

What is a proconsul?	An overseeing official for Rome, stationed in Syria and in charge of the entire region.
What is a procurator?	A Roman governor of a specific province (in this case, of Israel). Relatively good and peaceful. The procurators just made sure that Roman laws were kept, which gave the Jews a small degree of autonomy and religious freedom.
How were relations between the procurators and the Jews in general?	The procurators had two main goals: maintaining order, and getting rich. The latter did create some degree of corruption, but the proconsuls weren't cruel, as they knew that would only lead to them being deposed (like Archeleus).
What did the procurators do regarding religious freedom?	The proconsuls allowed the Sanhedrin to work in the lishkas hagazis and gave the Jews full power over services in the Beis Hamikdash. However, the Sadducees often bribed them for the position of kohen gadol, which led to frequent changes of this appointment (in 60 years alone, there were 30 kohanim gedolim). They took the bigdei kehunah from the Jews and only gave them to the kohen gadol on certain occasions.
What did the procurators do to assert control?	They also kept troops outside the beis hamikdash during the shalosh regalim, both to prevent revolt and to remind Jews of their rule. A Roman procurator whose cruel policies led to conflict between the Jews and Rome.
Who was Pontius Pilate? (25-35 CE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 📖 Minted coins with trayif animals/idolatrous images 📖 Crucified Jesus 📖 While Roman soldiers in Yerushaliam had previously kept their shields, which had idolatrous images painted onto them, turned inwards out of respect for the Jews, Pilate ordered his soldiers to turn them outwards. The Jews went to his headquarters in Caseria to plead for this to be repealed, he refused and threatened them. They said that they were willing to die for this. Impressed, he reversed his decree. 📖 Had soldiers dress up as regular people to find rebels (especially regarding the aqueduct issue) and then kill them 📖 Planned to use the Beis Hamikdash's money to build an aqueduct
Who were the other procurators?	After Rabban Gamliel went to Rome to complain against him, Pilate was recalled from the procuratorship. Fadus, Tiberius, Alexander, Cumanus, Felix, Feshur, Albinus, and Claudius. They were made up of Pharisees, especially those from beis Shammai, and those who sympathised with them, but they had an extremely aggressive attitude towards Rome. They favored open warfare in order to gain Jewish independence from Rome.
Who were the zealots?	Some leaders were Elazar ben Shamoua, Elazar ben Yair (who was involved in Massada), and Yehudah Hagalil. As people realized that peaceful relations with Rome were impossible, they joined the zealots. Although the zealots agreed with Pharissee Judaism, they were much more extreme politically and viewed many Pharisees as weak. They were based in Yerushalim.
Who were the Sicari?	Their name is related to a short dagger. A group that began as zealots but broke off from them, being much more extreme. As they

began to fight Rome, they killed Jews in their way.

They wanted a political and social revolution--not an oligarchy. They called their leaders "king".

They were based in the Galil.

Who were the Biryonim?

Another zealot group. They were extremely violent, almost needlessly.

Who were the moderates?

Most Pharisees, including the sages, the Sanhedrin, and beis Hillel. Although they supported the zealots, they favored diplomacy, hoping to remain loyal to Torah without needing a war.

Who were the friends of Rome?

Sadducees and Hellenists, including many kohanim gedolim. They were extremely assimilated, and often became Roman citizens, which gave them the protection of Rome. After Claudius gave Agrippa I control of the Beis Hamikdash, they increased greatly.

A Roman procurator under emperor Nero, he oppressed the Jews to the breaking point, causing the Great Revolt.

Who was Florus, and what did he do?

First, he declared all the Hellenists in Caseria to be citizens--making the Jewish residents into foreigners.

Then, he went to the Beis Hamikdash and demanded a share of the treasury money. As much of this was tzedakah money, zelots mocked him, asking him if he need charity. This made Flourus angry. He demanded that the Sages turn in the zealots, on pain of death. They refused, so he attacked Yerushaliam.

What was the Jewish response?

At first, the zealots didn't fight back. However, when the Romans approached the Beis Hamikdash. They destroyed or blocked roads between the Roman fortresses and the Beis Hamikdash, then fought. In 66 CE Florus retreated from the city. This began the Great Revolt.

What did Jews did with the Romans gone?

They tried to take control of the Beis Hamikdash and exert independence. The zealots forbade non Jews from bringing korbanos, which would provoke Rome. The sages were opposed to this.

Without Roman protection, the friends of Rome were endangered. They tried to provoke Rome into retaking the city.

This story relates the baseless hatred present between the different factions within the Jews and how this hatred led to the destruction of Yerushaliam.

A man threw a banquet. He sent a messenger to invite his friend, Kamtza; however, by mistake, the man's enemy, Bar Kamtza, was invited.

When Bar Kamtza arrived, the host threw him out. Bar Kamtza, embarrassed and enraged, decided to slander the Rabbanut, who had been at the party and not spoken up on his behalf.

A friend of Rome, Bar Kamtza went to the Roman emperor Nero (called Caesar in the Gemara because Caesar is a title for a Roman emperor, like Pharoh or Avimelech) and told him that the Jews were rebelling against him. Nero asked him "Who says so?" and Bar Kamtza told the emperor to send the Jews a koran to make in the Beis Hamikdash. If they didn't accept it, Bar Kamtza said, that would be proof that the Jews were rebelling.

Nero agreed, but on the to Yerushaliam, Bar Kamtza made a blemish on the animal, somewhere that would make it an invalid animal for Jews but not for the Romans.

Although the animal was blemished, the Rabbis considered offering it anyway, to make peace with Rome. However, Rabbi Zecharia bar Avkulas would not allow the practice of offering blemished animals to be established, nor would he allow the Rabbis to kill Bar Kamtza.

According to Rabbi Yochanan, Rabbi Zecharia bar Avkulas's tolerance--that he considered himself too unimportant to decide weather Bar Kamtza was a mortal danger to the Jewish people (and therefore allowed to be killed)--lead to the destruction of the Beis Hamikdash and exile.

What happened within the

On the 8th of Av, a civil war between the zealots and the friends of Rome began. On the

various factions?

15th, the Sicarri joined the zealots and they were able to push the friends of Rome out of Yerushaliam. They burned the palace of the kohen gadol and the tax collector's office.

What was the Roman reaction to this?

Rome began to fight, with the help of neighboring nations. Hellenists in Caseria killed and enslaved Jews, and there were progroms in Alexandria and Damascus, resulting in more than 10,000 deaths.

Still, by the 8th of Cheshvan the Romans were out of Yerushaliam, with a Jewish sanhedrin government with Shimon ben Gamliel as nassi. Rome, though, launched another attack.

Nero sent the general Vespasian with 60,000 troops, along with his son Titus, Agrippa II, and their troops to fight the zealots, especially the Sicarri in the Galil. The Jews prepared and fortified cities, Tzipori being the biggest.

Using the scorched earthy policy (burn *everything*) the Romans prevailed. They completely defeated the Jews, killing many and selling the survivors into slavery.

What was the war in the Galil like?

Still, some losing, starving Jews were able to survive in a fortress--Yodefath--but Josephus, a traitor zealot, betrayed them to the Romans. The Romans entered the fortress, killed 40,000 and sold 12,000 into slavery.

After four months they controlled the Galil.

Some Jews were able to escape to Yerushaliam.

The war ended when Nero died in 68. Vespasian stopped the war to go to Rome and fight to be emperor. He was successful a few short rules of other emperors.

There had been a peaceful, strong Jewish leadership in Yerushaliam. However, when fighting began, the zealots wanted to fight while the moderates hoped to make peace with Rome and have tolerable procurators.

Divided, the Jews were weakened. The sages, such as Rabbi Shimon ben Gamliel, withdrew from politics, while the zealots enlisted the Edomites for help. They began to wage war against the moderates, accusing many of being friends of Rome. Jew versus Jew war began, then Rome attacked.

What was the war in Yerushaliam like?

Vespasian, now an emperor, offered a peace treaty before attacking. The zealots overpowered the moderates, and refused the treaty. Instead, when Titus attacked, the zealots had progressed to fighting between themselves, the more extreme versus the more moderate. Still, Jews were coming to the Beis Hamikdash (controlled by moderate zealots) for Pesach. The zealous zealots threatened to kill for control, and won it.

A sage and leader, he dedicated his time to countering Sadduce attempts at undermining Judaism and halacha. In honor of his victories, several minor holidays were created.

Although he sympathised with the zealots, he believed that there was no chance of Jewish success in conflict with Rome.

Who was Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai, and what did he do?

While the zelots wouldn't let anyone out of Yerushaliam, he snuck out of the city in a coffin and went to Vespasian. He asked for three things:

That Yavneh be set up as a spiritual center and that the sages be relocated to there (this is why they survived the churban)

- That the family of Shimon ben Gamliel (Hillel's dynasty) be allowed to live as leaders

- That a doctor be provided for Rabbi Tzadok, who had been fasting constantly. This represented the impact of every single Jew and Jewish emmunah.

Vespasian granted all three requests.

How was Yerushaliam conquered?

Titus entered the city with 80,000 troops and superior technology. He attacked the day after Pesach. The Jews united to attack from the north wall. Fighting heroically, they still lost, and the most outer set of three walls were breached on the 17th of Iyar. Those inside the new city were killed; the city was burned.

Titus built a ramp to cross the valley between the new and old cities. The zealots, though,

tunneled near it, and burnt it, as it was made of tar and wood. Titus then besieged the city, closing the exits with stone walls. Escaping Jews were crucified on visible hilltops. The Jews began to starve. By Tammuz, the second set of walls were breached. After 10 days of fighting, on the 17th of Tammuz, the last set of walls, the retaining walls of the Beis Hamikdash, were breached. One, the kotel, was left as a monument to Rome's great victory. The avodah ended on this day.

The fighting continued for three weeks--the Jews did incredibly well--but they lost the battle on the morning of the 9th of Av of 70 CE. Lit torches were thrown into the Beis Hamikdash, which burned. The fires could not be extinguished, and many jumped into the flames which burned through the 10th.

Two million died in the churban and wars. Tens of thousands hid in caves and tunnels. Some starved or died, some survived, some were captured.

Titus also desecrated the Kodesh Hakadashim.

Two million were exiled.

All surviving fighters or suspected zealots were killed, then the old and sick.

Young boys and girls went through a "selection" at Har Habayis.

What happened to survivors?

- Those who were rebels or suspected zealots were killed
- Those over 17 were sent to work in the Egyptian copper mines
- Younger children were sold as slaves
- Some were sent to Greek cities in Israel to be gladiators
- 700 of the tallest, most handsome marched in Titus' victory parade
- During the selection, 1000 died of hunger

What happened to many teenagers on a slave ship?

Knowing that they would be forced, not only into slavery, but into violation of Torah (especially with relation to sexual acts) they decided to leap into the sea and die as martyrs rather than endure slavery in Rome.

What was the Roman celebration like?

There were festivals in coastal cities, and Titus' victory parade in 71 CE. Prisoners were marched with the kelim of the Beis Hamikdash, which were kept in the Tempe of Jupiter until the invasion in 455. An arch was erected to commemorate the event (Jews refused to walk through it), and coins were minted with images of Jewish captivity and the inscription "Judea Capta".

What happened at Massada?

960 zealots who had fled Yerushaliam barricaded themselves in this fortress. Rome arrived and besieged it, but the zealots had supplies to withstand a long siege, so they built a ramp to storm the fortress.

On the first day of Pesach, three years after the churban (73), deciding not to give the Romans the pleasure of finding them alive nor enslaving and killing them, the zealot men killed their families, then drew lots and killed one another, the last man committing suicide. Romans found them and were told the shocking story by two old women and five children who had survived by hiding in a cave.

How did Yavneh become a spiritual center?

It became the home of the Sanhedrin before the churban, although the nassi, Rabban Gamliel, was elected late, so as not to alarm the Romans. Other sages were Rabbi Eliezer ben Hyrcanus, Rabbi Yehoshoua ben Chanina, and Rabi Eliezer ben Arach. Rabbi Yochanan ben Zakkai left, to set up yeshivot in other places.

What did Rabban Gamliel do as nassi?

His main goals were:

- To stop the growth of other religious sects, (Essenes became Christians and the Sadduces went to Rome or lost power after the churban) Rabban Gamliel appointed Shmuel Hakatan to compose "Ulamalshinim," the 19th bracha of shmoneh esri.
 - It was a prayer that heretics would have no influence
 - People knew who were Sadduces based on how they davened and were able to excommunicate them
- The organization of uniform prayer: a siddur and especially shmoneh esri were written to be as close to the original as the many confused versions allowed

- Clarification of Jewish law, since the Hillel/Shammai arguments had never been decided
- Political activity on behalf of the Jews. After Titus' death, Jews went to Rome and tried to redeem captives, but Titus' brother hated Jews and so their mission failed.

A great scholar, he came from humble beginnings as an illiterate shepherd for the wealthy and learned Kalba ben Savua. He passionately hated talmidi chachamim. He fell in love with his employers daughter, but she rejected him because he knew no Torah.

Seeing that water drips could make a hole in a rock, he understood that he could, slowly, learn, and married her, promising to study.

Kalba disowned his daughter, although he forgave them later. She, Rachel, encouraged him to study, and Akiva began school with his son. He learned quickly, and after 12 years returned from yeshiva. However, he found out that his wife encouraged him to learn for 12 more, so he did, finally returning with 24,000 students. He credited all of his and their knowledge to his wife.

He was the acting head of the Sanhedrin in Usha--Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel could not be because of his lineage (Beis David).

Akiva supported Bar Kosiba, renaming him Bar Kochba because he believed Kosiba was moshiach.

The emperor of Rome, he focused on conquest, not the Jews. Still, he disbanded the Sanhedrin and forced the sages to scatter before it was reestablished in Lud, where Rabbi Tarfon had a yeshiva, then Usha.

He promised to rebuild Yerushaliam and the Beis Hamikdash, then rescinded that promise because the Samaritans convinced him to.

He then made decrees against the Jews:

Who was Rabbi Akiva?

What did Hadrian do?

- Razed Yerushaliam, renamed in Aelia Capitolina, and built a temple to Jupiter on Har Habayis
- Taxed the Jews for that temple
- Forbade Shabbos, bris milah, or taharas hamishpacha
- Forbade the recitation of shema

The latter two decrees were aimed at "civilizing" Jews; that is to say, taking the defining aspects of their religion from them so they would conform with Roman society.

As spontaneous resistance. With no planning or political aim, Jews who wanted to remain Jewish went and hid in caves. Rome sent spies after them and killed some. Different groups formed defense alliances with one another, fighting to protect each other.

How did the Bar Kochba revolt begin?

Shimon bar Kosiba rose as a leader, and was renamed Bar Kochba by Rabbi Akiva, who believed him to be moshiach. He organized resistance, and, 3 years after the revolt began, marched to Yerushaliam. The Romans, under governor Turnus Rufus, who were weak and unfortified, retreated to Caseria.

How was Jewish rule in Yerushaliam?

It lasted 2 and a half years, with Bar Kochba named "nassi yisroel" (not King). It was called the "era of redemption of Israel" and coins were minted to celebrate it. Rabbi Akiva headed the Sanhedrin, and korbanos were made.

Rome didn't take the revolt seriously, but later sent in many more troops than they had at the time of the churban.

What was the Roman counterattack like?

They moved slowly, wary of the fanatic Jews. They fought by taking over the countryside, interfering with food supplies, and besieging Yerushaliam for a year before they took over. Many Jews escaped to Betar, a city outside Yerushaliam.

What happened at Betar?

Fighting continued for 3 and a half more years, during which Bar Kochba became arrogant, defying the Torah and sages. He killed his uncle, Rabbi Eliezer Hamodai, for slander.

According to the Gemara, a heavenly voice told Bar Kochba that he had killed the arm and eye of Israel and would soon be defeated.

On the 9th of Av in 135, Betar fell. The fight for survival was desperate, worse than that at

the churban. 500,000 Jews were killed and 1,000 towns destroyed as the Romans slaughtered anybody and everybody. It was completely horrific, the end of organized Jewish community in Israel.

For 13 years, the Jews were forbidden from burying the bodies. When they were allowed to return, they found the bodies preserved. The bracha of bensching, Hatov v Hametiv, was written to commemorate this miracle.

They understood that the Jews fought for Torah, so they forbade:

- Tefilin
- Megillah
- Matzah
- Sukkah, lulav, and esrog
- Torah reading
- Tzitzit
- **Learning/teaching Torah**
- **Smicha** (the unbroken chain from Moshe that signified the major leaders and members of Sanhedrin) **would result in the destruction of the town in which it took place**

What did Rome do afterwards?

- Rabbi Akiva and others taught Torah and were sent to prison. Akiva taught from prison and set the calendar, through the next three leap years, from jail.
- Yehudah ben Baba gave smicha between two cities (so as not to incriminate either one) and allowed his students to flee while he was spared 300 times.

What was the Jewish response?

10 martyrs killed by the Romans for different reasons. They are remembered in Yom Kippur davening and kinnos on Tisha B' Av.

- Rabban Shimon ben Gamliel
- Rabbi Yishmael
- Rabbi Akiva
- Rabbi Chanina ben Teradyon
- Rabbi Yehudah ben Baba
- Ravi Yeshevav the scribe
- Rabbi Chutzpis
- Rabbi Elazar ben Shamua
- Rabbi Chanina ben Chachinai
- Rabbi Yehudah ben Dama

What were the Asarah Hargei Malchus?