

neuvered himself into an important military position — in the northern part of Yehuda (*Judea*) — from which R.Shimon ben Gamliel I (unsuccessfully) sought to have him removed, because of this allegiance with Agrippa II and the Romans. He surrendered to the Romans not long after Vespasian commenced his military campaign in the north, and he subsequently travelled with them, recording the battles, and the destruction of Yehuda (*Judea*), Yerushalayim, and the Beit Hamikdash, from inside the Roman camp [Tzem.Dav./Sed. Had./Dor.Har.1.43; 3.1, 10, 12, 15(7), 39, 179].

— 3827 ≈ 67 —

With the fall of the surrounding country to Vespasian's army, the infighting and power struggles in Yerushalayim turned into open and bloody civil war, with factions fighting other factions (see 3815\55), even though they may have shared similar goals. Groups of militia set fire to the vast food storage facilities — which had contained enough to last for years — and some groups also formed an internal siege — not letting anyone out. A number of groups (some say) even minted their own coins, each (separately) claiming a 'free' state, under their own leader [Tal.Git.56a/Mid.Rab.Eych. 1.31/Tzem.Dav./Sed.Had./Dor.Har.3.33-5]. Many Jews from all over Yehuda (*Judea*), who had come to the Beit Hamikdash for Pesach were caught in the siege, and could not return home [Dor.Har.3.80]. R.Shimon ben Gamliel I died during the siege, possibly a targeted fatality of the civil war (see 3826\66) [See Appendix C] [Mrsha.Sot.49a/ Dor.Har.3.179].

— 3828 ≈ 68 —

R.Yochanan ben Zakkai — the last disciple of Hillel — escaped from the internal siege of Yerushalayim (see 3827\67), and from an imminent forced confrontation with the Romans. He personally negotiated an agreement with Vespasian to allow the continuance of the studies of the Sanhedrin in Yavneh — under R.Gamliel II

(son of R.Shimon ben Gamliel I) as Nassi (*President*). Vespasian returned to Rome — after the death of Nero — and Titus laid siege to Yerushalayim, causing serious hunger and disease in the overpopulated city (see 3827\67) [Tal.Git.56a-b, Av.Dr.Nat.4.5;6.3;14.1/Mid.Rab.Eych.1.31/ Dor.Har.3.33-5, 61-3].

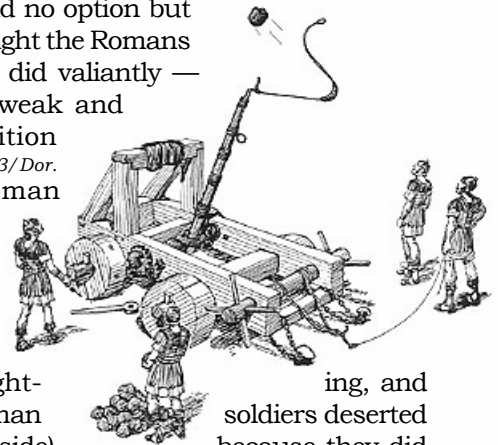
— 3829 ≈ 69 —

**The 2nd Beit Hamikdash was destroyed.**

All factions in Yerushalayim (see 3827\67) had no option but to (unite and) fight the Romans — which they did valiantly — despite their weak and starved condition

[Tal.Av.Dr.Nat. 6.3/Dor. Har.3.38]. (A Roman historian (Dio Cassius)

recorded that Titus was wounded during the fighting, and that some Roman soldiers deserted (to the Jewish side) because they did not believe they could conquer Yerushalayim).



On the 17th Tammuz the walls in Yerushalayim were penetrated, and the Romans advanced with difficulty, until they reached the Beit Hamikdash and set fire in it, on the 9th Av 3829. The western wall was all that remained of the structure, and the Romans took many of the holy utensils to Rome (see 4215\455) [Tos.A.Z.9b/Mmn.Hak.L'Yad].

Vast numbers of Jews (over one million recorded) died — in the battle, from hunger, and from disease [Tal.Tan.28b/Tzem. Dav./Sed.Had./Dor.Har.3.80].

Some say that the second Beit Hamikdash was destroyed in 3828 [Rashi A.Z.9b, Erch.12b]. (The secular date usually given for the destruction is 70 (3830\70). This one year difference could be accounted for by an adjustment based on the naming of the Jewish year 1. See 1\3760)

[3829\69 is continued in chapter 9.] 