



History

Course: Jewish History

Lesson Five

Title: Jewish Resistance (Masada and Bar Kokhba)

Masada (70 – 73) - Final Jewish resistance to the Romans.

Leader of the Zealots – Menahem

Descendant of Judas the Galilean who began Zealot uprising in AD 6.

Took fortress of Masada

Agrippa sent 2000 horsemen to put down the uprising.

Menahem marched on Jerusalem killing Ananias and Ezekias, the father and uncle of Eleazar the High Priest.

Eleazar killed Menahem when he went into the Temple dressed in royal robes.

Eleazar, the son of Jair

Followers of Menahem rallied behind his relative also called Eleazar, the son of Jair, who led them back to Masada which they held until AD 73.

The Romans finally overcame the Jews at Masada by building a ramp so they could get to the top. The Romans found the Jews had committed suicide.

Commemorating Rome's victory over the Jews

Judaea Capta (Judea captured)

Rome's victory over the Jews is seen on coinage.

Arch of Titus in Rome commemorating Titus victory over the Jews

The Arch was built c. AD 81

Depicts spoils from Jerusalem – Golden Lampstand

Bar Kokhba Revolt (132 – 135)

Revolt led by Simon Bar Kokhba.

Wadi Murabbaat Caves (18km south of Qumran)

When the Bar Kokhbar Revolt (132-135) was almost over the Jews fled into the caves in the Judaean wilderness.

Personal items have been found from this time and written manuscripts.

Including Biblical scrolls, marriage contracts and business contracts.

Biblical texts dated 2nd century found at Wadi Murabbaat resemble the Masoretic Text.

The texts are from the Pentateuch, Isaiah, Minor Prophets, and the Psalms.

The Roman Emperor Hadrian renamed Roman province of Judea as **Syria Palaestina**

Renamed Jerusalem as Aelia Capitolina

Expelled most of the Jews from Judea

Large Jewish populations in Samaria and Galilee

Syria Palaestina became known as Palaestina.