

# Jeremiah 39:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah.

## Analysis

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**The king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes** (לִעְיָנוּ, le'eynav)—This brutal act fulfilled both Jeremiah's and Ezekiel's prophecies with horrifying precision. Zedekiah 'saw' (רָאָה, ra'ah) his dynasty destroyed before him—the last sight his eyes would register. His sons, the heirs of David's throne, were executed as traitors.

**Also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah** (חֲרֵי יְהוּדָה, chorei yehudah)—The ruling class who counseled rebellion against Babylon (and against God's word through Jeremiah) faced capital punishment. These 'nobles' or 'freemen' had rejected freedom under God's covenant for supposed autonomy, and lost both. The covenant curses included seeing your children destroyed (Deuteronomy 28:32, 41)—visual horror as final earthly memory.

## Historical Context

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Ancient Near Eastern practice often involved executing royal offspring to prevent future rebellions and eliminate dynastic rivals. The nobles' execution served both as punishment for rebellion and as a terror tactic to discourage future resistance. This systematic elimination of Judah's leadership class left the nation politically decapitated, facilitating Babylonian control.

## Related Passages

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**1 John 4:8** — God is love

**John 15:13** — Greatest form of love

**Romans 2:1** — Judging others

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

## Study Questions

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1. How does the death of Zedekiah's sons demonstrate that covenant rebellion has generational consequences?
2. What does this passage teach about the serious responsibility of leaders who influence others toward or away from God?
3. How does Christ's sacrificial death as David's ultimate Son reverse the curse and secure an eternal kingdom (Luke 1:32-33)?

## Interlinear Text

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שָׁחַ ט	מֶלֶךְ	בָּבֶל:	אֶת	בְּנֵי י	צִדְקִי הוּ	בְּרִבְלָה ה
slew	Then the king	of Babylon	H853	the sons	of Zedekiah	in Riblah
H7819	H4428	H894		H1121	H6667	H7247
לְעֵינֵי יו	וְאֶת	כָּל	חֲרֵי י	יְהוּדָה ה	שָׁחַ ט	מֶלֶךְ
before his eyes	H853	H3605	all the nobles	of Judah	slew	Then the king
H5869			H2715	H3063	H7819	H4428
בָּבֶל:						
of Babylon						
H894						

## Additional Cross-References

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**Jeremiah 52:10** (Kingdom): And the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes: he slew also all the princes of Judah in Riblah.

**Jeremiah 21:7** (Kingdom): And afterward, saith the LORD, I will deliver Zedekiah king of Judah, and his servants, and the people, and such as are left in this city from the pestilence, from the sword, and from the famine, into the hand of Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon, and into the hand of their enemies, and into the hand of those that seek their life: and he shall smite them with the edge of the sword; he shall not spare them, neither have pity, nor have mercy.

**Deuteronomy 28:34** (Parallel theme): So that thou shalt be mad for the sight of thine eyes which thou shalt see.

**2 Kings 25:7** (References Babylon): And they slew the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah, and bound him with fetters of brass, and carried him to Babylon.

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