

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 20, Punishment of Pride 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 20, Punishment of Pride, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's session on Chronicles focuses on the reigns of Jehoash and Amaziah, highlighting the consequences of pride and unfaithfulness. Initially, Jehoash's rule prospers under the guidance of a priest, marked by temple restoration and covenant renewal. However, upon the priest's death, Jehoash turns away from God, leading to internal conflict and the king's assassination. Similarly, Amaziah's reign starts well but ends disastrously due to his self-reliance and war against Israel. The Chronicler uses these examples to illustrate that trusting in oneself rather than God leads to downfall. Ultimately, Konkell emphasizes the importance of humility and faithfulness to avoid divine judgment.

**2. 13 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of
Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 20 – 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
20.mp3**

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 20, Punishment of Pride

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 20, "Punishment of Pride, Jehoash":

Briefing Document: Konkel on Chronicles, Session 20 - Punishment of Pride (Jehoash)

Overview:

Dr. Konkel's session focuses on the reigns of Jehoash and Amaziah, highlighting them as cautionary tales against pride and unfaithfulness to God. The core theme is that success and stability are dependent on humility before God and adherence to His covenant, while reliance on personal power and secular alliances leads to judgment and disaster. The Chronicler's perspective is that God is ultimately in control, and the fate of Judah's kings reflects their relationship with Him.

Main Themes & Ideas:

1. **The Importance of Faithfulness and Humility:** The defining factor in a king's success is his faithfulness to God. Jehoash's initial success is attributed to the guidance of the priest, representing faithfulness to the covenant. "Jehoash's reign, as long as he is under the director of the priest, is very, very good." However, once Jehoash acts independently, "the judgment of pride really comes about because Jehoash does not humble himself before God." Amaziah similarly falters when he trusts in his own strength and forms alliances against God's will.
2. **The Consequences of Pride and Unfaithfulness:** Konkel emphasizes that pride and turning away from God inevitably lead to negative consequences, both personally and for the kingdom. Jehoash's pride results in the compromise of the temple, the murder of Zechariah, and ultimately his own assassination. "Joash is killed by a conspiracy within his own court." Amaziah's pride leads to a disastrous war with Israel and humiliation for Judah: "Amaziah's reign ends in a complete disaster, with him held hostage by a foreign power."
3. **The Chronicler's Perspective: God's Sovereignty:** The Chronicler's primary concern isn't social or political factors, but rather the spiritual state of the kings and their relationship with God. Even amidst court conspiracies and geopolitical shifts, God remains in control: "He knows that this isn't the throne of Joash or the

throne of Amaziah. This is the throne of God." God's purpose to redeem his people will be fulfilled.

4. **The Preservation of the Davidic Line:** The early part of Jehoash's story emphasizes the miraculous preservation of the Davidic line from Athaliah's attempt to exterminate it. This preservation is seen as a significant event, a "restitution of the covenant that David had with God and with the people."
5. **The Temple and Worship:** The state of the temple and the purity of worship are key indicators of a king's faithfulness. The restoration of the temple under Jehoash's early reign symbolizes his commitment to God. Conversely, the neglect and compromise of the temple after the priest's death reflect Jehoash's spiritual decline.
6. **The Temptation of Secular Power and Alliances:** Both Jehoash and Amaziah succumb to the temptation of seeking power through secular means. Jehoash acts "as any secular king would act," compromising the temple. Amaziah seeks alliances with Israel to further his own territorial ambitions, repeating past mistakes that led to disaster. The lesson is that these worldly pursuits are ultimately futile without God's blessing.

Key Events and Figures:

- **Athaliah:** The queen who attempted to wipe out the Davidic line.
- **Jehoash:** The king whose reign starts well under the guidance of a priest but declines into pride and unfaithfulness after the priest's death.
- **The Priest:** He saves Jehoash as an infant and guides him, representing faithfulness to God's covenant.
- **Zechariah:** The priest's son, who warns Jehoash and is murdered for his prophecy.
- **Amaziah:** Jehoash's son, whose reign also ends in disaster due to pride and reliance on secular power.
- **The Arameans:** A regional power seeking to expand their influence, contributing to the crises faced by Jehoash.

Illustrative Quotes:

- "This became the most significant event because it was a preservation of the dynasty of David. And it is a restitution of the covenant that David had with God and with the people." (On the preservation of Jehoash).

- "When you don't understand the kingdom of God, when you start to make this your kingdom, when you don't understand that what you are to represent is the kingdom of God, when you think that you rule by your power and by all of your skills, then you suddenly turn to atrocious kinds of acts that, looking on from the outside, are just unthinkable." (On the dangers of prioritizing earthly power over God's will).
- "Unfaithfulness always has its price." (Konkel's succinct summary of the overarching lesson).
- "That is the wrong approach to things. So here are two examples that the Chronicler gives us on the negative side. Those who don't humble themselves, at least at the end of their reign, they don't humble themselves." (The chronicler emphasizes the need for humility.)

Conclusion:

Konkel's analysis of Jehoshaphat and Amaziah serves as a stark reminder of the importance of humility, faithfulness, and recognizing God's sovereignty in all aspects of life, especially leadership. The Chronicler's presentation underscores that true and lasting success comes from aligning with God's will, not from relying on personal power or secular alliances.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 20, Punishment of Pride

Jehoash and Amaziah: A Study Guide on Pride and Punishment in Chronicles

Quiz:

1. What was Athaliah's ambition after the death of her son, Ahaziah, and how was it prevented?
2. How did the priest ensure Jehoash's safety and coronation as king?
3. What covenant was made between the priest, the people, and Jehoash, and why was it significant?
4. Describe the initial positive changes and reforms that took place in Judah under Jehoash's rule with the high priest's guidance.
5. What specific action did Jehoash take regarding the temple that demonstrated his initial commitment to its restoration?
6. What prompted Zechariah to confront Jehoash, and what was Jehoash's response?
7. According to the Chronicler, why did Jehoash commit the atrocious act of killing Zechariah?
8. What was the Arameans' primary interest in attacking the territory belonging to Jehoash?
9. How did Amaziah initially consolidate his power, and what compromise did he make in the process?
10. According to the Chronicler, what is the ultimate lesson to be learned from the reigns of Jehoash and Amaziah?

Quiz Answer Key:

1. Athaliah's ambition was to exterminate all the descendants of David. This was prevented by a priest who rescued Jehoash, a descendant of David, and hid him.
2. The priest carefully organized security around the temple, assigning specific duties to gatekeepers and others to protect the boy who was to become king.

3. The priest, the people, and the king entered into a covenant, which was significant because it preserved the dynasty of David and restored the covenant that David had with God and the people.
4. There was a purification of the temple, and funds were raised to repair the temple. Jehoash created a collection box for the people to give offerings to support the temple.
5. Jehoash created a collection box that was placed at the gate of the temple so that people could give offerings specifically to support the temple's restoration.
6. Zechariah confronted Jehoash about his negligence of the temple and the reversal of all the good that had previously taken place, warning of God's judgment. Jehoash had Zechariah killed.
7. The Chronicler would argue that Jehoash's actions stemmed from a failure to understand the Kingdom of God. He started to believe he ruled by his own power and skills, not understanding that he should be representing God's kingdom.
8. The Arameans were primarily interested in gaining access to the port of Eziongeber because of the economic advantages and opportunities for international trade it provided.
9. Amaziah consolidated his power through war, but he compromised by engaging in warfare over trade routes.
10. The Chronicler emphasizes that trusting in oneself and trying to establish one's own power and kingdom will not work. Unfaithfulness always has its price, and those who do not humble themselves will face demise.

Essay Questions:

1. Analyze the role of the high priest in both the positive and negative phases of Jehoash's reign. How did his presence (or absence) shape the events and outcomes described by the Chronicler?
2. Discuss the Chronicler's perspective on the relationship between political decisions and spiritual consequences in the reigns of Jehoash and Amaziah. Provide specific examples from the text to support your argument.
3. Compare and contrast the sins of Jehoash and Amaziah, highlighting the root causes of their downfalls according to the Chronicler's interpretation of events.
4. Explore the significance of the covenant in the Chronicler's narrative. How does the concept of covenant inform the Chronicler's understanding of kingship, obedience, and divine judgment?
5. Examine the Chronicler's purpose in presenting these accounts of Jehoash and Amaziah. What lessons or warnings is the Chronicler attempting to convey to their audience, and how do these lessons relate to the historical context in which the Chronicler was writing?

Glossary of Key Terms:

- **Chronicles:** Books in the Hebrew Bible that retell the history of Israel and Judah, often with a focus on the Davidic dynasty and the importance of temple worship.
- **Jehoash:** King of Judah who initially ruled righteously under the guidance of a priest but later turned away from God and was punished.
- **Athaliah:** The queen of Judah who attempted to exterminate the descendants of David.
- **Amaziah:** Son of Jehoash and king of Judah who initially had some success but ultimately failed due to his pride and disobedience.
- **Ahab:** The wicked King of Israel who married Jezebel and promoted the worship of Baal.
- **Jehoshaphat:** King of Judah who allied himself with Ahab of Israel.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or promise, often between God and his people, outlining responsibilities and expectations.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship for the Israelites, located in Jerusalem, where sacrifices and ceremonies were performed.
- **Levites:** Members of the tribe of Levi, who were responsible for serving in the temple and assisting the priests.
- **Arameans:** A people group from Syria who were frequently at war with Israel and Judah.
- **Eziongeber:** A port city on the Red Sea that was strategically important for trade.
- **Yehud:** The Aramaic name for the Persian province of Judah.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 20, Punishment of Pride, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Here is an 8-question FAQ based on the provided source:

FAQ: Chronicles, Session 20 - Punishment of Pride

- **What was the significance of Athaliah's attempt to exterminate the descendants of David?**
- Athaliah's attempt to exterminate the descendants of David was an attempt to fundamentally alter the rule of Judah, as she sought to replace the Davidic line with her own. The prevention of this extermination, and the subsequent rescue of Jehoash, was a crucial event in preserving the Davidic dynasty, which held significant covenantal importance with God and the people of Judah.
- **How did the priest play a vital role in the early reign of Jehoash?**
- The priest was instrumental in preserving Jehoash from Athaliah's massacre and then orchestrating his coronation at the age of seven. Under the priest's guidance, Jehoash's reign was initially characterized by covenant renewal, purification of worship, and temple restoration. The priest acted as a mentor and guide, ensuring Jehoash adhered to the principles of the covenant with God.
- **What was the collection box used for during Jehoash's reign, and how effective was it?**
- The collection box was a fund established by Jehoash to support the repairs and restoration of the temple. It was placed at the temple gate for worshippers to contribute offerings specifically for temple maintenance. The source indicates that this initiative was highly successful, generating more than enough funds to fully restore the temple.
- **What caused the downfall of Jehoash after the priest's death?**
- After the death of the priest, Jehoash abandoned his previous adherence to God's ways and began to act as a secular king. He compromised the temple with foreign influence and neglected his religious duties, leading to the judgment of pride. His actions and decisions after the priest's death resulted in the downfall of his reign.

- **Who was Zechariah, and what happened to him?**
- Zechariah was the son of the high priest who had protected and mentored Jehoash in his early life. Zechariah confronted Jehoash about his negligence of the temple and the reversal of the good that had previously been achieved. In response, Jehoash had Zechariah killed.
- **How did the Aramean attacks impact Jehoash's reign, and what was the ultimate outcome?**
- The Aramean attacks, particularly their interest in the port of Eziongeber, exposed weaknesses in Jehoash's kingdom and created dissent within his court. The combination of internal resentment, likely stemming from Jehoash's actions like killing Zechariah, and external pressures led to a conspiracy within his own court, ultimately resulting in Jehoash's assassination.
- **How did Amaziah follow a similar pattern to Jehoash, and what were the consequences?**
- Like Jehoash, Amaziah's reign had its positive aspects but ultimately ended in disaster because he didn't fully adhere to the Chronicler's principles. He trusted in his own power, especially in his war against Edom and his subsequent provocation of war against Israel, leading to his defeat, humiliation of Judah, and his captivity.
- **What central theme or lesson does the Chronicler want readers to learn from the stories of Jehoash and Amaziah?**
- The Chronicler wants readers to understand that trusting in oneself and seeking to establish one's own kingdom, rather than humbling oneself before God, ultimately leads to demise and ignominy. Unfaithfulness always has its price, and true success comes from seeking the face of the Lord and remaining faithful to the covenant.