

Roman Administrators

Explanation

In consolidating his power as ruler of Judea, Herod the Great received support from Rome, and in return he became a loyal client of Rome's emperor, Augustus Caesar. Thus, Herod was popular and powerful in certain secular Jewish groups but not in all Jewish circles. After Herod's relatively long reign, his son Archelaus ruled in Judea so poorly in his father's stead that the Sanhedrin and other local Jewish leaders even requested that a Roman administrator be sent to replace Archelaus. Except for a few years when Herod's kingdom was restored under Herod Agrippa (Herod the Great's grandson), Roman governors of minor rank presided over Judea. A single cohort of six hundred men was their only military complement, so Roman domination was not imposed by force. In fact, the Sanhedrin and other Jewish leaders continued to govern the local population. In Galilee, Herod's heirs ruled uninterrupted for a longer period than in Judea but were ultimately supplanted by minor Roman officials. A chronological list of those who ruled over Judea and Galilee is provided in the following two charts.

References

John F. Hall, "The Roman Province of Judea: A Historical Overview," *MWNT*, 319–36.

Richard Neitzel Holzapfel, "King Herod," *MWNT*, 35–73.

Andrew Skinner, "A Historical Sketch of Galilee," *MWNT*, 113–28.

Roman Administrators in Judea

Official	Title	Rank	Date (A.D.)	Emperor
Coponius	Praefectus Iudaeae	equestrian	6–9	Augustus
Ambivulus	Praefectus Iudaeae	equestrian	9–12	Augustus
Rufus	Praefectus Iudaeae	equestrian	12–15 Tiberius	Augustus
Valerius	Praefectus Iudaeae	equestrian	15–26	Tiberius
Pontius Pilate	Praefectus Iudaeae	equestrian	26–36	Tiberius
Restoration of Herodian kingdom under Herod Agrippa by command of Claudius, A.D. 41–44				
Fadus	Procurator	equestrian	44–46	Claudius
Tiberius Julius Alexander	Procurator	equestrian	46–48	Claudius
Cumanas	Procurator	equestrian	48–52	Claudius
Antonius Felix	Procurator	equestrian	52–59/60	Claudius Nero
Porcius Festus	Procurator	equestrian	59/60–62	Nero
Albinus	Procurator	equestrian	62–64	Nero
Gessius Florus	Procurator	equestrian	66–70	Nero
Titus Flavius Vespasianus (Vespasian)	Legatus Augusti pro praetore	senator	67–69	Nero
Titus Flavius Vespasianus (Titus)	Legatus Augusti pro praetore	senator	70	Vespasian
Flavius Silva	Procurator Legatus Augusti pro praetore	senator	72–75 73–75	Vespasian
Commodus	Procurator	equestrian	75–80	Vespasian Titus
Salvidienus	Procurator	equestrian	80–86	Titus Domitian
Longinus	Procurator	equestrian	86–95	Domitian