

Map 72: The First Jewish Revolt – 69-74 A.D.

Vespasian's son, Titus, had charge of the Roman legions based in Egypt. They moved up from Egypt along the coast to Jamnia, Joppa, and then Caesarea. Vespasian (brown lines) had taken his forces and moved further inland to secure the Samaritan region, taking the cities of Gophna, Bethel, Apherema, and Acrabeta. When Nero died, Vespasian was declared the new emperor, and he left for Rome. It then fell upon the shoulders of his son Titus to finish the war.

The troop movements of Titus are marked in red. In the year 69 A.D., Titus took charge of the Twelfth and Fifteenth legions. He moved down through the Samaritan region to Jerusalem. There, he was joined by the Fifth Legion, which came from Emmaus, and the Tenth Legion, which had been stationed in Jericho. At that point, he was ready to begin the siege of Jerusalem. Later in that same year, other Roman forces besieged Hebron, taking it away from the Idumeans.

The fifth stage of Rome's plan to end the revolt was to take Jerusalem. The siege of the city lasted two years, from 69 to 70 A.D. Finally, Jerusalem was taken in 70 A.D. and the Temple destroyed. Its treasures were taken to Rome. After Jerusalem fell, three of Herod's fortifications were still holding out. Rome was able to conquer both Herodium and Machaerus rather quickly, but Masada held out until the year 73 A.D. The conquest of these fortresses served as the sixth and final stage of the war. Once Masada fell, the First Jewish Revolt was over.



View of an ancient Legionnaire camp, in the desert at Masada.