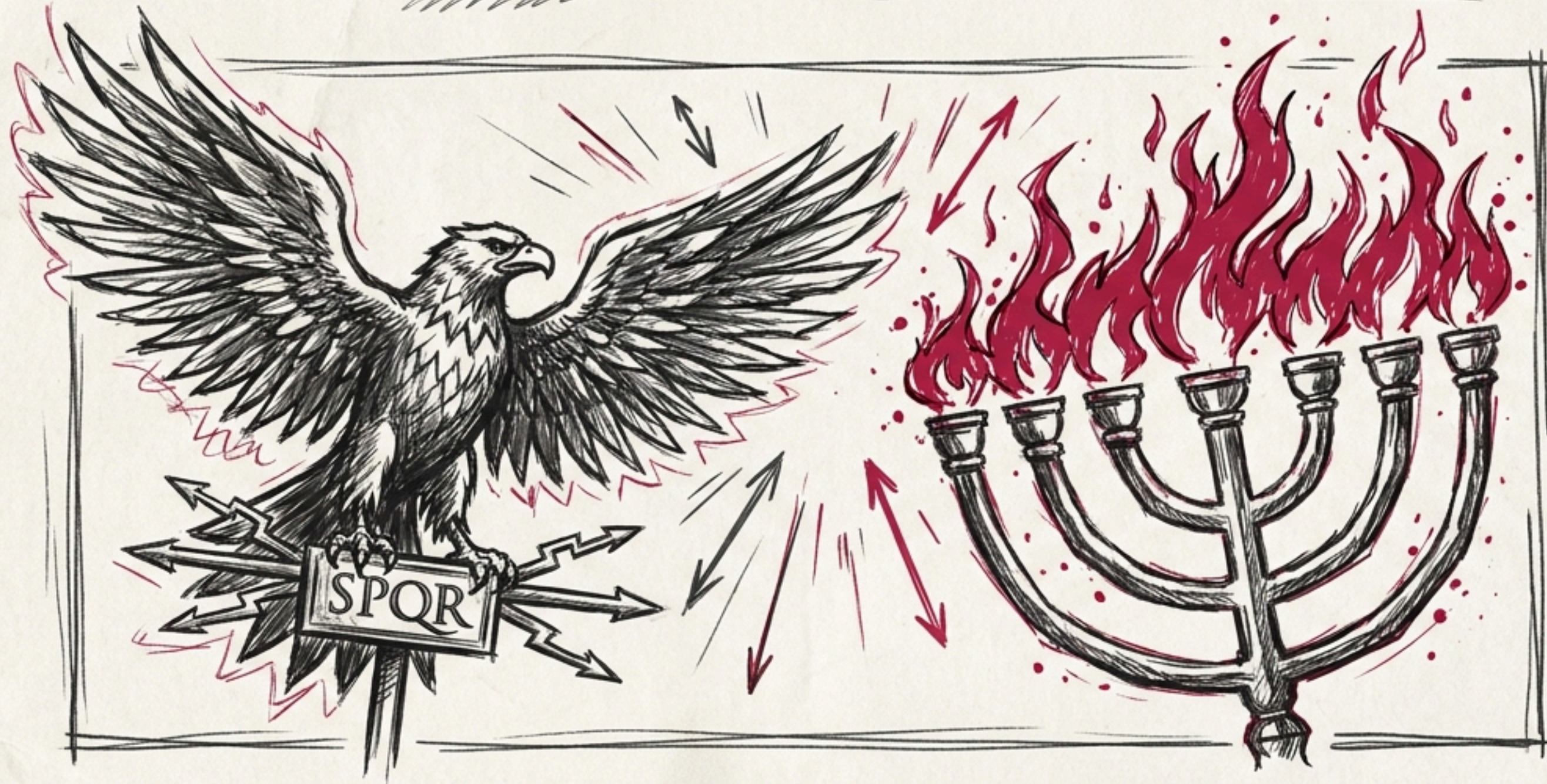
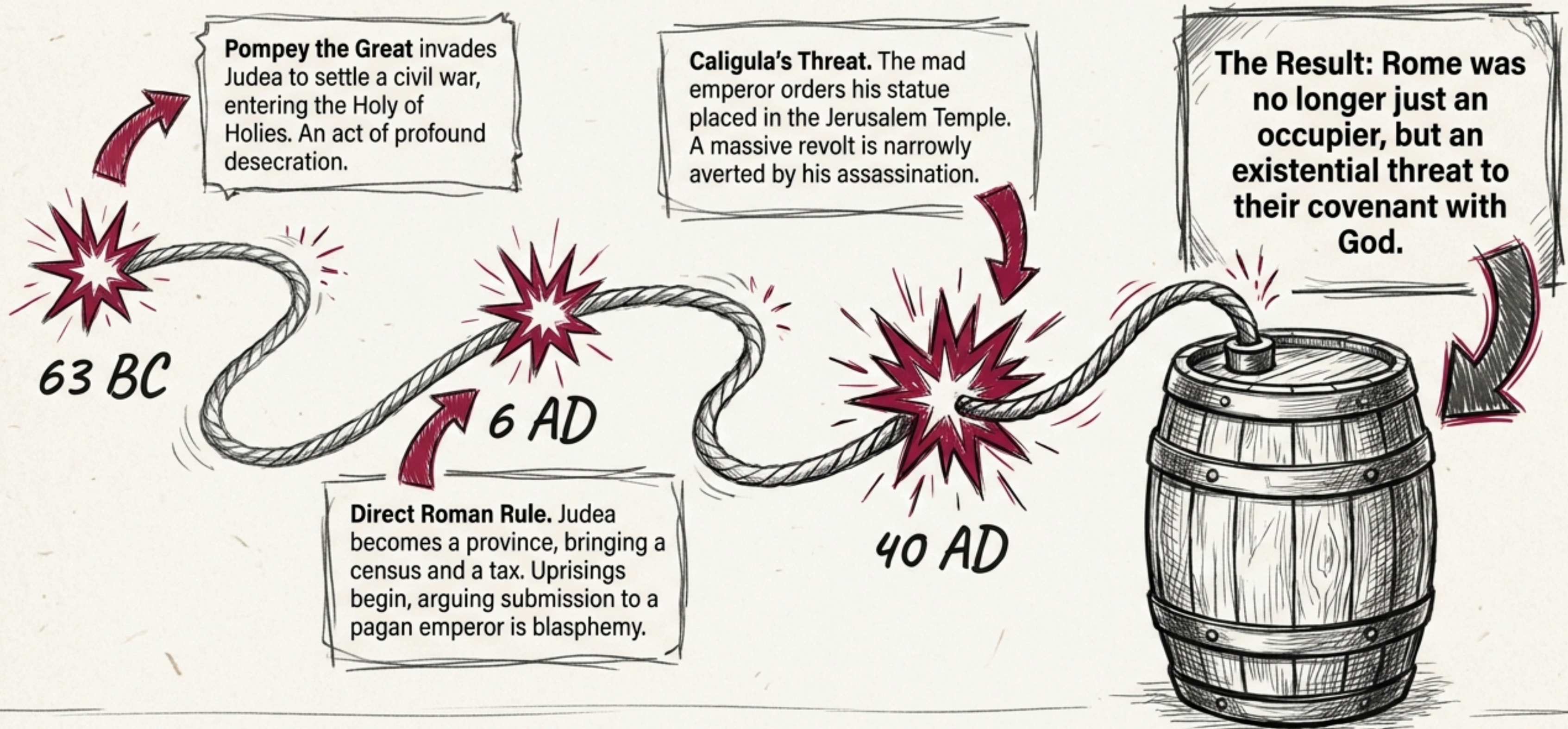


# The Jewish-Roman Wars Explained (66-135 AD)



Fighting an empire at the height of its power.  
Not once, but three times.

# 130 Years of Escalation and Resentment



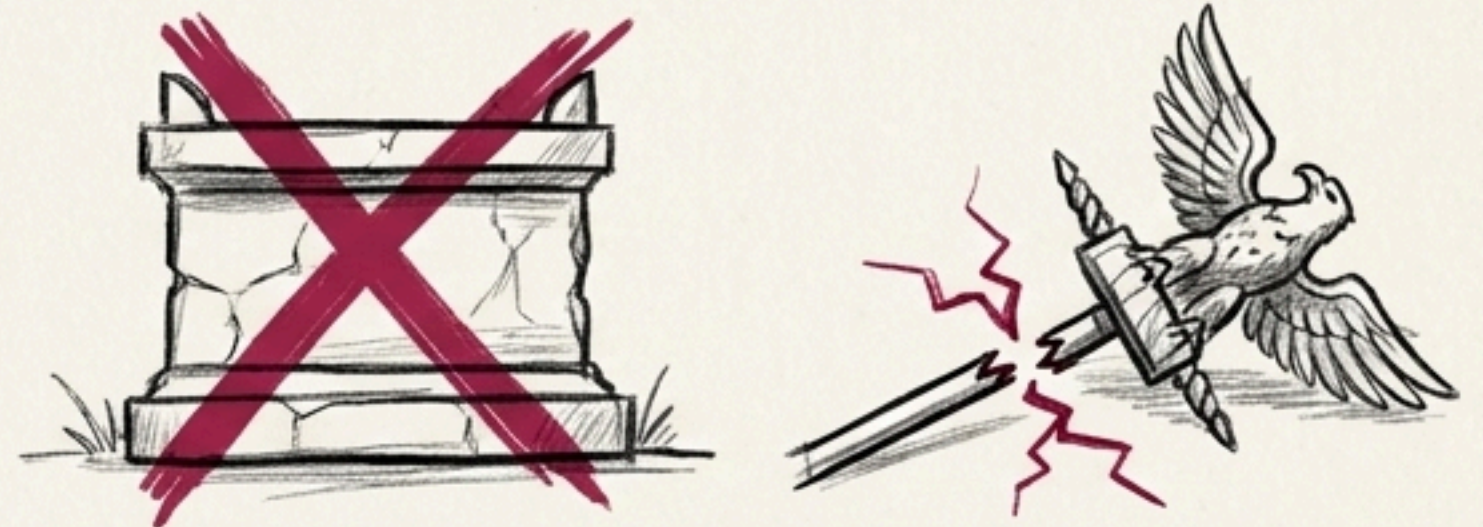
# The Great Revolt is Sparked in Caesarea

## The Provocations (66 AD)



A Greek merchant deliberately sacrifices birds at a synagogue. Governor Florus ignores the insult, plunders the Temple treasury, and crucifies protesters.

## The Retaliation



Eleazar ben Hanania halts daily sacrifices for the Roman Emperor. This radical decision acts as a formal declaration of war.

The Ambush at Beth Horon: Jewish rebels utterly destroyed the mighty 12th Legion, capturing their golden eagle standard. A humiliation Rome could not ignore.


# The Roman War Machine Awakens

## The Commander:

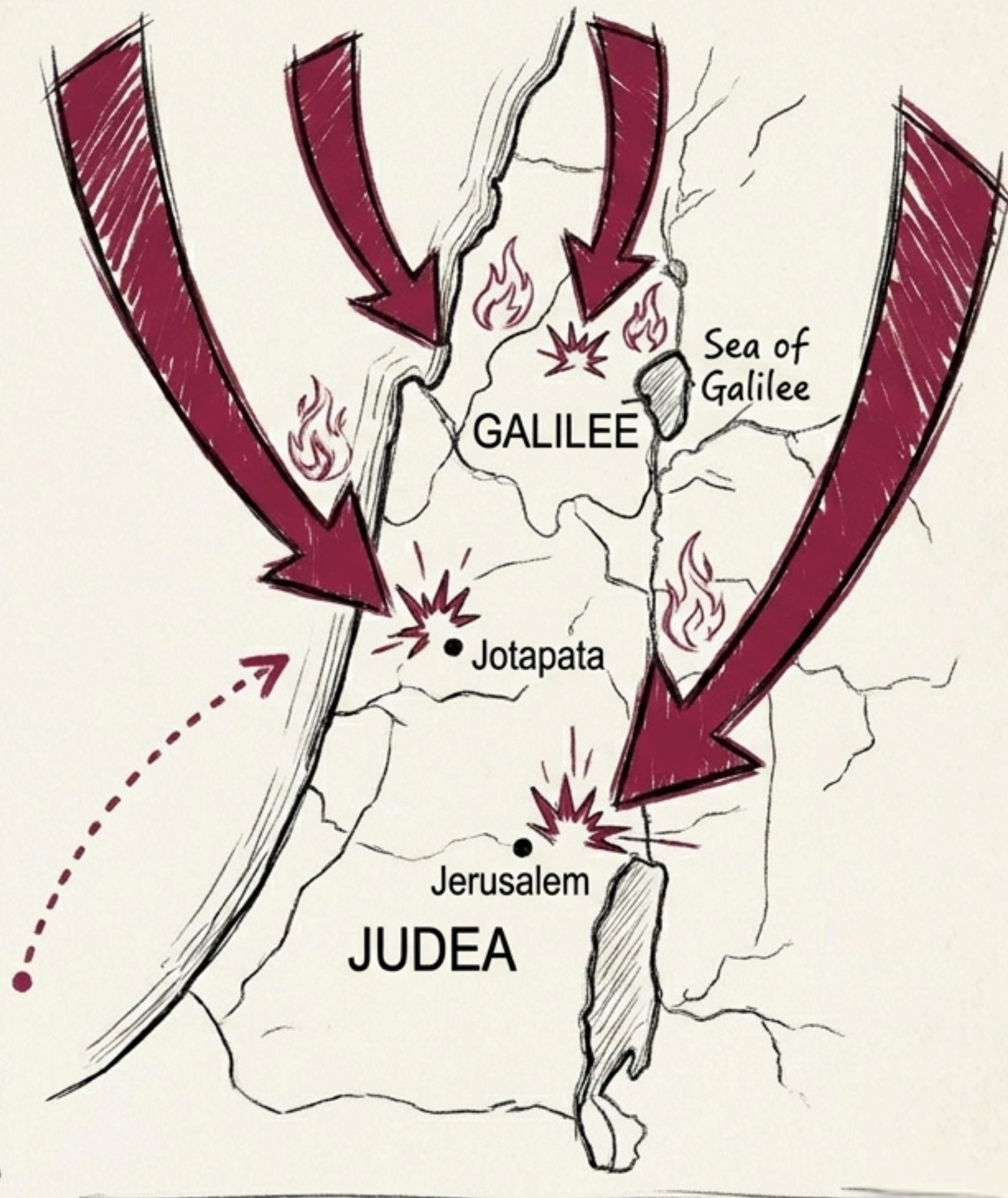
Emperor Nero sends his most reliable general: Vespasian, and his son Titus, equipped with 4 legions (60,000 men).

## The Strategy:

Systematic isolation. Strangle and crush the Galilean countryside fortress by fortress, rather than risking a direct assault on Jerusalem.



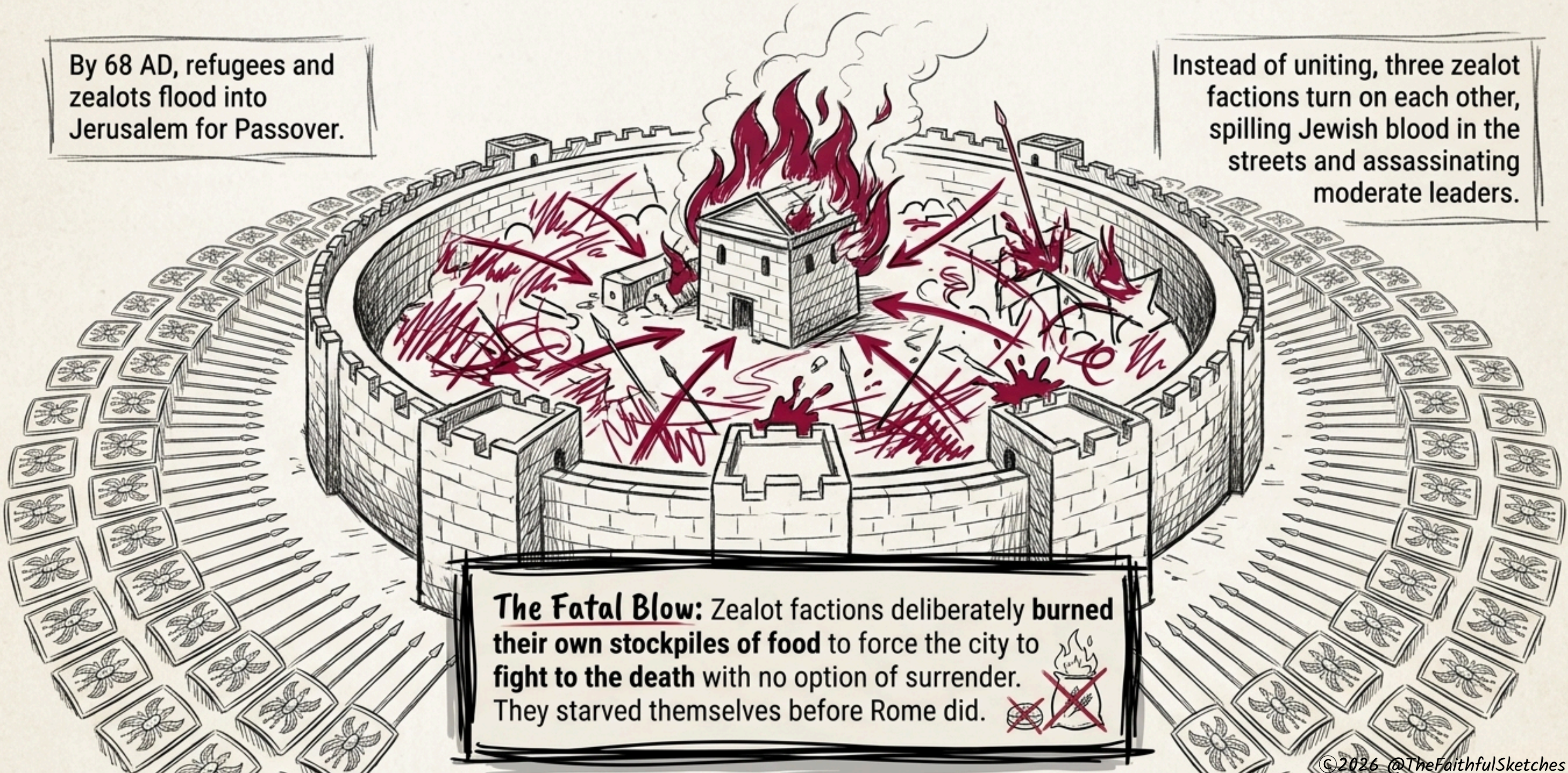
At Jotapata, Jewish commander Yosef ben Matityahu survives a siege, surrenders, and prophesies Vespasian will become Emperor. He later becomes Flavius Josephus—our primary historical source for the entire war.




# Jerusalem Implodes from Within

By 68 AD, refugees and zealots flood into Jerusalem for Passover.

Instead of uniting, three zealot factions turn on each other, spilling Jewish blood in the streets and assassinating moderate leaders.

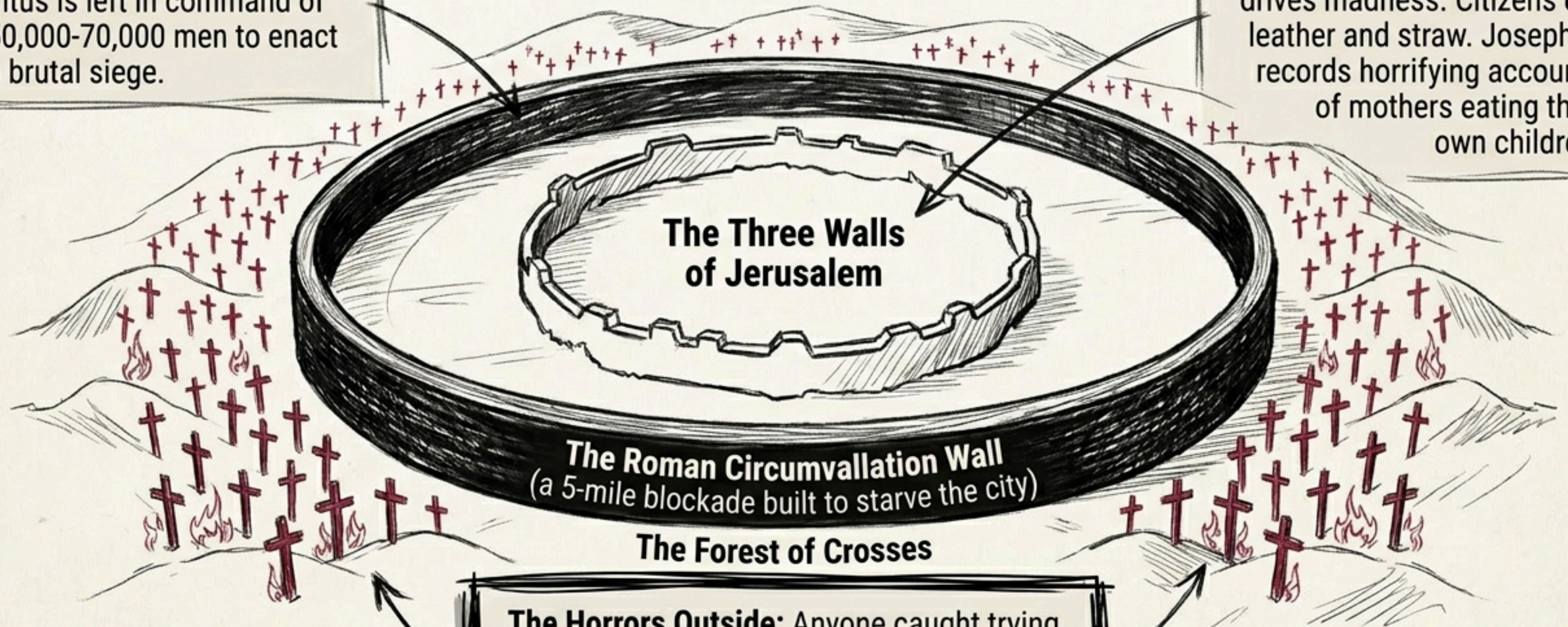


**The Fatal Blow:** Zealot factions deliberately burned their own stockpiles of food to force the city to fight to the death with no option of surrender. They starved themselves before Rome did. 

# The Strangulation and Starvation of the City

**Vespasian becomes Emperor:**  
Titus is left in command of 50,000-70,000 men to enact a brutal siege.

**The Horrors Inside:** Starvation drives madness. Citizens eat leather and straw. Josephus records horrifying accounts of mothers eating their own children.



**The Horrors Outside:** Anyone caught trying to escape is crucified in plain sight of the city walls to terrorize the defenders.

# The Destruction of the Second Temple



**9th of Av (Summer, 70 AD):** Romans breach the Antonia fortress. Despite Titus's alleged orders to preserve it, the Temple is burned to the ground.

**The lower city is razed.** The historian Tacitus records 600,000 dead; Josephus claims over a million.



100,000 survivors taken as slaves. The spoils of the Temple are paraded in Rome, signaling Jewish independence is dead.

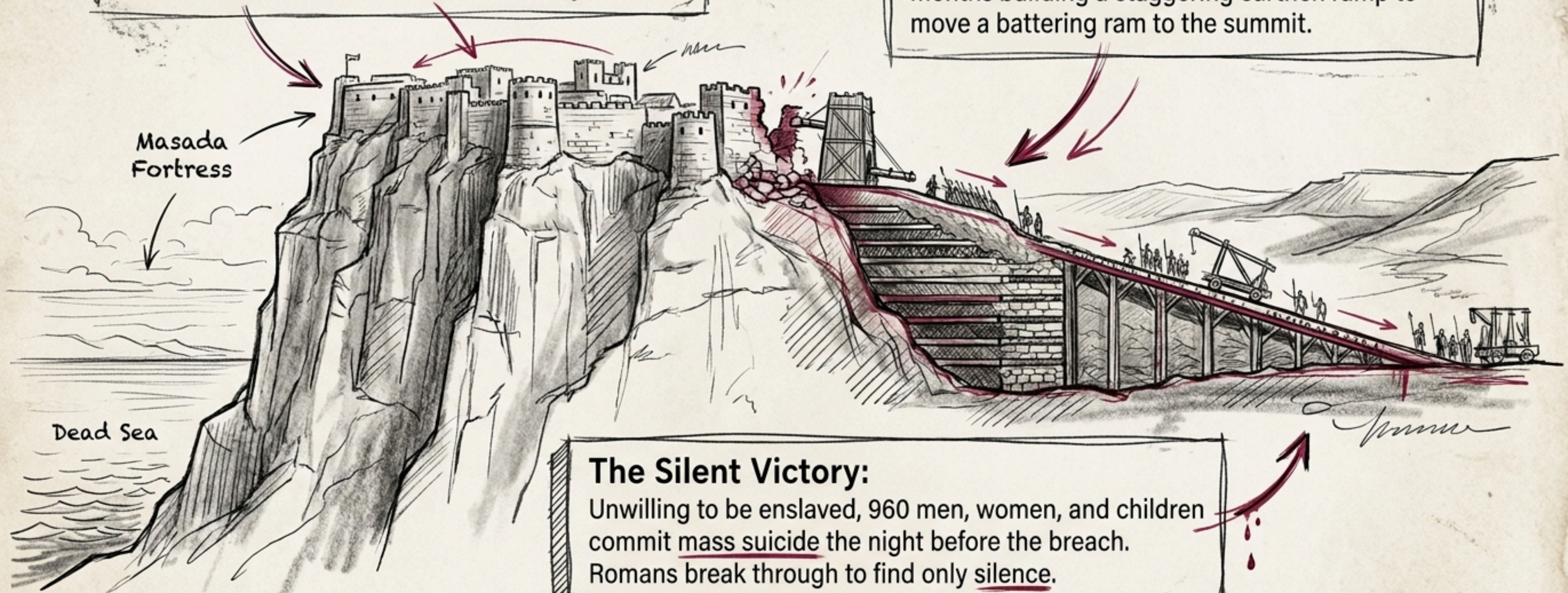
# The Impregnable Fortress and the Earth Ramp

## The Holdout (73-74 AD):

Nearly 1,000 Sicarii rebels, led by Eleazar ben Yair, survive on Herod's mountain fortress for years.

## The Roman Solution:

Governor Flavius Silva and the 10th Legion spend months building a staggering earthen ramp to move a battering ram to the summit.



## The Silent Victory:

Unwilling to be enslaved, 960 men, women, and children commit mass suicide the night before the breach. Romans break through to find only silence.

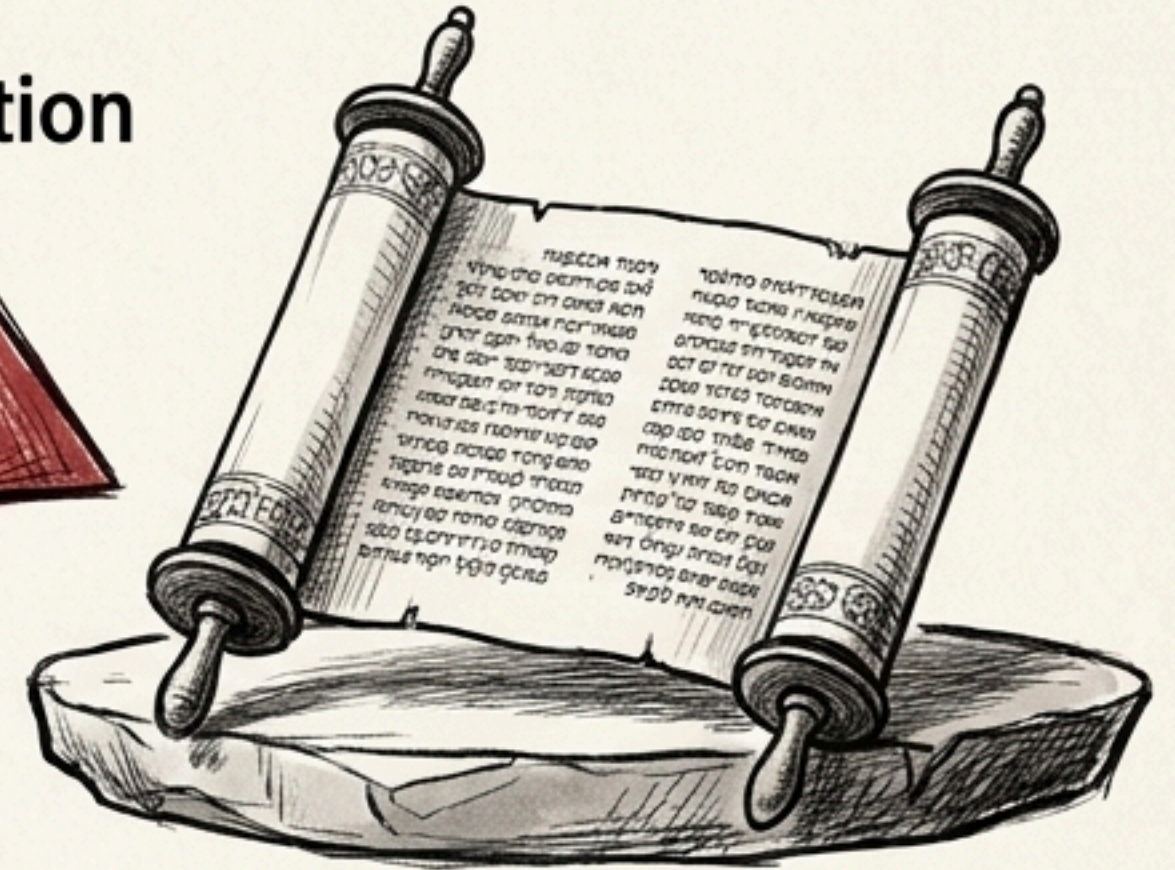
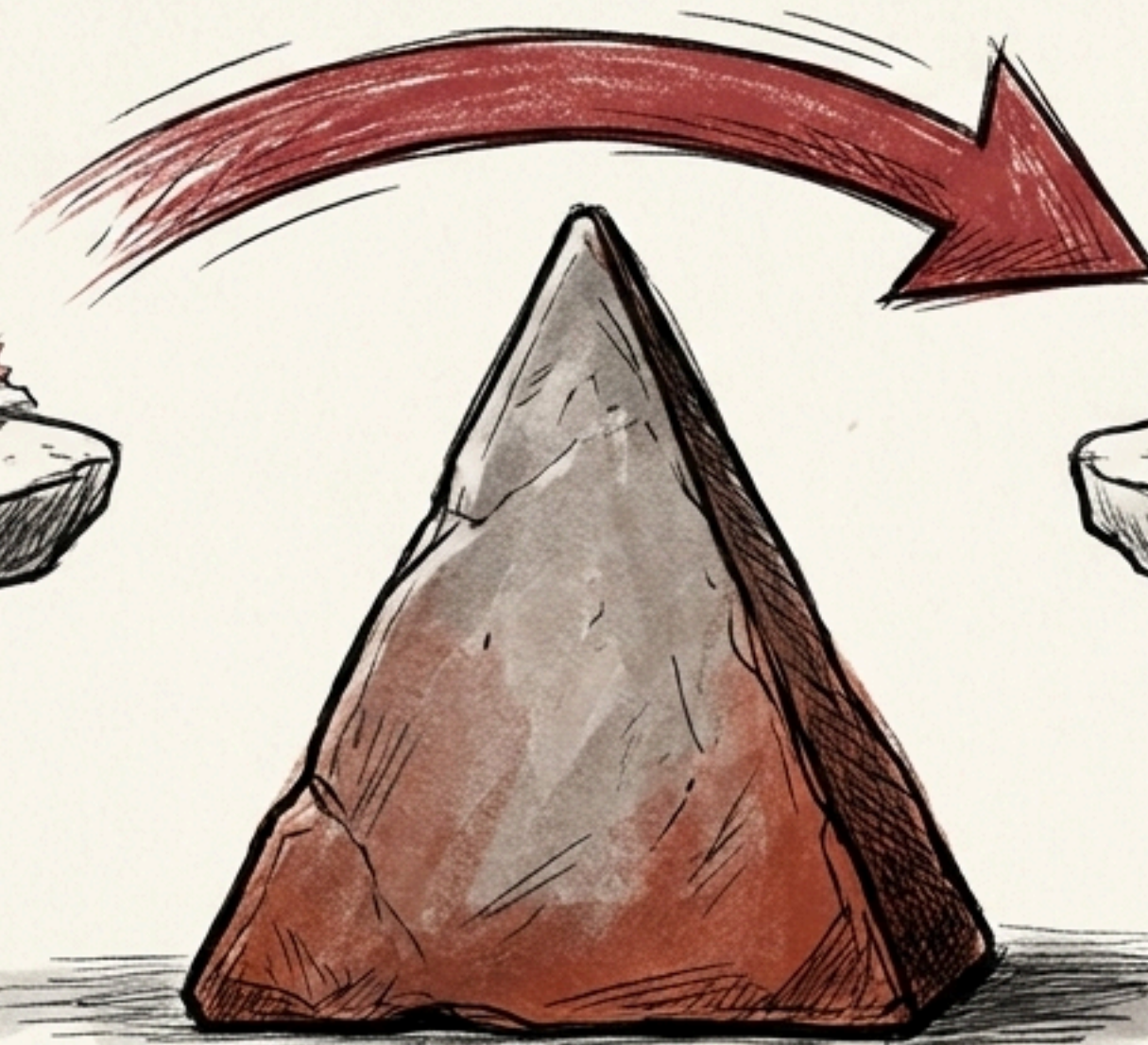
# Surviving the Ashes: A Religion Becomes *Portable*

## Weight-Bearing Transformation



### Before 70 AD

- Priests
- Geographic Center
- Animal Sacrifice



### After 70 AD

- Rabbis
- Global Diaspora
- Study & Prayer

- Rome imposes a humiliating tax redirecting Temple dues to Jupiter.

- The Escape: Sage Yohanan ben Zakkai is smuggled out of besieged Jerusalem in a coffin.

- The Pivot: He establishes an academy in Yavneh. Rabbinic Judaism is born, shifting the faith from a vulnerable physical building to text and community, ensuring its survival for two millennia.

# The Diaspora Erupts: The Kitos War (115-117 AD)



## **The Opportunity:**

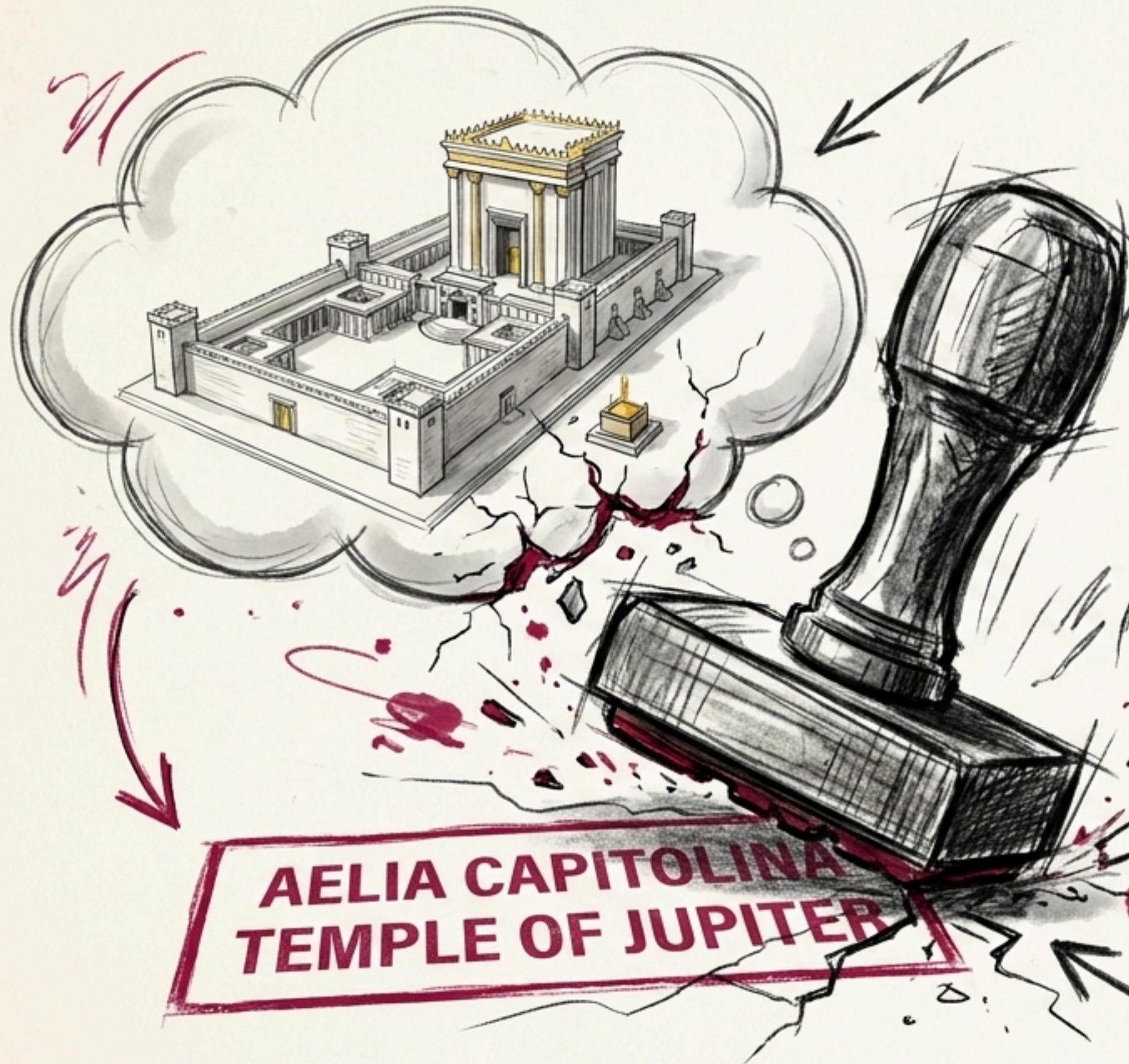
While Emperor Trajan is distracted fighting a war in the East, simmering Jewish resentments **explode** into a massive, coordinated diaspora uprising.

**The Carnage:** A brutal conflict defined by mutual annihilation. Jewish insurgents **destroy temples** and decimate local Greek and Roman populations.

## **The Outcome:**

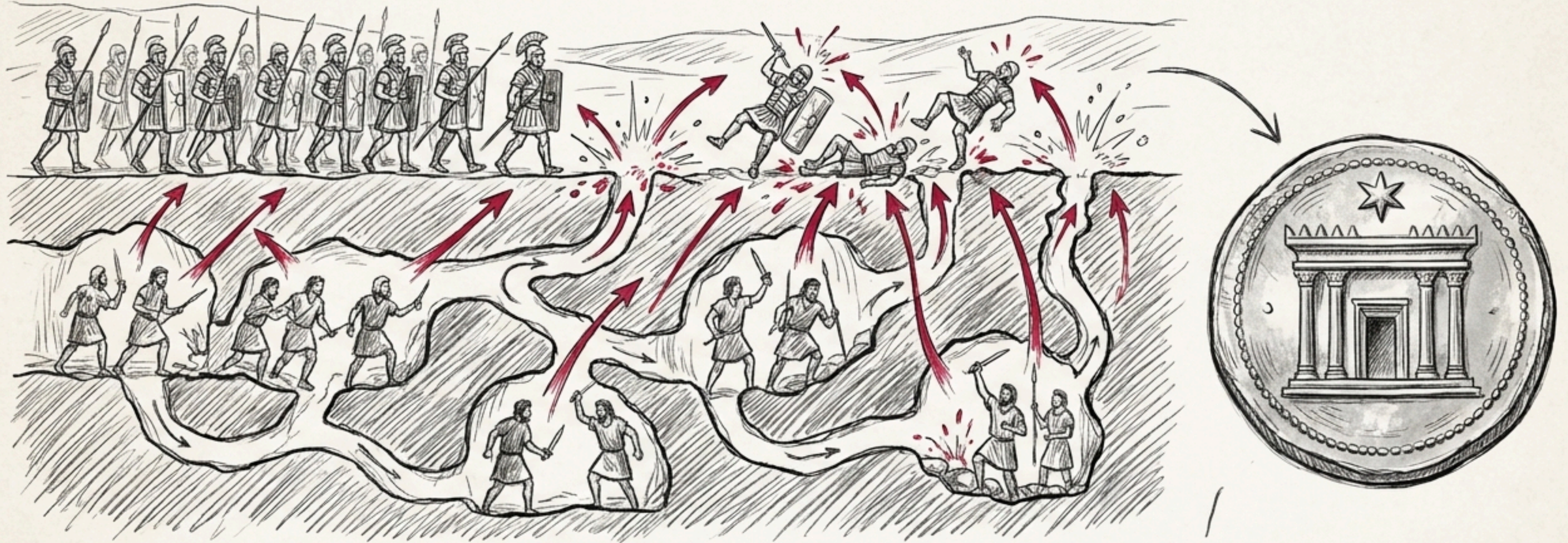
Roman generals take two years to violently **suppress** the revolt, literally wiping once-thriving Jewish communities off the map.

# Hadrian's Ultimate Desecration



- Around 130 AD, Emperor Hadrian announces plans to rebuild the ruined Jerusalem as a pagan Roman colony.
- He orders a temple to Jupiter, king of the Roman gods, built directly over the site of the Jewish Holy of Holies.
- **The Impact:** For a people mourning their lost temple, this signaled their God would never return. It forced one last, desperate gamble.

# The Final Uprising: The Bar Kokhba Revolt



- **The Leader (132-136 AD):** Simon Bar Kokhba, a ruthless commander hailed by Rabbi Akiba as the prophesied Messiah.

- **The Tactic:** Highly organized guerrilla warfare from interconnected cave networks. No pitched battles.

- **The Temporary Victory:** Rebels successfully drive Romans out of large parts of Judea, establish a provisional government, and mint their own coins.

# Absolute Annihilation and Erasure

~~JUDEEA~~  
SYRIA PALAESTINA



## The Roman Response:

Hadrian sends Sextus **Julius Severus** with up to **12 legions** (120,000 men) to enact a **terrifying war** of attrition.

## The Human Cost:

**580,000** Jewish soldiers killed, with 985 **villages entirely razed**. The final stronghold of Betar falls in **135 AD**.

## The Erasure Decrees:

Hadrian executes **Rabbi Akiba**, **bans the Torah** and **Sabbath**, and forbids Jews from setting foot in **Aelia Capitolina** (Jerusalem).

# Three Cataclysms at a Glance

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	The Great Revolt (66-73 AD)	The Kitos War (115-117 AD)	Bar Kokhba Revolt (132-136 AD)
The Trigger	Stolen Temple silver & halted sacrifices	<u>Diaspora resentment</u> during Trajan's absence	Hadrian's plan to build a <b>Temple to Jupiter</b> on the Mount
Key Figures	<b>Vespasian, Titus, Josephus</b> , Zealots	<b>Trajan</b> , local Greek/Roman neighbors	Hadrian, <b>Simon Bar Kokhba, Rabbi Akiba</b>
Roman Tactic	Massive siege engineering & starvation	Violent local suppression	Brutal underground attrition & starvation
The Tragic Outcome	<u>Second Temple destroyed</u> , <u>thousands enslaved</u>	<u>Complete annihilation</u> of Egyptian/Cyprus Jewish communities	<u>580k killed</u> , Judea renamed Syria Palaestina, <u>Jews exiled</u> from Jerusalem

Some of the info for 'Jubilee' from Josephus & Josephus Ch. 1896 with entries on the 'Jubilee'.

Jesus was crucified between Herod and Pilate and his arm was raised to the sky in the Roman

# Surviving the Unsurvivable

- The Bar Kokhba defeat ended the Jewish political entity in Judea, triggering a 1,900-year **diaspora**.
- Yet, Rome's victory was incomplete. By shifting from physical sacrifices to a **portable religion** of study, prayer, and the synagogue, Rabbinic Judaism ensured the **survival** of the people.
- Today, the Roman Empire is a memory, but the destruction of the Temple is still mourned on **Tisha B'Av**, and the story of this desperate struggle continues to **echo**.

