

Royal Lessons for Life

Zedekiah and Gedaliah

(Judah and Governorship)

Zedekiah's Biography

- Nebuchadnezzar changed his name from Mattaniah ("gift of Jehovah") to Zedekiah ("justice of Jehovah") when he was put on the throne – II Kings 24:17
- He reigns for 11 years and was a wicked king – II Kings 24:18-20, II Chronicles 36:10-16, Jeremiah 37:1-2 & 52:1-2
- In his 9th year, Nebuchadnezzar returns to besiege Jerusalem – II Kings 25:1-2, Jeremiah 52:3-5 & 39:1
- In his 11th year (586 B.C.), Jerusalem falls to the Babylonians – II Kings 25:3-5, Jeremiah 39:2-4 & 52:6-7
 - One month later the Temple is destroyed and much of the city destroyed – II Kings 25:8-10, II Chronicles 36:19, Jeremiah 39:8 & 52:12-14, Lamentations
- He tries to flee but is captured – II Kings 25:4-5, Jeremiah 39:5 & 52:7-8
- His sons are killed in front of him before he is blinded and taken captive to Babylon – II Kings 25:6-7, Jeremiah 52:11
- He is the last Jewish king to rule over his people in their land.
 - The Hasmonean priest Simon Thassi established a semi-autonomous kingdom in 142 B.C., but its leaders were Levites and not from the Davidic line.

Gedaliah's Biography

- Though the kingdom had fallen there is still one last Jewish ruler to cover.
- The Babylonians made a new province called Yehud from the territory of the former kingdom of Judah.
- Gedaliah, a Jew, is appointed the first governor of the new province and makes his headquarters at Mizpah about 7 miles north of Jerusalem – II Kings 25:22, Jeremiah 40:6-12
- He is killed in a final insurrection against Babylonian authority – II Kings 25:25, Jeremiah 40:13-16 & 41:1-9
 - The next Jewish leader in Judah is Zerubbabel, who was appointed by the Persians and helped rebuild the Temple.

Lessons from the Lives of Zedekiah and Gedaliah

- It is good to remember though God may judge His own, He does not cast them away. He works through judgment for His glory and our good – Psalm 79