

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.

Rulers and Administrators of Galilee

Dates	Official	Title	Description of Office	Emperor
Galilee as an affiliated territory under Herodian rule				
37–4 B.C.	Herod the Great	king	client king of Rome	Augustus
4 B.C.– A.D. 39	Herod Antipas	tetrarch	client ruler appointed by Roman emperor	Augustus
				Tiberius
				Gaius
39–41	Herod Agrippa I	tetrarch	appointed client ruler	Gaius
Galilee attached to the Roman province of Judea				
41–44	Herod Agrippa I	king	client king of Rome ¹	Claudius
44–46	Fadus	procurator	Roman administrator of equestrian rank	Claudius
46–48	Tiberius Julius Alexander ²	procurator	Roman administrator of equestrian rank	Claudius
48–52	Cumanas	procurator	Roman administrator of equestrian rank	Claudius
52–59/60	Antonius Felix	procurator	Roman administrator of equestrian rank	Claudius Nero
Galilee attached to kingdom of Herod Agrippa II				
56–95	Herod Agrippa II	king	client king of Rome ³	Nero
				Vespasian
				Titus Domitian

1. Claudius restored the kingdom of Herod the Great with all constituent parts (Judea, Galilee, Perea, etc.) to his friend since boyhood, Herod Agrippa I.
2. A very prominent Jew of Alexandria and brother of the famed Jewish philosopher Philo, he served first as procurator of Judea and later in the high office of prefect of Egypt, giving support to Vespasian in his prosecution of the Jewish War.
3. Herod Agrippa had been previously appointed king of Chalcis and Trachonitis, regions of Phoenicia (modern-day Lebanon) to which Perea and Galilee were added in 56.