

Question--Mr. Atkinson) He ~~was~~

He was number 6 ~~and~~, Jehoiakin, and number 7 is Zedekiah. ~~Zedekiah~~
As we look at Zedekiah we notice what kind of a man he seems to have been from what was told about him in the book of Jeremiah, although there is not a great deal told about him, but it seems to me that there is enough to draw a conclusion *that I have mentioned.*
If someone wants to draw a different conclusion I don't think it is anything for us to get terrifically excited about. It is an interesting question, what was the character of these men? It is no doubt that Jehoiakin's character was bad. No doubt that the nobles in Jehoiakin's time were good. There is ~~not~~ no doubt that the nobles of Zedekiah's time were evil. There is no doubt that Zedekiah was weak, but whether Zedekiah was evil in addition to being weak or was actually good though weak is something on which the evidence is not great. It impresses me this way that anyone on a survey of the evidence may interpret it differently if it impresses them that way. I would not feel that there need be any issue made over it if people should present another point of view on it. I just incline to think that this is ^a more accurate interpretation of the evidence on this point. Now Zedekiah reigned eleven years and Zedekiah's people, his nobles pushed him forward in revolting against the king of Babylon. I think we are safe in saying that Zedekiah whether he was good or bad was certainly weak. I think that there is no question about it. The nobles were certainly pushing in this direction. Whether he was joining with them or not. They revolted against Nebuchadnezzar and Nebuchadnezzar had told Jehoiakin to be true to him and Jehoiakin had revolted. He had conquered the city and taken many into captivity and he told Zedekiah to be true to him and Zedekiah had not. Now Nebuchadnezzar ~~king~~ came with a great army to destroy the city. He came with this great army to destroy the city and the people knew now that this was the last. They knew that with all the previous revolts against ~~Assyria~~ Babylon there was now ~~now~~ hope for them. They knew that the Babylonians would not again permit a