does. He says there are these armies, and Lord, we seek you."

- **Preparation and Reliance on God:** Konkel points out the apparent tension between relying on God and taking practical measures. Jehoshaphat "led in the instruction of the Torah" and "fortify[ed] the cities and prepare[d] for the defenses." However, relying on God to win your battles for you doesn't mean you don't do the human practical things like being careful to protect yourself and to fortify your cities." The chronicler uses Jehoshaphat's story to show how both reliance on God and practical preparation are needed to face threats and challenges.
- **The Role of the Levites and Worship:** Jehoshaphat prepares for battle not with a conventional army, but with the Levites and a choir. "He does so by assembling not soldiers but the Levites...to present God as the head of the army." This unconventional approach underscores the idea that victory comes through God's intervention, not through military might. Their presence and the music serve to acknowledge God's leadership in the conflict.
- **Comparison to Ahab:** The contrasting relationship between Jehoshaphat and Ahab is discussed. Konkel contrasts Jehoshaphat's positive reign in Judah with Ahab's sins and judgement. Ahab sought victory through human armies, but Jehoshaphat is shown to turn to God. Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab in the battle for Ramoth-Gilead was presented as "inappropriate"
- **Judicial Reform and Loyalty:** Jehoshaphat's reforms within his kingdom, specifically the appointment of judges to uphold the Torah, are also mentioned. He gave a "sermon on how as citizens, they need to be loyal to their king, they need to be loyal to society, and they need to be loyal to God."
- **Examples of God Fighting for Us:** Jehoshaphat's victory over Moab and Ammon is presented as an example of God fighting for us, and Konkel also references the battle of Jericho as a primary example: "We could go back to Jericho and the Israelites surrounding Jericho and the priests leading with the ark as they marched around Jericho...when the final day comes, and they shout, the walls fall, and the city becomes vulnerable to the Israelites. That's without question a primary example of God fighting for us."

Key Quote:

"But that's not the point in Chronicles. In Chronicles, rather, we come to the concept of holy war. Holy war in Chronicles is one in which God fights for us."

Implications:

The lecture aims to provide an understanding of holy war according to the Bible, focusing on the concept of God fighting on behalf of His people. By understanding the concept of holy war, we can learn how to follow the teachings of the Bible, particularly in the face of adversity.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 18, God Fights for Us (Holy War)

Chronicles: God Fights for Us, Holy War - Study Guide

Key Concepts & Themes

- **Holy War in Chronicles:** Understand the Chronicler's unique perspective on holy war, emphasizing God's role as the primary actor. Differentiate this from the concept of "I fight for God" often found in other contexts.
- **Jehoshaphat's Reign:** Analyze the Chronicler's positive portrayal of King Jehoshaphat and the reasons behind it. Consider his actions and their significance within the context of the book.
- **Seeking the Lord:** Recognize the importance of seeking the Lord in times of crisis, as exemplified by Jehoshaphat's actions and the prophet's words.
- **Reliance on God vs. Practical Action:** Explore the tension between trusting in God for victory and taking practical steps for defense and preparation.
- **The Role of Levites and Worship:** Understand the role of the Levites and worship in Jehoshaphat's approach to warfare, particularly the use of music and choirs.
- **Comparison with Kings:** Note the differences between the Chronicler's account of Jehoshaphat's reign and the account in the Book of Kings, particularly regarding Ahab.
- **Examples of God Fighting for Us:** Identify examples in the Old Testament of God fighting for his people.

Quiz

Answer the following questions in 2-3 sentences each.

1. How does the Chronicler's concept of holy war differ from the more common understanding of "I fight for God"?
2. What positive aspects of Jehoshaphat's reign does the Chronicler highlight?
3. Why was Ramoth-Gilead a strategically important location?
4. What role did music and the Levites play in Jehoshaphat's battle strategy against Moab and Ammon?

5. How did Jehoshaphat demonstrate his reliance on God when faced with the alliance of Moab and Ammon?
6. What is the significance of Jehoshaphat's judicial reforms?
7. How does the Chronicler portray Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab?
8. What message did the prophet Ezekiel deliver to Jehoshaphat in response to the threat from Moab and Ammon?
9. In what ways did Jehoshaphat fortify his kingdom?
10. What other example from the Old Testament is used to illustrate the concept of God fighting for us?

Quiz Answer Key

1. In the Chronicler's view, holy war is when God actively intervenes and fights on behalf of His people. This contrasts with the idea of individuals fighting for God's cause, often involving self-sacrifice. The Chronicler emphasizes God's power and initiative in delivering victory.
2. The Chronicler emphasizes Jehoshaphat's leadership in instructing the Torah, his efforts to fortify cities, and his establishment of judicial reforms based on the Torah. These actions demonstrate his commitment to both spiritual and practical aspects of governance.
3. Ramoth-Gilead was a strategically important Israelite fortification located on the east side of the Jordan River in Gilead. Its location made it vulnerable to Aramean incursions, and control over it was essential for maintaining Israelite territory and security in the region.
4. Music and the Levites were used to present God as the leader of the army, signaling that reliance upon God leads to victory. They marched before the army, singing praises and expressing faith in God's power to deliver them from their enemies.
5. Jehoshaphat sought the Lord in prayer, acknowledging the threat posed by the Moabite and Ammonite alliance and asking for divine guidance. He then gathered the people and led them in worship and supplication, demonstrating his reliance on God's intervention.
6. Jehoshaphat's judicial reforms, including the appointment of judges in fortified towns to administer the Torah, underscored his commitment to justice and

righteousness in his kingdom. They ensured that the laws of God were upheld and that citizens were treated fairly.

7. The Chronicler presents Jehoshaphat's alliance with Ahab as inappropriate. It was viewed negatively as it relied on human armies to defeat the Arameans instead of trusting in God.
8. The prophet Ezekiel told Jehoshaphat that the battle belonged to God and that God would fight for them. This affirmed the concept of holy war in Chronicles, where God takes the initiative in delivering victory.
9. Jehoshaphat fortified his kingdom by strengthening the defenses of its cities. This included constructing walls, towers, and other fortifications to protect against enemy attacks.
10. The example of the Israelites surrounding Jericho and the walls falling down is used to illustrate the concept of God fighting for us. In this instance, the Israelites followed God's instructions and the walls collapsed.

Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the portrayal of Jehoshaphat in the Books of Kings and Chronicles. What are the key differences, and what might account for these different perspectives?
2. Discuss the Chronicler's concept of "holy war." How does this concept shape the narrative of Jehoshaphat's reign and his victory over Moab and Ammon?
3. Analyze the tension between reliance on God and practical preparation in the Chronicler's account of Jehoshaphat's reign. How does Jehoshaphat balance these two aspects, and what does this reveal about the Chronicler's theology?
4. Explore the role of music and worship in the narrative of Jehoshaphat's victory over Moab and Ammon. What is the significance of the Levitical choir leading the army, and how does this contribute to the Chronicler's message?
5. How does the Chronicler use the story of Jehoshaphat to teach about the importance of seeking the Lord in times of crisis? What lessons can be drawn from Jehoshaphat's example for contemporary readers?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the Books of Chronicles, known for their particular theological perspective and emphasis on specific themes.
- **Holy War:** In the context of Chronicles, a war in which God fights on behalf of his people, delivering victory through divine intervention.
- **Jehoshaphat:** King of Judah, portrayed positively in Chronicles as a ruler who sought the Lord and trusted in God for victory.
- **Ahab:** King of Israel, whose alliance with Jehoshaphat is viewed negatively in Chronicles due to Ahab's idolatry and reliance on human power.
- **Levites:** Members of the tribe of Levi, responsible for temple worship, teaching the law, and serving as judges.
- **Moab and Ammon:** Neighboring kingdoms that formed an alliance against Jehoshaphat, representing a significant military threat.
- **Torah:** The first five books of the Hebrew Bible, also known as the Pentateuch or the Law of Moses.
- **Ramoth-Gilead:** An Israelite city on the east side of the Jordan River, often contested by the Arameans, and a point of conflict in the narrative.
- **Arameans:** A people from Aram (Syria), who were often in conflict with Israel and Judah.
- **Prophet:** An individual who speaks on behalf of God, delivering messages of warning, encouragement, or instruction.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 18, God Fights for Us (Holy War), Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Jehoshaphat and Holy War in Chronicles

- **What is the Chronicler's primary focus when presenting King Jehoshaphat?**
- The Chronicler emphasizes Jehoshaphat as a king who demonstrates that God is the victor in war and that relying on God, rather than solely on military might, leads to success. The Chronicler highlights the concept of holy war, where God fights for his people.
- **How does the Chronicler's portrayal of holy war differ from the contemporary understanding of "holy war," particularly in the Islamic context?**
- The Chronicler presents holy war as God fighting *for* his people, while the modern conception of "holy war" often implies individuals fighting and sacrificing *for* God. The Chronicler emphasizes God's power and initiative, not human effort to aid God.
- **In what ways did Jehoshaphat demonstrate his faithfulness and prepare his kingdom?**
- Jehoshaphat demonstrated faithfulness by prioritizing the instruction of the Torah, fortifying cities for defense, collecting tribute to support his kingdom, and appointing judges to ensure the Torah was followed. These actions show a balance between relying on God and taking practical measures.
- **What was Jehoshaphat's relationship with King Ahab, and how is it viewed in Chronicles?**
- Jehoshaphat allied with Ahab, but the Chronicler does not portray this alliance favorably. The alliance involved Jehoshaphat assisting Ahab in wars, which was seen as relying on human armies instead of God.
- **What challenge did Jehoshaphat face toward the end of his reign, and how did he respond?**
- Jehoshaphat faced an alliance of Moab and Ammon threatening his kingdom. He responded by seeking the Lord in prayer and acknowledging his dependence on God for victory.

- **How did Jehoshaphat prepare for the battle against Moab and Ammon?**
- Instead of solely assembling soldiers, Jehoshaphat assembled Levites and a choir to lead the army. This demonstrates a reliance on God and portrays God as the head of the army. The Levites and choir went ahead of the soldiers singing and praising God.
- **What was the outcome of the battle against Moab and Ammon, and what lesson does it illustrate?**
- The armies of Moab and Ammon turned on each other and defeated themselves. This outcome illustrates that relying on God and seeking Him leads to victory, as opposed to relying on human strength.
- **Besides Jehoshaphat's story, what other example is given to illustrate the concept of God fighting for His people?**
- The fall of Jericho is cited as another prime example of God fighting for his people. The Israelites, led by priests with the ark, marched around the city, and when they shouted, the walls fell, demonstrating God's intervention.