

**The Seven Churches and
Church History (70-100 A.D.)
The Destruction of Jerusalem**

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- 1. The Roman general Pompey (106 – 28 B.C.) captured Jerusalem in 63 B.C.**
- 2. The Romans then ruled through local kings and allowed a lot of freedom in the Jewish religious practices, but there were still clashes between the monotheistic and polytheistic religions.**
- 3. This went on for over one hundred years until the First Jewish Revolt that happened in 66 A.D.**
- 4. The Jews were able to expel the Romans from Jerusalem and established their own government, which spread to some surrounding areas.**
- 5. Emperor Nero sent Vespasian, a general, who was able to push the Jews back into Jerusalem.**
- 6. Vespasian was proclaimed emperor in 69 A.D.**
- 7. In April of 70 A.D., around the time of Passover, the Roman general Titus laid siege to Jerusalem.**
- 8. Since it was around the time of Passover the Romans allowed the visitors to enter the city but refused to let them leave, depleting the food and water.**
- 9. The Zealots struggled with the other Jewish factions, which weakened the resistance even more.**
- 10. Josephus, a Jew, who at one time commanded the resistance, defected to the Romans and tried to negotiate peace.**
- 11. Josephus was not trusted by the Romans, and hated by the Jews, so no agreement was reached.**
- 12. The Romans cut off all entry into the city with the intent on starving the population into submission.**
- 13. They then began to crush the city, and massacred most of the population.**
- 14. They also destroyed the Second Temple.**
- 15. The Western Wall (Wailing Wall) of the Second Temple is all that was left and remains a site of prayer and pilgrimage.**
- 16. The loss of the temple is still mourned by the Jews during the fast of Tisha be-AV. (This year it was celebrated July 22-23, 2026)**
- 17. Rome celebrated the fall of Jerusalem by erecting the Arch of Titus in 81 A.D.**

¹ <https://www.britannica.com>

- a) One of the depictions on the Arch is of a triumphal parade in Rome that showed the Candlestick, Table of Shewbread and the sacred trumpets.
- b) It would seem for a while that the Polytheists totally defeated the Monotheists.



- 18. Titus returned to Rome after the fall of Jerusalem and received a triumphant welcome for his success in stopping the First Jewish Revolt.
- 19. The Romans continued to put down any resistance by the Zealots.
- 20. The Zealot resistance ended in 73-74 A.D. at Masada.
- 21. Masada was laid siege to under the command of Lucius Silva by building a circumvallation wall that was 2.5 miles long around the mountain.
 - a) The mountain rises 1325 feet above the desert floor and overlooks the Dead Sea.
 - b) The Sicarii (dagger-carriers) of the Zealots had overcome a small Roman garrison.
- 21. The defenders were led by Eleazer Ben Yair and had a lot of food and water, so the Romans started an earth ramp on the western side of the fortress that was 1968 feet long and rose 200 feet to the fortress walls.
- 22. The Romans then pushed a siege tower up the ramp equipped with a ram and large stone which was able to breach the wall.
- 23. Rather than be taken by the Romans the 960 inhabitants committed mass suicide, which has become known as the "Masada Complex."
- 24. The only source for what happened is Josephus who claimed to have been given a full account by two women who hid in a drainpipe.
- 25. It is also said by some that they decided to kill each other since suicide was against their beliefs.