

**JUDAH'S CONTINUING COLLAPSE**  
(2 Kings 24:17 – 25:21)

I. Zedekiah's RECKLESSNESS (2 Kings 24:17-20)

A. His SUMMARY (24:17-19)

1. Placed on the throne at age TWENTY-ONE by the king of BABYLON
2. Reigned for ELEVEN YEARS
3. Was as EVIL as his BROTHER Jehoiakim

B. Supplementary information

1. He IGNORED the word of the Lord, but wanted Jeremiah to PRAY for them (Jer. 37:2-16)
2. He had Jeremiah BEATEN and IMPRISONED, but wanted to hear from GOD (Jer. 37:17)
3. He decreed all Hebrew SLAVES must be FREED, then let their former masters TAKE THEM BACK (34:9-22)

C. His STUPIDITY (24:20)

1. Explained as evidence of God's ANGER and intent to JUDGE Judah
2. He REBELLED against the king of BABYLON

II. Babylon's RETRIBUTION (2 Kings 25:1-7)

A. Nebuchadnezzar LAY SEIGE to Jerusalem (25:1)

- B. The hypocrite asked JEREMIAH to ask GOD for help (Jer. 21:1-14; 34:1-5)
- C. The siege lasted about 18 MONTHS (2 Kings 25:2-3)
- D. Zedekiah and his GUARDS tried to ESCAPE (25:4-7)
  - 1. They were CAPTURED
  - 2. Zedekiah's SONS were SLAUGHTERED in his presence
  - 3. Zedekiah's EYES were GOUGED OUT
  - 4. Zedekiah was SHACKLED and taken PRISONER to Babylon

III. Jerusalem's RUIN (2 Kings 25:8-21)

- A. They BURNED the TEMPLE and every RESIDENCE (vv. 8-9)
- B. They razed the WALL around the city (v. 10)
- C. They DEPORTED all but the POOREST to Babylon (vv. 11-12)
- D. They took the last remaining TREASURES from the city (vv. 13-17)
- E. They took the surviving OFFICIALS to Babylon for EXECUTION (vv. 18-21)

IV. Lessons

- A. Defying God in pursuit of HAPPINESS results in profound SORROW
- B. Defying God for POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY provokes divine WRATH
- C. The LEADERS God gives a nation may be part of His JUDGMENT on that nation