

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 19, Preservation of the Promise 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 19, Preservation of the Promise, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's session 19 on Chronicles, titled "Preservation of the Promise," explores the reigns of Jehoshaphat's successors and the threats to the Davidic line. The session focuses on the alliance between Jehoshaphat and Ahab, the king of the north, and the negative consequences that arose through Jehoram's reign. **The impact of Ahab's daughter, Athaliah, and her influence on Jehoram are examined, including her purge of the royal house.** The text also highlights a letter from Elisha warning Jehoram against the practices of the north. **The narrative then moves to Ahaziah's brief reign and the near extinction of David's descendants, emphasizing God's intervention to preserve the lineage.**

**2. 14 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 19 – 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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on 19.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 19, Preservation of the Promise

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Chronicles, Session 19 - Preservation of the Promise

Subject: Analysis of Dr. August Konkel's Session 19 lecture on Chronicles, focusing on the reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah and the threat to the Davidic line.

Overview:

This briefing analyzes Dr. August Konkel's lecture (Session 19) on the books of Chronicles, specifically addressing the reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah, and the near-extinction of the Davidic line. Konkel highlights the negative consequences of Jehoshaphat's alliance with the northern kingdom of Israel, particularly through the marriage of his son Jehoram to Athaliah, the daughter of Ahab. The lecture emphasizes the chronicler's focus on God's preservation of the Davidic dynasty despite significant threats.

Key Themes and Ideas:

- **Consequences of Jehoshaphat's Alliance:** Konkel emphasizes that while Jehoshaphat's reign ended positively, his alliance with Ahab of the northern kingdom of Israel had dire long-term consequences. "We noted that there was an alliance between Jehoshaphat and Ahab, the king in the north, and the result of that alliance was that the daughter of King Ahab, Athaliah, had married the son of Jehoshaphat. This was kind of all part of a political alliance." This political alliance, although seemingly beneficial at the time, brought the influence of the northern kingdom, including its idolatrous practices, into Judah, posing a major threat to the Davidic lineage.
- **The Reign of Jehoram:** Jehoram's reign is presented as a stark contrast to his father's, marked by the influence of his wife, Athaliah, and his alignment with the northern kingdom's practices. Konkel points out that "from the viewpoint of the kingdom of God, this was a very negative and bad thing...it certainly reflects on the reign of his son, Jehoram." Key aspects of his reign include:

- **The Purge by Athaliah:** Athaliah's role in purging the royal house is highlighted as a major threat to the Davidic line. "So, the first thing we see in the reign of Jehoram is the purge of the royal house by Athaliah, the queen, who was the daughter of Jezebel."
- **Subjugation of Edom:** Jehoram's success in subjugating Edom, possibly with Israel's help, is mentioned, but it is overshadowed by the more significant spiritual and political issues.
- **Elisha's Letter:** The inclusion of a letter from Elisha warning Jehoram is described as "one of the most intriguing things in the book of Chronicles." This letter underscores the prophet's condemnation of Jehoram's embrace of northern practices. Konkel clarifies the apparent chronological discrepancy by explaining the concept of co-regency: "There were often two kings ruling at the same time for very good reasons. A king would appoint his son as a co-regent while he was still reigning."
- **The Reign of Ahaziah:** Ahaziah's short reign (one year) and his alliance with Israel further perpetuate the negative influence of the north. He is killed during a visit to Ahab's son, reinforcing the consequences of the alliance.
- **The Threat to the Davidic Line and God's Intervention:** Konkel emphasizes the near-extinction of the Davidic line during this period. "So, this is the point at which the threat against the descendants of David in the land of Judah comes close to being at an end." Despite this threat, the chronicler highlights God's promise to preserve the Davidic line. "But as the chronicler shall show us, there is an intervention by God and a lamp is preserved for David." This preservation is a central theme in Chronicles, demonstrating God's faithfulness to His covenant with David.

Key Quotes:

- "While Jehoshaphat's reign ended on a very positive note with his defeat of the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Edom, there was a more negative aspect to everything that was happening, which becomes more evident in the account of his son's reign."
- "From a political point of view, Israel was the more powerful nation, and it sort of made sense that Jehoshaphat would be in alliance with Israel. But from the viewpoint of the kingdom of God, this was a very negative and bad thing..."

- "So, this is the point at which the threat against the descendants of David in the land of Judah comes close to being at an end."
- "But as the chronicler shall show us, there is an intervention by God and a lamp is preserved for David."

Conclusion:

Dr. Konkel's lecture emphasizes the negative consequences of Jehoshaphat's alliance with the northern kingdom on the subsequent reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah. The lecture highlights the acute threat posed to the Davidic line and reinforces the central theme of Chronicles: God's faithfulness in preserving His promise to David, even in the face of significant challenges. The preservation of the Davidic "lamp" serves as a testament to God's sovereign control and commitment to his covenant.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 19, Preservation of the Promise

Chronicles: Session 19 Study Guide - Preservation of the Promise

Quiz

1. What was the political alliance that negatively impacted Judah during the reign of Jehoram, and who were the key players involved?
2. Explain the significance of Athaliah's role in the events following Jehoshaphat's reign.
3. How did Jehoram attempt to maintain control over Edom, and what was the strategic importance of Ezion-Geber in this context?
4. What is intriguing about the letter from Elisha to Jehoram, considering the timeline presented in the Book of Kings?
5. Explain the concept of co-regency and why Jehoshaphat might have appointed Jehoram as king during his own reign.
6. What warning did Elisha give to Jehoram, and what consequences did Jehoram face as a result of ignoring this warning?
7. How long did Ahaziah reign, and what event led to his death?
8. Who was Jehu, and what role did he play in the events described in this session?
9. Explain the threat against the descendants of David and how close it came to succeeding, according to the Chronicler.
10. What is the significance of the phrase "God shall preserve a lamp" for David in the context of Chronicles?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The political alliance was between Jehoshaphat of Judah and Ahab of Israel. The negative impact stemmed from the marriage of Athaliah, Ahab's daughter, to Jehoram, Jehoshaphat's son, which introduced Northern religious and political practices into Judah.
2. Athaliah, daughter of Jezebel and wife of Jehoram, purged the royal house in an attempt to eliminate David's descendants and seize control of the throne. Her actions brought pagan influences into Judah and threatened the Davidic line.

3. Jehoram attempted to maintain control over Edom by subjugating them, likely with assistance from the Northern Kingdom of Israel. The port at Ezion-Geber was strategically important as a shipping center, providing economic benefits.
4. The intriguing aspect is that according to the Book of Kings, Elisha was translated to heaven during Jehoshaphat's reign. Yet, the Chronicles presents Elisha as still alive and sending a letter to Jehoram, Jehoshaphat's son.
5. Co-regency is when a king appoints his son to rule alongside him while he is still alive. Jehoshaphat likely appointed Jehoram due to the threat posed by Moab and Ammon, ensuring a smooth succession in case of his death or incapacitation.
6. Elisha warned Jehoram against following the ways of his mother Athaliah and adopting the practices of the Northern Kingdom, as this was contrary to God's will. As a result, Jehoram experienced raids by the Philistines and Arabs, and suffered an agonizing illness leading to his death.
7. Ahaziah reigned for only one year. He was killed while visiting Jehoram of Israel (Ahab's son) who was recovering from wounds sustained in battle, during a time when Jehu was carrying out God's judgment on the house of Ahab.
8. Jehu was appointed by God to intervene and end the influence of the descendants of Omri, particularly Ahab and his sons, who had led Israel astray. He was responsible for carrying out God's judgment on the house of Ahab, including the death of Ahaziah of Judah who was related to them.
9. The threat involved Athaliah's attempt to eliminate all heirs to the throne of Judah, potentially allowing the Northern Kingdom of Israel to completely take over the south. This threat came close to succeeding, endangering the Davidic line.
10. The phrase signifies God's promise to maintain a descendant of David on the throne of Judah, ensuring the continuation of the Davidic dynasty. It highlights God's faithfulness in preserving the lineage through which the Messiah would eventually come.

Essay Questions

1. Discuss the chronicler's perspective on the alliance between Jehoshaphat and Ahab, and how it impacted the reign of Jehoram.
2. Analyze the role of divine intervention in the preservation of the Davidic line, as depicted in Chronicles, using specific examples from the text.
3. Compare and contrast the portrayals of Jehoram in the Book of Kings and the Book of Chronicles, focusing on the reasons for the differences.
4. Examine the significance of the phrase "God shall preserve a lamp" for David within the theological framework of Chronicles.
5. Discuss the political and religious factors that contributed to the instability and violence during the reigns of Jehoram and Ahaziah.

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Athaliah:** Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, and wife of Jehoram of Judah. She attempted to seize the throne and eliminate the Davidic line after her son Ahaziah's death.
- **Jehoshaphat:** King of Judah known for his initial righteousness but also his alliance with Ahab of Israel.
- **Jehoram (of Judah):** Son of Jehoshaphat, who followed the ways of the Northern Kingdom due to the influence of his wife, Athaliah.
- **Jehoram (of Israel):** Son of Ahab and king of Israel, contemporary with Jehoram of Judah.
- **Ahab:** King of Israel, notorious for his wickedness and the influence of his wife, Jezebel.
- **Elisha:** Prophet of God who sent a letter of warning to Jehoram of Judah.
- **Ahaziah:** Son of Jehoram and Athaliah, and king of Judah for one year.
- **Jehu:** Appointed by God to overthrow the house of Ahab in Israel.
- **Ezion-Geber:** A port city that held economic and strategic value.
- **Co-regency:** The practice of a king appointing his son to rule alongside him during his lifetime.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 19, Preservation of the Promise, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

FAQ on Chronicles, Session 19: Preservation of the Promise

- **Why does the chronicler present Jehoram's reign so negatively compared to his father Jehoshaphat's?**
- While Jehoshaphat formed an alliance with the northern kingdom of Israel, which brought political advantages, his son Jehoram's reign was negatively impacted by this relationship. Jehoram's marriage to Athaliah (daughter of Ahab and Jezebel) led to the introduction of northern religious practices into Judah, which the chronicler viewed as contrary to God's will. This alliance ultimately jeopardized the Davidic line.
- **What role did Athaliah play in the events following Jehoshaphat's reign?**
- Athaliah, daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, wielded significant influence as queen. She purged the royal house in an attempt to eliminate all heirs to the throne of David, representing a major threat to the Davidic line and Judah's independence.
- **How did Jehoram's reign impact Edom, and what was the significance of Ezion-Geber?**
- Jehoram managed to subjugate Edom, likely with the assistance of his northern ally Israel, reasserting control over the important port of Ezion-Geber. This port served as a crucial shipping center and was strategically important for trade and economic control.
- **What is the significance of the letter from Elisha to Jehoram, given the apparent timeline discrepancy?**
- The letter from Elisha to Jehoram, despite Elisha's earlier "translation to heaven" in the Book of Kings, highlights Jehoram's deviation from God's will and the consequences of following the practices of the northern kingdom brought by his mother Athaliah. The apparent chronological issue is explained by the possibility of Jehoram serving as a co-regent with his father, Jehoshaphat, during Elisha's lifetime.

- **What were the consequences of Jehoram's actions, as outlined in Elisha's warning?**
- As a result of Jehoram following in the ways of his mother, Athaliah, and bringing the practices of the Northern Kingdom to Judah, he experienced raids by the Philistines and Arabs. These raids diminished his rule, and he ultimately died of an agonizing illness, signifying the negative consequences of his choices.
- **How did Ahaziah's reign further contribute to the instability of Judah?**
- Ahaziah, the son of Jehoram and Athaliah, reigned for only one year and was involved in an alliance with Israel against Hazael. He was killed while visiting Ahab, who was recovering from wounds received in battle. Ahaziah's short reign and death created a power vacuum.
- **Why was the period after Ahaziah's death considered a critical threat to the Davidic line?**
- Following Ahaziah's death, there was a plot to eliminate all heirs to the throne, which threatened to bring an end to the Davidic line. This would have paved the way for the northern kingdom to exert complete control over the south.
- **What does the phrase "God shall preserve a lamp, a light, that is the house of David" mean in the context of this historical period?**
- The phrase refers to God's promise to maintain the lineage of David and ensure that his descendants would continue to rule. Despite the numerous threats and attempts to eliminate the Davidic line, the chronicler emphasizes that God intervened to preserve it, ensuring the fulfillment of His promise.