

The Fall of Judah — Final Rulers

Ruler	Other names	Genealogy	Reign	Good/Evil	Significance
Jehoahaz	Shallum (Jer. 22:11) or Johanan (see 1 Chr. 3:15)	Son of Josiah	3 months	Evil (2 Ki. 23:31-32)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He is generally believed to be Shallum, Josiah's youngest son, who was chosen perhaps because he was stronger and more fit for the job. This seems to be confirmed by Jer. 22:11, but Gill and Poole believe this Shallum is actually Johanan, Josiah's eldest son. See Gill on Jer. 22:11, and Poole on Matt. 1:11-12) • He was chosen by the Jews upon Josiah's death, but rejected by their conqueror, Pharaoh Necho, imprisoned, and died in Egypt (2 Ki. 23:24), as prophesied in Jer. 22:10-12.
Jehoiakim	Eliakim (2 Ki. 23:34)	Son of Josiah	11 years	Evil (2 Ki. 23:36-37)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He reintroduced the idolatrous practices of Manasseh (2 Ki. 24:1-4). • He was a selfish, covetous ruler who spent lavishly on himself while disregarding the needs of the poor (Jer. 22:13-17). • He had Urijah the prophet put to death for prophesying against him (Jer. 26:20-23) • He cut to pieces and burned the scroll of Jeremiah, who prophesied against him (Jer. 36) • He was carried off in fetters to captivity in Babylon (2 Chr. 36:4). • Jeremiah prophesied that he would be <i>"buried with the burial of a donkey,"</i> and his death would be unlamented (Jer. 22:18-19).
Jehoiachin	Jeconiah (Jer 24:1, 27:20); Coniah (Jer 22:24, 37:1)	Son of Jehoiakim; grandson of Josiah	3 months	Evil (2 Ki. 24:8-9)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was imprisoned after a brief, evil reign by Nebuchadnezzar when Jerusalem was captured. • Jeremiah prophesied against him, calling him <i>"a despised broken idol"</i> and <i>"a vessel wherein is no pleasure"</i> (Jer. 22:28). He would be <i>"childless,"</i> and <i>"none of his descendants shall prosper, sitting on the throne of David"</i> (Jer. 22:30). This is known as the curse of Jeconiah, which would seem to invalidate Jesus' right to reign as the son of David, unless the curse was reversed or unless Jesus' lineage through David came through Mary, whose descent was through David but not through David's line. • He was taken as a captive and carried to Babylon with his family, his officials and all the mighty and skilled men of Jerusalem, along with all the temple treasures (2 Ki. 24:10-17). • He was released after 37 years in prison by Evil-Merodach, king of Babylon, and treated kindly. (2 Ki. 25:27-30)

Zedekiah	Mattaniah (2 Ki. 24:17)	Son of Josiah; uncle of Jehoiachin	11 years	Evil (2 Ki. 24:15-16)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He encouraged the land to continue in its idolatries (2 Chr. 36:11-16). • He persecuted the prophets who warned him to submit to Babylon (Jer. 32:1-5), and ignored their advice (2 Chr. 36:12). • He rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar who besieged Jerusalem, captured it, broke down its walls, looted the temple, and put to death the Jewish officials, both civil and religious, who had resisted him (2 Ki. 25:1-21). • He sought to escape the invading Babylonian army but was captured, brought to Babylon, tried and convicted, and had his eyes put out after watching his sons be put to death. • His loss of eyesight reconciled two apparently conflicting prophecies: (1) that he would be carried captive to Babylon (Jer. 22:5), but (2) that he would never see Babylon (Eze. 12:13). • He remained captive in Babylon until the day of his death (Jer. 52:11).
Gedaliah, governor appointed by the king of Babylon		Son of Ahikam, who had protected Jeremiah from Jehoiakim (Jer. 26:24); Grandson of Shaphan, scribe under Josiah (2 Ki. 25:22)	2 months?	Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was a supporter of Jeremiah, the son of Ahikam, Jeremiah's protector, and grandson of Shaphan the scribe who had had brought the book of the law and read it to Josiah (Jer. 39:14). • He was appointed by Nebuchadnezzar after the destruction of Jerusalem, probably because he was a supporter of Jeremiah, who counseled the Jews to accept God's will for them to submit to the king of Babylon (2 Ki. 25:24). • He was a good ruler (Jer. 40:11-13) but naive regarding the Jewish opposition against him (Jer. 40:14). • Assassinated by Ishmael, "<i>of the royal family</i>" (Jer. 41:1), who resented Gedaliah's appointment as governor and his submission to Babylon. The day after assassinating Gedaliah, Ishmael also massacred 70 Jewish pilgrims to Jerusalem. • After his assassination, the Jewish remnant, fearing retaliation by the Babylonians, sought Jeremiah's approval to flee to Egypt, but disregarded the Lord's counsel to remain in the land. • For the most detailed account of Gedaliah and the events following his death including the Jews' descent into Egypt, see Jeremiah chapters 40-44.