

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 22, Restoration of Worship 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 22, Restoration of Worship, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's lecture examines the Chronicler's unique portrayal of King Hezekiah. It contrasts the Chronicler's account with those in Kings and Isaiah, noting the Chronicler's emphasis on Hezekiah as a restorer of worship, akin to a second Solomon. **The lecture highlights Hezekiah's efforts to purify the temple and reinstate the Passover.** Konkell points out that Hezekiah invited all of Israel to participate, and they had such a large turnout they had to break some rules, but Hezekiah prayed for forgiveness. **This Passover is central to the Chronicler's view of Hezekiah as a pivotal figure in restoring the hearts of the people and reminding them of their redemptive roots.** Konkell draws a direct line from the Exodus Passover to the last supper, where Jesus said he was now the lamb.

2. 16 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 22 – 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_Session22.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 22, Restoration of Worship

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt from Dr. August Konkel's "Chronicles, Session 22, Hezekiah":

Briefing Document: Konkel on Hezekiah in Chronicles

Main Themes and Ideas:

- **Hezekiah as a pivotal figure:** Konkel emphasizes that Hezekiah is presented by the Chronicler as a critical turning point in the history of Israel. The Chronicler dedicates four chapters to Hezekiah, highlighting his reign as a period of healing and restoration. Hezekiah is portrayed as the king "who submits to God and through whom healing comes."
- **Hezekiah as a "Second Solomon":** The excerpt explicitly states that Hezekiah is considered a "type of second Solomon" by the Chronicler. This is primarily due to the extensive description of the restoration of worship, including the temple and the Passover, mirroring Solomon's dedication to building and establishing the temple.
- **Restoration of Temple Worship:** A key focus of the Chronicler's narrative is Hezekiah's restoration of the temple and its associated rituals. This restoration is seen as a demonstration of God's throne in Judah. "This chapter in Chronicles is very important in emphasizing that Hezekiah is dedicated to the one thing that matters. This is not his throne; it is God's throne, and to demonstrate that it's God's throne, he must restore the symbolism and the rituals that tell us about the rule and the kingdom of God in Judah." The effort began under Hezekiah, not just Josiah.
- **The Significance of the Passover:** The restoration of the Passover is a central element in the Chronicler's portrayal of Hezekiah. The Passover is not merely a religious observance but a reminder of Israel's roots and their redemption from Egypt. Hezekiah's invitation to all of Israel to join the Passover signifies a turning back to God.
- Konkel points out that messengers called on the people to "shul, return, which means we have to repent. We have to turn back to God and then return back to the temple. Come to my Passover. Let us celebrate the Passover."

- The Passover serves to remind the people of their "very roots, of their very beginning."
- Konkel connects this to Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper, stating, "It is no accident that at the Passover, Jesus takes the bread, and he takes the wine. And essentially, he says, this now is your Passover. I am the lamb."
- **Repentance and Healing:** The Chronicler emphasizes the connection between repentance, seeking God's face, and divine healing, drawing a parallel to Solomon's prayer at Gibeon. The excerpt notes, "when Hezekiah sought the Lord, the Lord would hear from heaven, and he would turn and he would heal. And that word is used very deliberately." This highlights the importance of turning back to God for restoration and well-being.
- **All of Israel (Not Just Judah):** Hezekiah's actions, especially the invitation to the Passover, encompass all of Israel, not just the Southern Kingdom of Judah. Konkel notes, "It is all Israel in a very dynamic way because there no longer is a Northern Israel. So, they are not a political state. They are a people, a people under God, a people of confession, and the people identified as participating in God's redemption because they are participating in God's Passover..."
- **Historical Context:** The excerpt notes the historical context of Hezekiah's reign, specifically the siege of Sennacherib against Jerusalem in 701 BC, a date that can be precisely calculated. It also points out the failure of Ahaz's alliance with the Assyrians.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 22, Restoration of Worship

Hezekiah in Chronicles: A Study Guide

I. Key Concepts and Themes

- **Hezekiah as a "Second Solomon":** Understand why the Chronicler portrays Hezekiah as a similar figure to Solomon. Consider the temple restoration, the emphasis on proper worship, and the re-establishment of the covenant with God.
- **Restoration of Worship:** Identify the specific actions Hezekiah took to restore proper worship in Judah, including the purification of the temple, the reinstitution of sacrifices, and the revival of musical praise.
- **The Significance of the Passover:** Explore the importance of the Passover celebration in Chronicles, including its role in reminding the people of their roots, their redemption from Egypt, and their covenant relationship with God.
- **Repentance and Turning to God:** Analyze the Chronicler's use of the Hebrew word *shuv* and its dual meaning of "return" (physically to the temple) and "repent" (turning back to God).
- **All Israel as a Religious Community:** Grasp the Chronicler's vision of a unified Israel, not as a political state, but as a religious community centered around the temple in Jerusalem and their shared faith in God.
- **The Chronicler's Perspective:** Compare and contrast the Chronicler's account of Hezekiah with the accounts in Kings and Isaiah. Note the differences in emphasis and the Chronicler's specific theological agenda.
- **Solomon's Prayer at Gibeon:** Recognize the connection between Hezekiah's actions and the fulfillment of Solomon's prayer at Gibeon, particularly the promise of healing and restoration when the people turn to God.
- **Historical Context:** Understand the historical context of Hezekiah's reign, including the threat from the Assyrian Empire and the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel.
- **Theological Implications:** Consider the theological implications of Hezekiah's reforms, including the emphasis on God's sovereignty, the importance of obedience, and the promise of redemption and healing.

- **Hezekiah and Jesus:** Recognize the connection between the Passover and Jesus's last supper with his disciples, including the establishment of a new covenant through his body and blood.

II. Short-Answer Quiz

Answer each question in 2-3 sentences.

1. Why does the Chronicler dedicate so much attention to Hezekiah's reign?
2. In what ways does the Chronicler present Hezekiah as a "second Solomon?"
3. What specific actions did Hezekiah take to restore worship in Judah?
4. What is the significance of the Passover celebration in Chronicles' account of Hezekiah's reign?
5. Explain the double meaning of the Hebrew word *shuv* in the context of Hezekiah's appeal to the people of Israel.
6. How does the Chronicler portray "all Israel" in the context of Hezekiah's reforms?
7. How does the Chronicler's account of Hezekiah differ from the accounts in Kings and Isaiah?
8. How does Hezekiah's reign fulfill Solomon's prayer at Gibeon?
9. What is the historical context surrounding Hezekiah's reign, and how did it influence his actions?
10. How does the Passover remind the people of their roots?

Quiz Answer Key

1. The Chronicler is interested in Hezekiah because he restored worship in a way that had not been present since the time of Solomon. He also views Hezekiah as a type of second Solomon because of his detailed description of the restoration of not only the temple but also the Passover and the other festivals that go along with it.
2. The Chronicler portrays Hezekiah as a "second Solomon" due to his restoration of the temple and proper worship, much like Solomon's initial construction and dedication of the temple. Hezekiah's reign also represents a renewed covenant with God, echoing the covenant established during Solomon's reign.

3. Hezekiah restored worship by purifying and rededicating the temple, reinstituting sacrifices, and reviving musical praise with musicians and songs. These actions aimed to restore the symbolism and rituals that reflected God's rule and kingdom in Judah.
4. The Passover celebration in Chronicles signifies the people's return to their roots and their renewal of the covenant with God, reminding them of God's redemption from Egypt. It represents a collective confession of faith and participation in God's redemptive act.
5. The Hebrew word *shuv* means both "return" and "repent." Hezekiah's appeal uses *shuv* to call the people to physically return to the temple in Jerusalem and to repent, turning back to God from their negligence in observing the Passover and other religious practices.
6. The Chronicler portrays "all Israel" as a religious community, united not by political boundaries but by their shared faith and participation in God's redemption through the Passover. This vision includes both Judah and the remnants of the Northern Kingdom, emphasizing a unified people under God.
7. The Chronicler focuses on the religious reforms and restoration of worship under Hezekiah, while Kings and Isaiah emphasize the political and military aspects of his reign, particularly the siege of Sennacherib. The Chronicler is interested in the spiritual and religious dimensions of the events.
8. Hezekiah's reign fulfills Solomon's prayer at Gibeon by demonstrating that when the people turn to God, seeking His face and repenting, God hears from heaven and heals their land. The success of the restored Passover celebration is a direct result of God's response to Hezekiah's prayer.
9. Hezekiah reigned during a period of Assyrian dominance, following the fall of the Northern Kingdom of Israel in 722 BC. In 701 BC, Sennacherib attacked Jerusalem, but the city was spared. This context influenced Hezekiah's focus on strengthening Judah's spiritual foundations and seeking God's protection.
10. By celebrating the Passover, the people are reminded of God's deliverance of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. This act of remembrance reinforces their identity as God's chosen people and their covenant relationship with Him, establishing the Passover as a sign of their redemption.

III. Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the portrayal of Hezekiah in Chronicles with the portrayal of Hezekiah in Kings and Isaiah. What are the major differences in emphasis, and what might account for these differences?
2. Analyze the significance of the Passover celebration in Chronicles' account of Hezekiah's reign. How does this celebration contribute to the Chronicler's overall theological message?
3. Discuss the Chronicler's use of the concept of "turning" (shuv) in the context of Hezekiah's reforms. How does this concept relate to the themes of repentance, restoration, and covenant renewal?
4. Explore the ways in which the Chronicler presents Hezekiah as a "second Solomon." What parallels does the Chronicler draw between these two figures, and what is the theological significance of this comparison?
5. Examine the Chronicler's vision of "all Israel" in the context of Hezekiah's reign. How does this vision differ from the political realities of the time, and what does it reveal about the Chronicler's theological agenda?

IV. Glossary of Key Terms

- **Chronicler:** The author of the books of Chronicles, who wrote from a post-exilic perspective, emphasizing the importance of the temple and proper worship.
- **Hezekiah:** King of Judah (c. 715-686 BC) known for his religious reforms and resistance to Assyrian domination.
- **Solomon:** King of Israel (c. 970-931 BC) known for his wisdom, wealth, and the construction of the first temple in Jerusalem.
- **Passover:** A major Jewish festival commemorating the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt.
- **Shuv:** A Hebrew word meaning "to return" or "to repent," used in Chronicles to describe the people's turning back to God and their return to proper worship.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship for the Israelites in Jerusalem, first built by Solomon and later rebuilt after the Babylonian exile.
- **Worship:** The act of showing reverence and devotion to God through rituals, sacrifices, prayers, and music.
- **Restoration:** The act of returning something to its original or better condition, often used in Chronicles to describe the revival of religious practices and the rebuilding of the temple.
- **Covenant:** A binding agreement or promise between God and his people, often involving specific obligations and blessings.
- **Sennacherib:** King of Assyria (705-681 BC) who invaded Judah during the reign of Hezekiah.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 22, Restoration of Worship, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

What makes Hezekiah such a prominent figure in the book of Chronicles?

- The Chronicler emphasizes Hezekiah's reign because he views him as a "second Solomon," focusing on Hezekiah's restoration of Temple worship and the Passover celebration. The Chronicler sees Hezekiah as the king through whom "healing" comes because he submits to God, allowing the implementation of Solomon's prescription for the kingdom. The Northern Kingdom was gone so Hezekiah was free to call all of Israel to the temple.
- **How does the Chronicler's portrayal of Hezekiah differ from the accounts in Kings and Isaiah?**
- While Kings and Isaiah highlight Hezekiah's faithfulness and the siege of Sennacherib, the Chronicler dedicates more attention to Hezekiah's efforts in restoring Temple worship, particularly the purification of the Temple, the re-establishment of sacrifices and music, and the revival of the Passover celebration.
- **Why is the restoration of the Temple so important in the Chronicler's narrative?**
- The restoration of the Temple symbolizes the restoration of God's throne and kingdom in Judah. It's a critical act demonstrating dedication to God and re-establishing the rituals that define the relationship between God and the people.
- **What significance does the Passover hold in Hezekiah's reign, according to the Chronicler?**
- The Passover is presented as a pivotal event where Hezekiah invites all of Israel to participate, reminding them of their roots and redemption from Egypt. It signifies a renewal of their identity as God's chosen people and their participation in God's redemptive plan. The Passover becomes a symbol of their shared history and covenant with God.

- **How does Hezekiah's Passover observance relate to Solomon's prayer at the Temple dedication?**
- Hezekiah's actions are seen as a fulfillment of Solomon's prayer at the dedication of the temple, where Solomon asked God to hear and heal the people if they turned back to Him. The Chronicler emphasizes that Hezekiah sought the Lord, and the Lord heard from heaven and healed, demonstrating the effectiveness of Solomon's prescription.
- **Why does the Chronicler use the Hebrew word "shuv" (return) multiple times in the Passover narrative?**
- The word "shuv" carries a double meaning, referring both to repentance and a literal return. The messengers of Hezekiah use it to call the people to turn back to God in repentance for their negligence in observing the Passover and to return to the Temple in Jerusalem for the celebration.
- **What challenges did Hezekiah face in organizing the Passover celebration, and how did he address them?**
- The large number of people responding to Hezekiah's invitation led to shortages of priests and inadequate preparations for the Passover sacrifices. This resulted in violations of established procedures. Hezekiah, recognizing these shortcomings, prayed to God for mercy, acknowledging their inability to follow all the regulations perfectly.
- **How does the Passover in Hezekiah's time prefigure later events in the New Testament?**
- The Chronicler highlights the Passover as a precursor to the redemption offered by Jesus. Just as the Passover commemorated God's deliverance from Egypt, Jesus uses the Passover meal to signify his role as the "lamb" who brings a new covenant and complete redemption.