

TURNING POINTS IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY: Learning to spot key moments/movements
#1 INTRODUCTION AND THE FALL OF JERUSALEM - Paul E. Engle 2022

INTRODUCTION:

1. Cicero: "To know nothing of what happened before you were born is to forever remain a child."

2. Reasons why we should study history:

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____
- f. _____

3. Options for bringing order to Christian history:

I. JESUS AROUND AD 33 PREDICTED THE FALL OF JERUSALEM

A Jerusalem for many years was a center for Christian faith. What events occurred here?

B Olivet Discourse:

- 1. Where did it occur? _____
- 2. Who was there? _____
- 3. Where is it found in the gospels? _____

C In Luke 19:41-44 Jesus gives 4 actions that will occur as Jerusalem is attacked:

- 1. The enemy will erect _____
- 2. The enemy will encircle _____
- 3. The enemy will hem the residents inside the city.
- 4. The enemy will dash _____

II. WHAT WERE THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM?

A. The Romans in the first century ruled over Palestine.

- 1. Who declared himself a god? _____
- 2. What did he demand that met resistance from the Jews? _____

3. What happened to him in January 41 AD? _____

B. Several things irritated the Jews-- led to their hatred & resistance to the Roman captors:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

C. Florus sent in Roman soldiers to end the protests. He himself left Jerusalem and headed north to Caesarea Maritima. But he left behind only c.100 soldiers in Jerusalem. That wasn't enough to keep the peace & stop violent protests. So the leaders of the protest took control of the fortress of Antonia, the temple mount, & Masada to the south.

D. When things got bad for the believing Jews what did they do? _____

*Eusebius, "Church History" 3.5

Epiphanius, "On Weights and Measures" 15

Christ decades earlier (Lk. 21:20-21)

E. Jewish historian Josephus wrote Jewish Wars which mentions two groups that stirred up the opposition:

- a. Sicarii = lit. Dagger men.
- b. Zealots

F. In 66AD the Roman governor of Syria, Cestius Gallis, headed with his troops south toward Jerusalem to stop the rebellion. But what happened?

G. Nero decided he should send to Israel his general _____. So in AD67 Vespasian arrived with the Tenth Roman Legion. Gradually and systematically he took the country back for the Romans.

H. What happened to Nero in June of AD 68: _____

I. Nero's replacement as Roman Emperor was _____. So in AD 69 he returned to Rome and became Emperor. He left behind in Jerusalem his son _____

III. THE STORY OF THE SEIGE ON JERUSALEM

- A. Titus used _____ legions of soldiers who laid siege to the walled city.
- B. It took them how long to take control of the heart of the city? _____
But the war extended on for how long? _____
- C. How did the Romans breach the city?
- D. Why did they burn and destroy the temple?
- E. Meanwhile the remaining people were starving, thus killing off the last holdouts.
Some went where? _____
- F. How many were killed? _____

IV. WHAT ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE DO WE HAVE OF THE FALL OF JERUSALEM?

- A. In the city of Jerusalem we can still see what? _____
Cf. Mark 13:1-2; Luke 19:44
- B. In Rome's Roman forum, we see what visible reminder of the fall of Jerusalem? _____

V. WHAT WAS THE LONG-TERM IMPACT OF THE FALL OF JERUSALEM?

- A. It marked the end of _____. Cf. Hebrews 10:10, 12
- B. A split developed between followers of Jesus and the Jewish community: _____
- C. It was a sign of _____. Cf. Luke 19:44
- D. The fall was used providentially by God to _____
By year 300 how much of population of Roman world professed Christianity? _____

CONCLUSION: The true story of the fall of Jerusalem makes sense if we believe in the doctrine of providence, realizing life still has some unanswered questions. Cf. Heidelberg Catechism #10