



Roman Empire Interactive Timeline

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Roman Empire



A. 63 B.C.

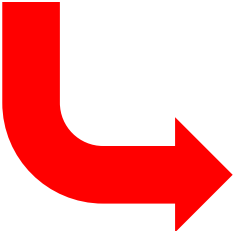
B. 132 A.D.

C. 306-336

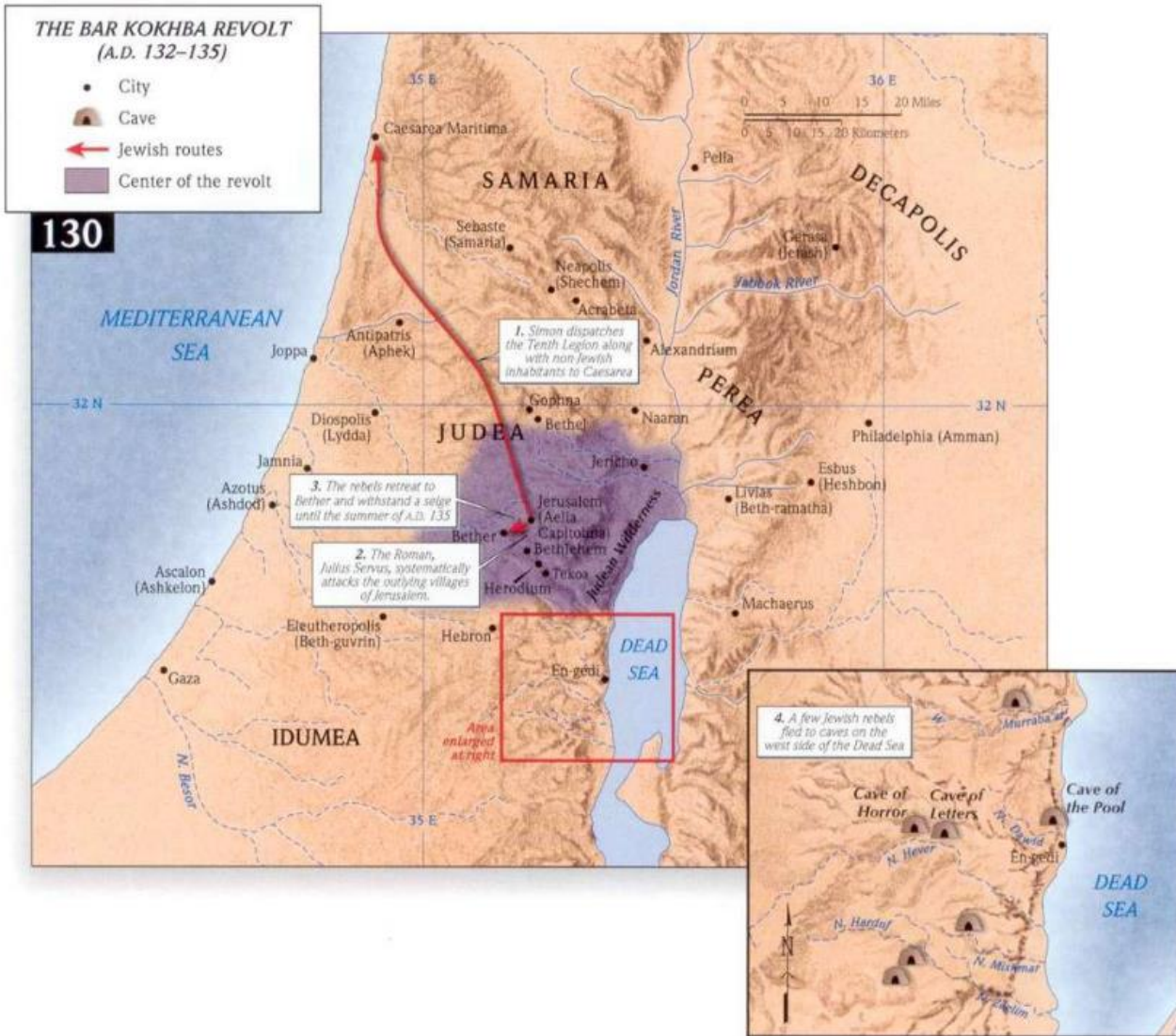
63 B.C.E., Jewish prisoners of war were brought to Rome as slaves



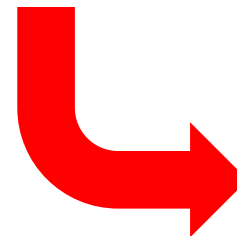
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132 A.D., Bar Kochba led a hopeless three-year revolt against the Roman Empire, many Jews had accepted him as the Messiah and Judaism was no longer recognized as a legal religion



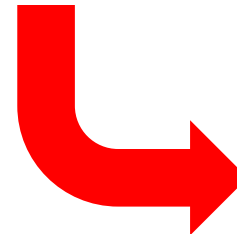
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The Jewish position in Rome began to deteriorate during the reign of Constantine the Great (306-336) who enacted laws limiting the rights of Jews as citizens, during this period there was a revival of Hebrew studies in Rome

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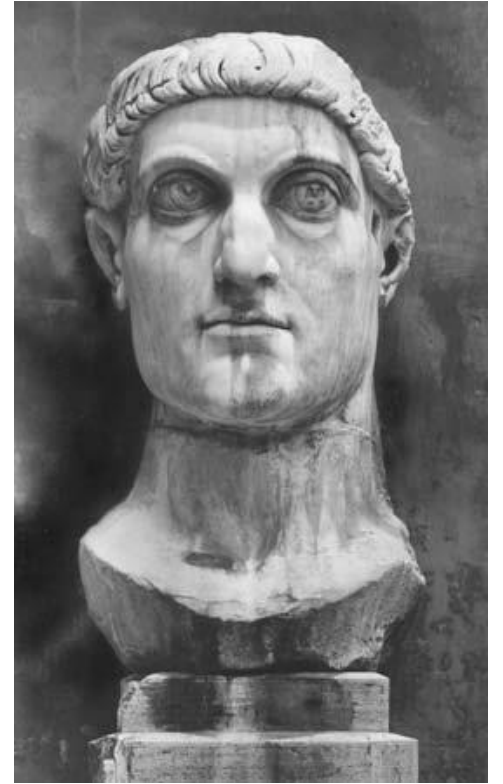


Emperor Constantine the Great

The first Life of Constantine describes its subject as "resplendent with every virtue that godliness bestows." This praise-filled biography came from the hand of Eusebius, bishop of Caesarea in Palestine, and perhaps Constantine's greatest admirer. It is the classic image that prevailed in Eastern Christianity for more than a thousand years.

Historians now debate whether "the first Christian emperor" was a Christian at all. Some think him an unprincipled power seeker. What religion he had, many argue, was at best a blend of paganism and Christianity for purely political purposes.

Certainly, Constantine held to ideals we no longer share. He knew nothing of religion without politics or politics without religion. Yet he clearly believed he was a Christian, and he looked back to a battle at the Milvian Bridge, just outside the walls of Rome, as the decisive hour in his newly found faith.



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Bar Kokhba Revolt

In 132, a revolt led by Bar Kokhba quickly spread from Modi'in across the country, cutting off the Roman garrison in Jerusalem. Roman Governor Rufus then unsuccessfully engaged the early phase of the uprising.

Rufus is last recorded in 132, the first year of the rebellion; whether he died or was replaced is uncertain. Initial rebel victories over the Romans established an independent state of Israel over parts of Judea for over two years, as Bar Kokhba took the title of Nasi ("prince").

Simon bar Kokhba, the commander of the revolt, was regarded by many Jews as the Messiah, who would restore their national independence. This setback, however, caused Roman Emperor Hadrian to assemble a large scale Roman force from across the Empire, which invaded Judea in 134 under the command of Roman General Sextus Julius Severus. The Roman army was made of six full legions with auxiliaries and elements from up to six additional legions, which finally managed to crush the revolt.



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Jewish Slaves Conti.

63 B.C.E. Rome (Pompey) annexes the land of Israel.

66-73 B.C.E. First Jewish Revolt against Rome.

69 B.C.E. Vespasian gives Yochanan ben Zakkai permission to establish a Jewish center for study at Yavneh that will become the hub for rabbinic Judaism.

70 B.C.E. Destruction of Jerusalem and the second Temple.

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