

“RUIN, REDEMPTION, AND RESTORATION”

Studies in the Book of Jeremiah

Jeremiah 22:1-30

“A Legacy of Failure for the Kings”

02/22/2026

I. INTRODUCTION – In this lesson this morning, we are going to study the failed legacies of the last four kings of Judah. We will start off by continuing our study of Jeremiah 21 with King Zedekiah. 1) **King Zedekiah – A failed legacy of social injustice (vss. 1-10)**. 2) **King Shallum (aka Jehoahaz) – A failed legacy of expulsion (vss. 11-12)**. 3) **King Jehoiakim (aka Eliakim) – A failed legacy of greed and covetousness (vss. 13-23)**. 4) **King Coniah (aka Jeconiah or Jehoiachin) – A failed legacy of worthlessness (vss. 24-30)**.

II. King Zedekiah – A failed legacy of social injustice (Jeremiah 22:1-10) – The last four kings of Judah are not listed in Jeremiah 22 in chronological order.

- A) God reminds Zedekiah that he sits on the throne of David not because he is a good king, but only because of the covenant (Davidic Covenant) that God made with King David. (Jeremiah 22:1-2 and 2 Samuel 7:11-16).
- B) God’s message of one last chance (Jeremiah 22:3-4) - God repeats the same message from Jeremiah 21:12 to King Zedekiah (Jeremiah 22:3-4) – This message was directed at King Zedekiah but is still applicable today!
- C) Results of refusing to hear the Word of God (Jeremiah 5:-10) – The dynasty and house of David will be destroyed (vs. 5). Jerusalem will be destroyed (vss. 6-7). They will be a witness to many nations as what happens when you are out of the will of God (vss. 8-9). King Zedekiah will literally not see his native country anymore. The last thing that he saw was his sons being killed by the Babylonians before his eyes were put out! (2 Kings 25:6-7).

III. King Shallum (aka Jehoahaz) – A failed legacy of expulsion (vss. 11-12).

- A) He went “from this place” not by choice (vs.11). Not much is said about his legacy except that “he did evil in the sight of the Lord, according to all that his fathers had done”. (2 Kings 16:32) Pharaoh Necco, King of Egypt expelled him from Judah and put him in prison. Pharaoh then imposed a tribute on Judah.
- B) He will not return to Jerusalem (vs. 12). We need to trust what God is doing!

IV. **King Jehoiakim (aka Eliakim) – A failed legacy of greed and covetousness (vss. 13-23)**

- A) Built his house by unrighteousness, injustice and unpaid labor. (vss. 13-14) – When we are doing our will, we are out of God’s will! When we are doing our own will we are doing the will of our flesh! (Romans 8:5-9).
- B) He did not follow the example of his godly father, King Josiah (vss. 15-17) – Jeremiah asked two rhetorical questions in verse 15: Shall you reign because you enclose yourself in cedar? (The answer should be no!) Did your father eat and drink, And do justice and righteousness? (The answer should be yes!)
- C) Consequences of King Jehoiakim’s greed, covetousness and disobedience (vss. 18-23) 1) No one will miss him (vss. 18-19). 2) He did not hear or obey the voice of God (vss. 20-22). His lovers (alliances) will be destroyed. No one will be left to help them! It might be nice to live in expensive cedar housing, but shame and humiliation is coming (vss. 23-24).

V. **King Coniah (aka Jeconiah or Jehoiachin) – A failed legacy of worthlessness (vss. 24-30)**

- A) A worthless signet ring (vss. 24-27) – King Coniah reigned for 3 months (2 Kings 24:8). A signet ring was used to prove authority, identify possessions and sign official documents. God is saying that King Coniah was like a worthless ring that he would take off of his finger and give to Babylon.
- B) King Coniah was the people’s choice, but not God’s (vss 28-30) – The questions in verse 28 were designed to be answered “no”. They could not understand why this was happening to him and his descendants. In fact, one of the false prophets “prophetlied” that God was going to bring the king back into power in Jeremiah 28:1-4. He will be the last of David’s direct descendants to be king over Judah. It will be as if he was childless!

Praise be to God for our True King! 15 Now out of His mouth goes a [a]sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:15-16)

Praises Be to God (PBTG)

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