

Facts to Know

The Jewish War	A.D. 66-70
The Siege of Jerusalem	A.D. 70 (May-August)
Titus Flavius Josephus	Josephus was born Joseph ben Matthias to a priestly and royal Jewish family. He became a Jewish priest and general. In a battle against Rome in Galilee, he was captured by Vespasian but spared for prophesying that he would become emperor. When prophecy came true, Josephus was made an interpreter and advisor in Jewish matters. Josephus became a Roman citizen and took the family name of the emperor who freed him, along with the praenomen of his son.
Titus	son of Vespasian; left by his father to complete the siege of Jerusalem; often referred to as Caesar by Josephus
Vespasian	Emperor during the siege of Jerusalem; formerly the general leading the battle against the Jewish rebellion until he returned to Rome to claim power
John of Gischala	leader of the Zealots, a militant group who sought to shake off the Roman yoke by force; wanted to rule Jerusalem
Simon bar Giora	leader of a group of revolutionaries; fought the Romans but was denied a position of power by the Jewish authorities; sought to assume power by force
the seditious	a term used to refer to both John's zealots and Simon's revolutionaries
Idumeans	people from Edom who came at the request of John to help him keep the temple from Simon and his followers

“I venture to affirm that the sedition destroyed the city, and the Romans destroyed the sedition, which it was a much harder thing to do than destroy the walls; so that we may justly ascribe our misfortunes to our own people, and the just vengeance taken on them to the Romans.” – Josephus

Vocabulary

1. siege engine	<u>mechanisms used to break down walls; specifically ballistae</u>
2. banks	<u>mounds built to get troops over wall</u>

Comprehension Questions

1. According to Josephus, who was responsible for the destruction of Jerusalem?

Josephus suggests that it is the fighting between the Jews that destroyed the city, and the Roman siege simply put an end to the Jews fighting.

2. What were Nicanor and Josephus doing when Nicanor was injured?

Nicanor was accompanying Josephus as he spoke to the people within the city, trying to convince them to make peace.

3. Why, at the beginning of the Roman siege, were the Jewish war machines basically useless?

The Jews had captured the engines from previous battles but were not accustomed to using them. Thus, they were so inaccurate it didn't even matter that they had them.

4. How did the Romans keep the Jews from announcing an incoming stone?

The Romans would paint the rocks with pitch so that the Jews couldn't see it coming.

5. What event finally caused the seditious to start working together?

Titus was able to bring his machines within striking distance of the wall and started assaulting it with rocks. The horrible sound caused great fear among both factions.

6. What is the Jews principle strength in battle?

The Jews principle strength is their boldness.

7. How were the Roman works saved from the Jews' fire?

Titus took a group of horsemen and stopped the attack. Titus killed 12 men himself.

8. What is Rome's primary method of frightening those that oppose them?

They would crucify captives in plain view of the people in the city.