

Jewish War Timeline

Based on *The Jewish People in Classical Antiquity: From Alexander to Bar Kochba*

66 CE 4 th quarter	Sept: Cestius Gallus captures Joppa & Galilee; moves on Jerusalem	70 CE 2 nd quarter (cont.)	After several weeks, upper city falls; rebels move into Temple.
	Oct: Jewish counterattack prompts burning of Bezetha and assault on Jerusalem.		Assault captures outer courtyard; next day inner courts, sanctuary fired and plundered
	Assault is decisively defeated; Roman army routed, retreats in disgrace.		Rebels make an abortive last stand in Herod's palace but flee the might of the Roman siege engines.
67 CE 1 st quarter	Judeans create 7 military districts with Joseph and Ananus in control in Jerusalem; Simon and John raid throughout region.		
67 CE 2 nd quarter	Vespasian/Titus gather at Antioch; Vespasian enters Galilee.		
67 CE 3 rd quarter	Jotapata and Gabara fall, Josephus captured.		
	Tiberias and Tarichaea fall, Galilee capitulates.		
67 CE 4 th quarter	Galilee in firm Roman hands, Vespasian winters in Caesarea and Scythopolis.		
	Jewish factional conflict; Zealots occupy Temple, John calls for Idumean help, moderates killed.		
68 CE 1 st quarter	March: Vespasian takes Perea.		
68 CE 2 nd quarter	June: Vespasian takes cities in W. Judea, Idumea, Jordan plain (Jericho). Nero commits suicide.		
68 CE 3 rd quarter	Titus sent to Rome; attack on Jerusalem postponed.		
68 CE 4 th quarter <i>[Sabbath]</i>	Attack on Jerusalem postponed; Simon captures S. Judea, Idumea		
69 CE 1 st quarter <i>[Sabbath]</i>	Attack on Jerusalem postponed; Zealots attack Simon; Simon brought into Jerusalem by moderates to oppose Zealot forces.		
69 CE 2 nd quarter <i>[Sabbath]</i>	Vespasian enters N. Judea and retakes Idumea.		
69 CE 3 rd quarter <i>[Sabbath]</i>	Troops acclaim Vespasian emperor; Judean war put on hold.		
69 CE 4 th quarter	Judean war on hold; Vespasian goes to Alexandria, then to Rome.		
70 CE 1 st quarter	Judean war on hold; Titus sent to resume hostilities.		
70 CE 2 nd quarter	Jerusalem under siege by Titus; John assumes control of Zealots.		
	Outer wall breached, Bezetha occupied; second wall quickly breached		
	Jerusalem completely surrounded with fortifications		

Major Judean Leaders

Joseph son of Gorion & Ananus son of Ananus: Moderate leaders of high families elected with help from priests/Sanhedrin. Murdered by Zealots in 67 CE.

Eleazar son of Simon: Zealot leader, killed (?) by John during Zealot consolidation in 70 CE.

John of Gischala: Zealot extremist who opposed Josephus, fled to Jerusalem after fall of Galilee. He cut a deal with Ananus but switched to the Zealot side. Consolidated Zealot forces as leader in 70 CE.

Simon son of Gioras: Renegade/bandit chieftan who made moderate gains before siege of Jerusalem. Brought into Jerusalem in 69 CE to counter Zealot influence.

Initial Judean Dispositions at the Siege of Jerusalem

Eleazar and the Zealots held the inner court of the Temple. (2,400 troops)

John and other Zealots held the outer court and part of the lower city. (6,000 troops)

Simon and company held the whole upper city and the rest of the lower. (15,000 troops)