

Dr. August Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 23, Faithful King 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 23, Faithful King, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

Dr. Konkell's session focuses on King Hezekiah in the book of Chronicles, highlighting his faithfulness despite his imperfections. The session examines Hezekiah's restoration of the Passover and the temple, drawing parallels with David and Solomon. **The lecture emphasizes Hezekiah's trust in God during Sennacherib's attack and the lessons learned from the King's failures.** Konkell argues that Hezekiah's legacy is defined by his faithfulness, rather than isolated missteps. **The session also considers the chronicler's perspective on Hezekiah's story and that a legacy of faith does not mean a life without failures.**

2. 20 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Konkell, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 23 – 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_Session23.mp3

3. Briefing Document: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 23, Faithful King

Okay, here's a briefing document summarizing the main themes and ideas from the provided excerpt of Dr. August Konkel's lecture on Chronicles, Session 23, "Faithful King," focusing on Hezekiah:

Briefing Document: Dr. August Konkel on Chronicles, Session 23 - Faithful King (Hezekiah)

Executive Summary:

Dr. Konkel's lecture focuses on the Chronicler's positive portrayal of King Hezekiah, emphasizing his faithfulness despite acknowledging some failures. He argues that Chronicles presents Hezekiah as a model of faithfulness through his restoration of the Passover and the temple, his trust in God during Sennacherib's siege, and his ability to learn from his mistakes, particularly in the matter of Merodach-Baladan. The lecture highlights that faithfulness doesn't mean being without failure but rather how one responds *after* failing. Hezekiah's legacy is one of faithfulness because he did not let his failures define him.

Key Themes and Ideas:

- **Restoration and Renewal:** Hezekiah's reign is marked by restoration.
- **Passover:** The celebration of the Passover under Hezekiah was "a restoration of the covenant with all Israel." Hezekiah invited the northern tribes to participate, unifying the nation in a redemptive act.
- **Temple:** Hezekiah restored the temple to its former glory, mirroring the efforts of David and Solomon. He "restores the temple in a way that no other king before him had done, and restores the temple so that it represents really what it was supposed to represent under Solomon." He organized the Levites and provided resources like David and Solomon did.
- **Faithfulness in the Face of Adversity:** The lecture emphasizes Hezekiah's reliance on God, especially during Sennacherib's siege.
- Hezekiah's preparations against the Assyrians and his trust in God are highlighted. Hezekiah "takes the letters of Rabshakah, and he takes them before the cherubim, which are in the temple, and he spreads them out, and he says, Lord, you see these letters, and you see all of these threats."

- The chronicler emphasizes that "God preserved Jerusalem because of Hezekiah's faithfulness." The Chronicler does not focus on the miraculous defeat of the Assyrian army, but emphasizes that Hezekiah's faithfulness was the cause of God's protection of Jerusalem.
- **Contrasting portrayals in Kings and Chronicles:**
- While Kings presents a more nuanced view of Hezekiah, including his pride in displaying his wealth to the Babylonian emissaries, Chronicles focuses on his overall faithfulness. Kings presents stories that end with Hezekiah being "quite unfaithful".
- Dr. Konkel argues that the Chronicler's interpretation of Hezekiah is still valid: "Kings said Hezekiah was the most faithful king ever, and Chronicles says, yes, he was the most faithful king ever, and look what he did...and in these other matters he could humble himself, and he showed his faithfulness."
- **Failure and Redemption:** A central theme is that faithfulness does not equate to perfection. It's about how one responds to failure.
- The incident with Merodach-Baladan is acknowledged as a failure, but the Chronicler emphasizes Hezekiah's subsequent humility and reliance on God.
- "Faithfulness does not mean without failure, and that is something we always need to remember."
- "The question is, what are you going to do when you fail? How do you respond to your failure?"
- **Legacy of Faithfulness:** The lecture concludes with a call to action, urging listeners to strive for a legacy of faithfulness to God.
- "Hezekiah for Kings and Hezekiah for Chronicles is remembered because he was faithful. That's his legacy."
- The lecture suggests that one should want to be remembered "for our faithfulness" to God.

Important Facts & Quotes:

- **Passover's Significance:** "The new situation is that Israel is no longer present...Hezekiah was free to appeal to everyone in the northern tribes to return to the temple at Jerusalem...which was enormously successful and enabled them to celebrate the redemption of the Passover."

- **Kings' Assessment:** "Kings calls Hezekiah a most faithful king, more faithful than any of the other kings before him." (referencing 2 Kings 18:4-6).
- **Sennacherib's Perspective (and its limitation):** "I left Hezekiah caged up like a bird in his capital city of Jerusalem." (Sennacherib's boast). While Sennacherib claims victory, he implicitly admits his failure to capture Jerusalem.
- **The Lesson of Hezekiah's Legacy:** "We need to ask ourselves, what will be our legacy? And we need to say that our highest ambition is to make our legacy of faithfulness to God."

Analysis and Implications:

Dr. Konkel's lecture provides a valuable insight into the Chronicler's theological perspective. The Chronicler deliberately selects and interprets historical events to present Hezekiah as an exemplary model of faithfulness for the post-exilic community. This selective approach serves to encourage the audience to emulate Hezekiah's dedication to God, even in the face of personal failings and national adversity. This understanding of faithfulness, not as perfection but as a commitment to God despite imperfections, is a relevant message for any audience.

4. Study Guide: Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 23, Faithful King

Hezekiah: A Study Guide

Quiz: Short Answer Questions

1. According to the text, what significant event did Hezekiah oversee that served as a restoration of the covenant with all Israel?
2. How did the political situation in the northern tribes after their exile enable Hezekiah's appeal for them to return to Jerusalem?
3. How does the chronicler portray Hezekiah's faithfulness in comparison to the account in Kings?
4. What preparations did Hezekiah make in anticipation of Sennacherib's attack, according to the text?
5. What action did Hezekiah take when faced with the threats contained in Rabshakah's letters?
6. According to Sennacherib's own records, what was his assessment of his campaign against Judah and Hezekiah?
7. How does the text explain the apparent contradiction between Sennacherib's claims and the actual outcome of the siege of Jerusalem?
8. What sign was given to Hezekiah as a confirmation of the Lord's promise to extend his life?
9. How did Hezekiah's response to the offered sign differ from his predecessor Ahaz, according to the text?
10. What is the key takeaway regarding faithfulness as exemplified by Hezekiah's life, according to the text?

Quiz Answer Key

1. Hezekiah oversaw the celebration of the Passover, which brought all of Israel together as a redeemed people and served as a restoration of the covenant.
2. Since the northern tribes were exiled under Ahaz, the shrines at Bethel and Dan were no longer operative, and there were no political divisions to impede Hezekiah's appeal.

3. The chronicler portrays Hezekiah's faithfulness not only in religious matters like the Passover and temple restoration but also in his political activities, emphasizing his trust in God during Sennacherib's attack.
4. Hezekiah made preparations for water in anticipation of a siege and provisions for defending against the Assyrian attack, all while especially trusting in God.
5. Hezekiah took the letters of Rabshakah and spread them out before the cherubim in the temple, asking the Lord to witness the threats contained within.
6. Sennacherib boasted of taking 200,000 captives from Judah and conquering fortified cities but claimed to have left Hezekiah "caged up like a bird" in Jerusalem.
7. While Sennacherib claimed victory, the text argues that he was defeated because he did not take Jerusalem, which continued to thrive and outlive the Assyrian nation.
8. The sign was that the shadow moved back 15 degrees (or steps) on the dial of Ahaz.
9. Ahaz refused a sign when offered, while Hezekiah asked for a sign to confirm the promise of extended life.
10. Faithfulness does not mean being without failure, but it means acknowledging failure and continuing to trust in God, allowing faithfulness, rather than failure, to characterize one's life and legacy.

Essay Questions

1. Compare and contrast the portrayal of Hezekiah in the books of Kings and Chronicles, focusing on the events of Sennacherib's invasion and the incident with Merodach-Baladan. How does each book's perspective contribute to a comprehensive understanding of Hezekiah's reign?
2. Discuss the significance of Hezekiah's restoration of the Passover and the temple. How did these actions contribute to the spiritual and political renewal of Judah, and what does it reveal about Hezekiah's priorities as king?
3. Analyze the concept of faithfulness as presented in the text. How does the author define faithfulness, and how is it exemplified in Hezekiah's response to both success and failure?
4. Examine the political and military strategies employed by Hezekiah in response to the threat of Sennacherib's invasion. How did his reliance on God factor into his preparations and ultimate defense of Jerusalem?
5. Explore the ways in which the author uses Hezekiah's story to teach about legacy. How does the text suggest that individuals should strive to be remembered, and what are the key elements of a lasting legacy of faithfulness?

Glossary of Key Terms

- **Hezekiah:** King of Judah known for his religious reforms and resistance against the Assyrian Empire.
- **Chronicles:** A book in the Hebrew Bible that recounts the history of ancient Israel, often focusing on the religious aspects of the kingdom.
- **Kings:** A book in the Hebrew Bible that recounts the history of ancient Israel, often focusing on the political aspects of the kingdom.
- **Passover:** A major Jewish festival commemorating the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt.
- **Temple:** The central place of worship for the Israelites in Jerusalem, built by Solomon and later restored.
- **Sennacherib:** King of Assyria who invaded Judah during the reign of Hezekiah.
- **Isaiah:** A prophet who advised Hezekiah and whose prophecies are recorded in the Book of Isaiah.
- **Merodach-Baladan:** King of Babylon who sent emissaries to Hezekiah, seeking an alliance against Assyria.
- **Ahaz:** Father of Hezekiah, and a King of Judah before him, who is portrayed as unfaithful.
- **Rabshakah:** An Assyrian official sent by Sennacherib to demand the surrender of Jerusalem.
- **Taylor Prism:** An Assyrian artifact containing a record of Sennacherib's military campaigns, including his siege of Jerusalem.
- **Bethel and Dan:** Sites of northern shrines that became defunct after the exile of the northern tribes.

5. FAQs on Konkel, 1 & 2 Chronicles, Session 23, Faithful King, Biblicalelearning.org (BeL)

Frequently Asked Questions: Hezekiah, the Faithful King (Based on Konkel's Chronicles, Session 23)

1. Why is Hezekiah considered a "faithful king" in Chronicles, despite acknowledging that Kings presents some of his actions as unfaithful?

The Chronicler focuses on Hezekiah's overarching faithfulness, highlighting his restoration of the Passover (unifying Israel), his dedication to restoring the temple, and, most importantly, his reliance on God during Sennacherib's attack. While acknowledging Hezekiah's imperfections, the Chronicler emphasizes that faithfulness doesn't equate to perfection. Hezekiah learned from his mistakes and ultimately demonstrated trust in God, making his faithfulness his defining characteristic.

2. How did Hezekiah's restoration of the Passover differ from previous observances, and why was it significant?

Hezekiah's Passover was unique because it reunited all of Israel, including the northern tribes, which had been politically separated. With the shrines at Bethel and Dan no longer operative after Israel went into exile, Hezekiah had the opportunity to invite all Israelites to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover together. This unified celebration symbolized a renewal of the covenant and their identity as a redeemed people.

3. In what ways did Hezekiah emulate David and Solomon in his restoration of the temple?

Like David and Solomon, Hezekiah made extensive preparations and contributions for the temple's restoration. He provided the necessary materials and organized the Levites into their various roles (musicians, gatekeepers, priests). This comprehensive approach ensured the temple could function as it was originally intended under Solomon, without the compromises of previous reigns.

4. How did Hezekiah respond to the threat of Sennacherib's invasion, and why was this response crucial?

Faced with Sennacherib's attack, Hezekiah prepared the city's defenses and secured its water supply. More importantly, he placed his complete trust in God. When the Assyrian messengers taunted the people, Hezekiah took their threatening letters to the temple, spread them out before God, and prayed for deliverance. This act of faith was central to his faithfulness.

5. How does the account of Sennacherib's invasion differ between the Assyrian records and the biblical narrative?

The Assyrian records, like the Taylor Prism, boast of Sennacherib's conquests in Judah, claiming he took many captives and besieged Hezekiah in Jerusalem. However, they notably avoid claiming the capture of Jerusalem itself. The biblical account in Chronicles attributes Jerusalem's deliverance to God's intervention in response to Hezekiah's faithfulness. Thus, while Sennacherib tried to save face, his failure to capture Jerusalem is evident.

6. What was the significance of the sign given to Hezekiah after he was told he would die, and how does it contrast with Ahaz?

When Hezekiah was told he would die, he prayed for more time, and God granted him 15 additional years, offering a sign as confirmation. The sign, a backward movement of the shadow on a sundial, demonstrated God's power and faithfulness to his promise. This contrasts sharply with Hezekiah's father, Ahaz, who refused to ask for a sign when offered one, showing Hezekiah's openness to God's intervention and confirmation.

7. How does Chronicles treat the incident involving the Babylonian envoys of Merodach-Baladan?

While Kings presents the incident with Merodach-Baladan as a significant failure on Hezekiah's part, Chronicles focuses on Hezekiah being tested but ultimately remaining faithful. The Chronicler acknowledges the test but highlights Hezekiah's capacity for humility and his subsequent reliance on God, particularly during the Sennacherib crisis, overshadowing the earlier mistake.

8. What is the main takeaway from Hezekiah's story in Chronicles regarding faithfulness and failure?

Hezekiah's story emphasizes that faithfulness does not mean being without failure. Everyone will fail at some point. The key is how one responds to failure. Hezekiah serves as an example of someone who acknowledged his mistakes, learned from them, and ultimately allowed his faithfulness to God to define his legacy. Hezekiah's story encourages us to strive for a legacy of faithfulness, even amidst imperfections.