

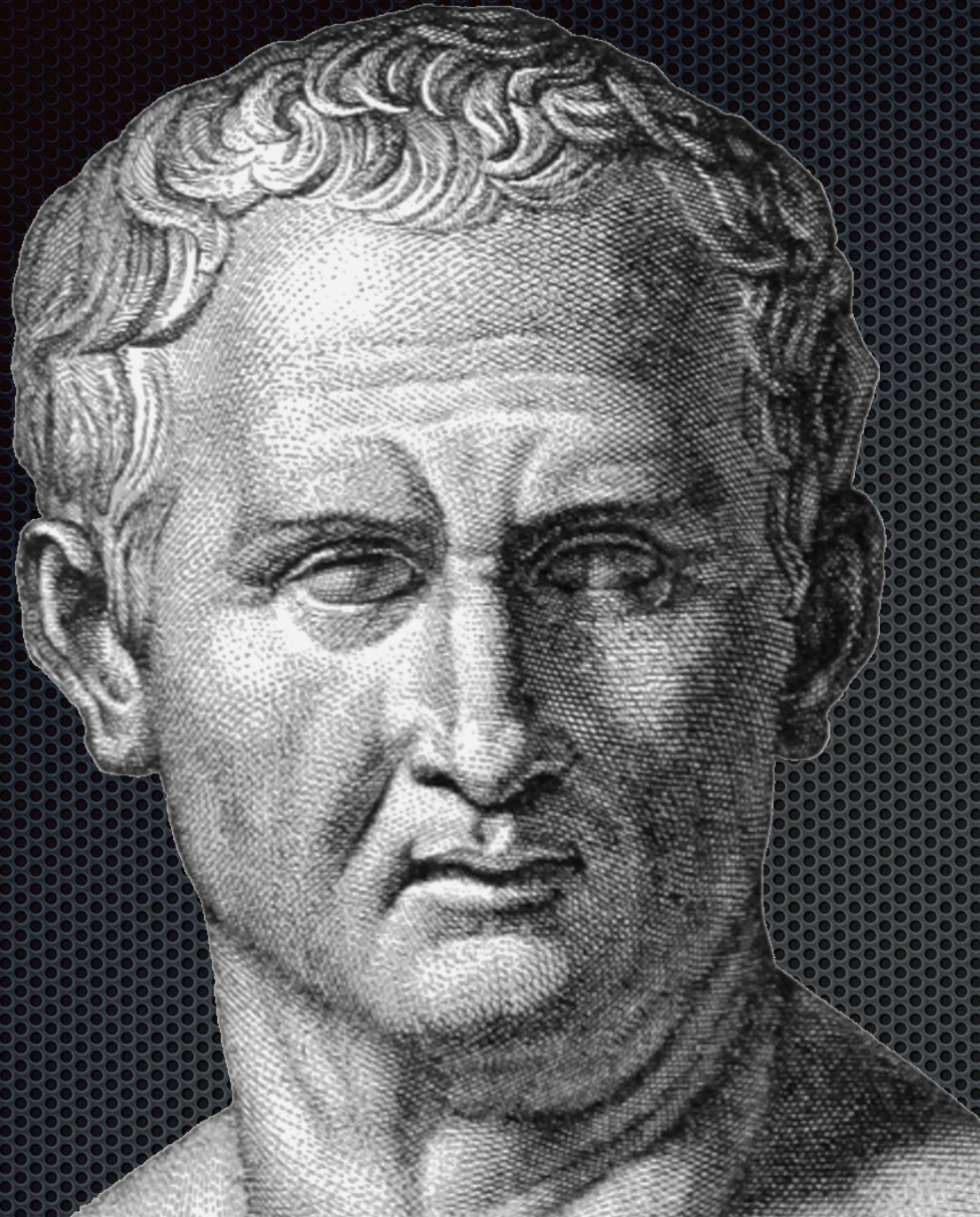


# **TURNING POINTS IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY**

## **PAUL E. ENGLE 2022**

[ScriptureGateway.com](http://ScriptureGateway.com)





CICERO

***“To know  
nothing of what  
happened before  
you were born is  
to forever remain  
a child.”***



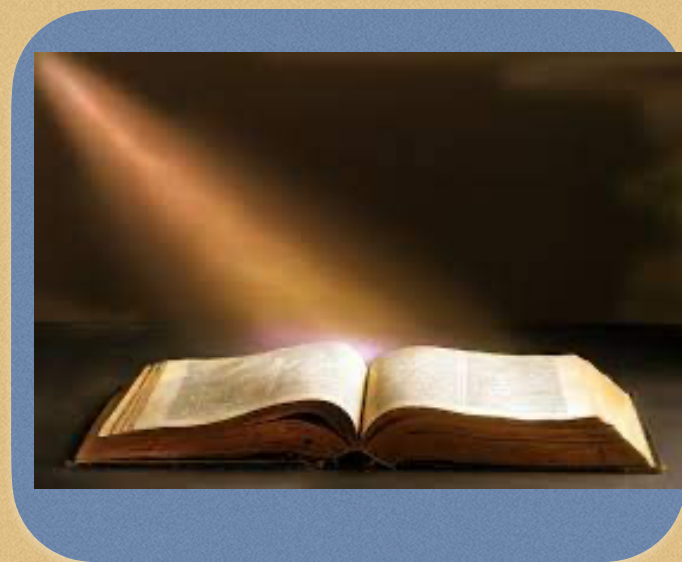
# **THE REASONS FOR STUDYING CHURCH HISTORY**



- \* It shows the historical character of the Christian faith (not just subjective feelings or fiction) – geography (space) and time.**



- \* It gives us a healthy perspective on the interpretation of Scripture.**





**3. It helps us avoid the heresies  
and mistakes of the past.**





**It gives us perspective to keep us humble. God can use people who have weaknesses, who make foolish mistakes.**



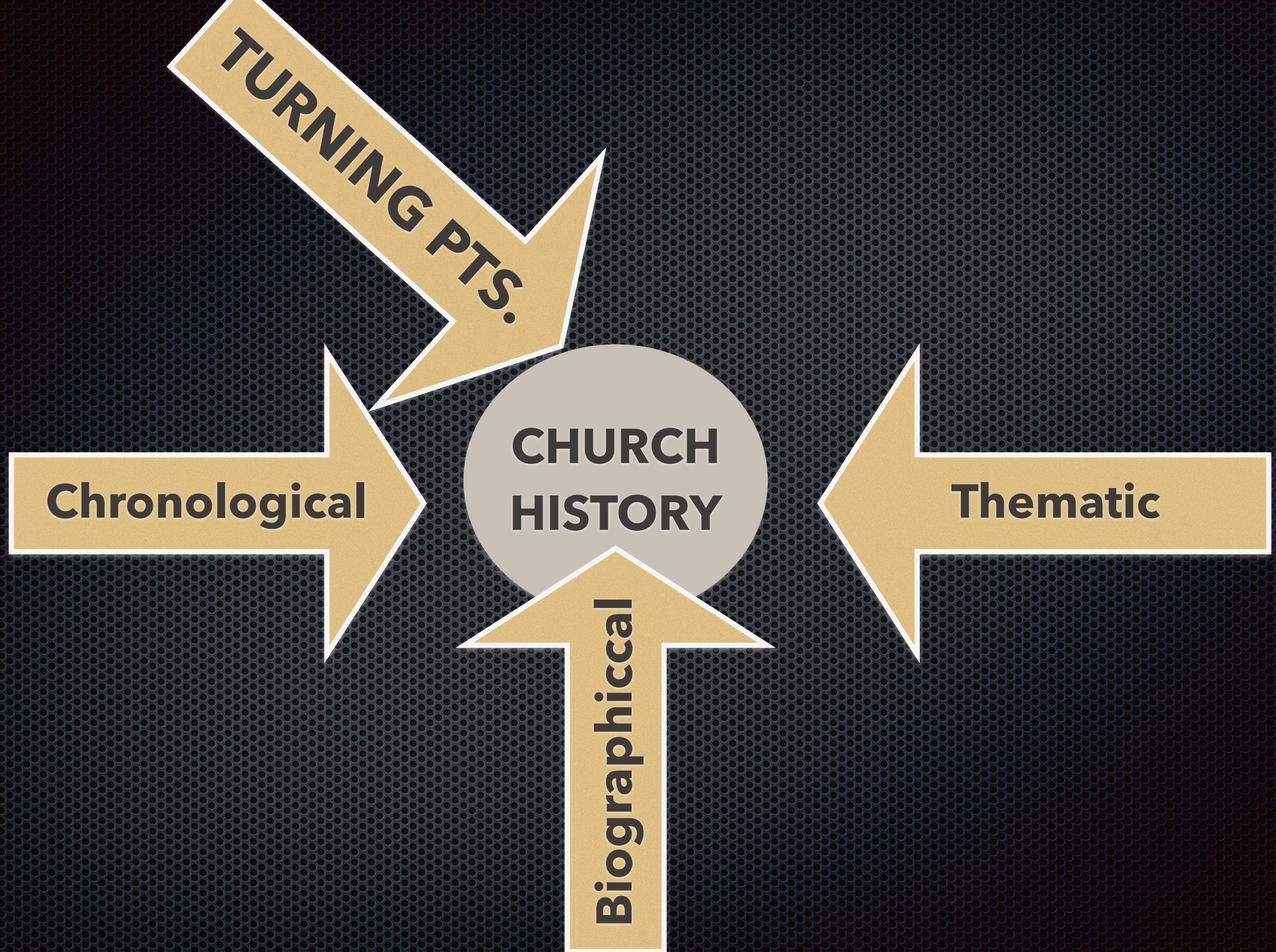




- \* It helps us avoid provincialism by seeing we are part of a larger stream –helps us avoid reading our culture into the Biblical text.**
- \* It helps us to persevere and endure until Christ returns.**









# TURNING POINTS IN HISTORY



**SUBJECTIVE CHOICE OF  
ELEVEN**



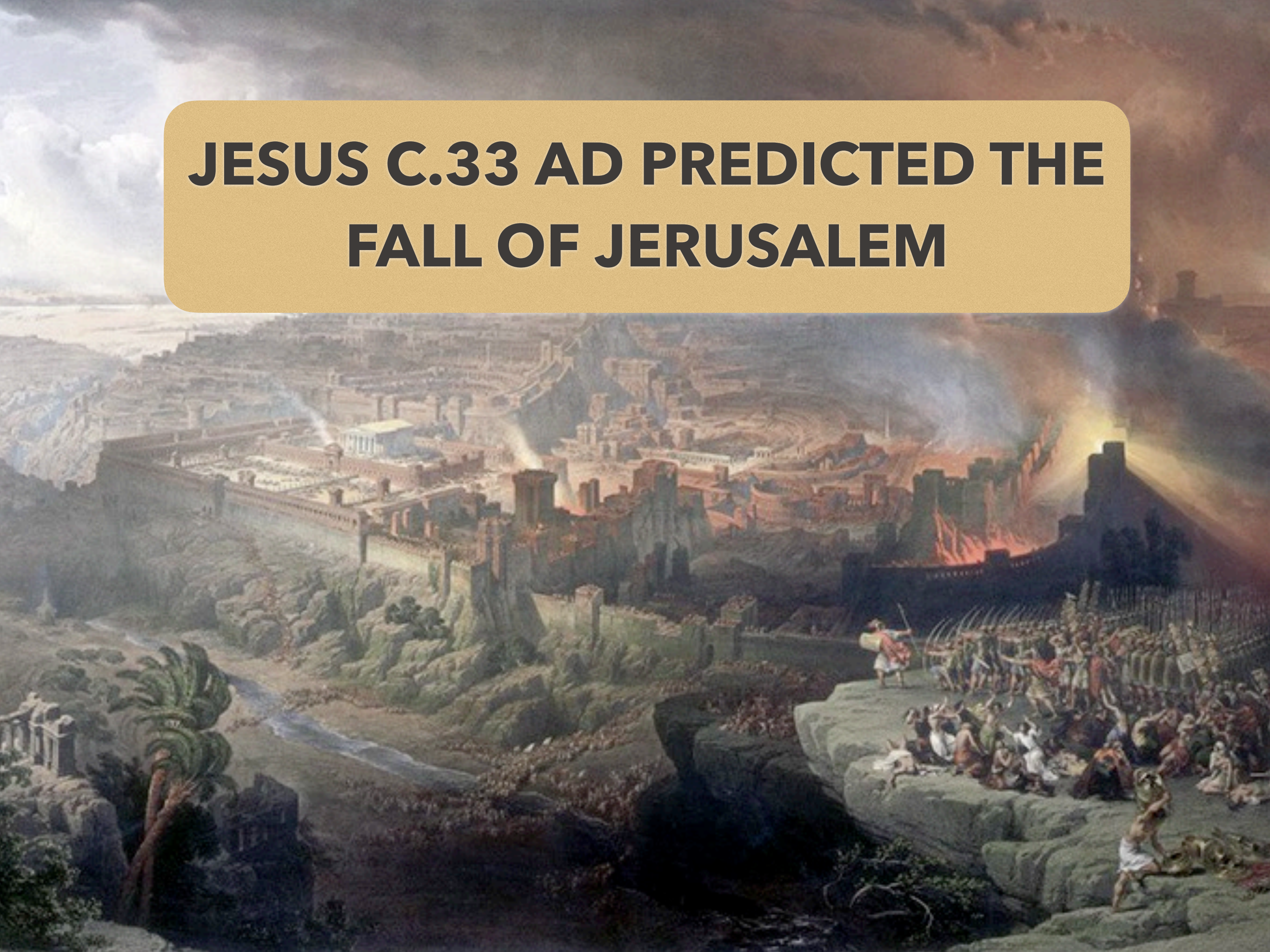
**#1**

**THE FALL OF  
JERUSALEM TO  
THE ROMANS**



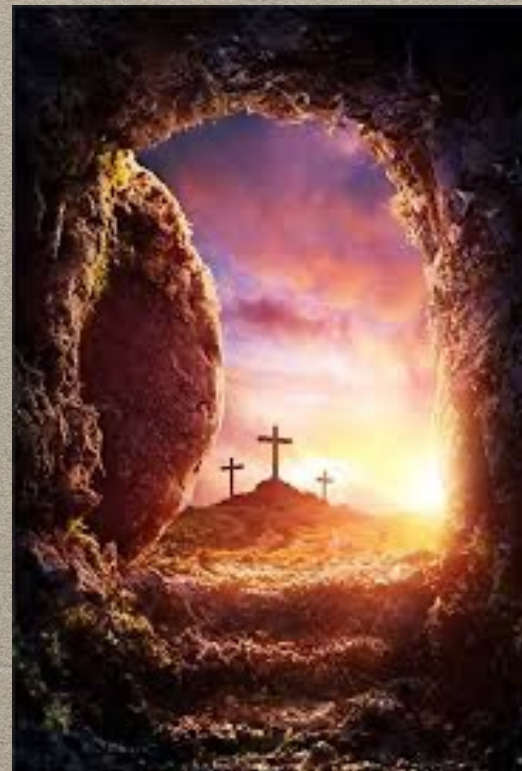
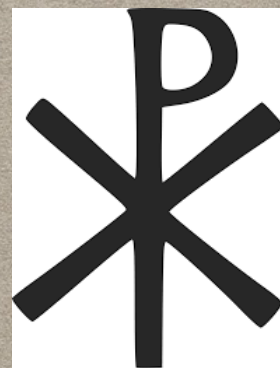


# **JESUS C.33 AD PREDICTED THE FALL OF JERUSALEM**

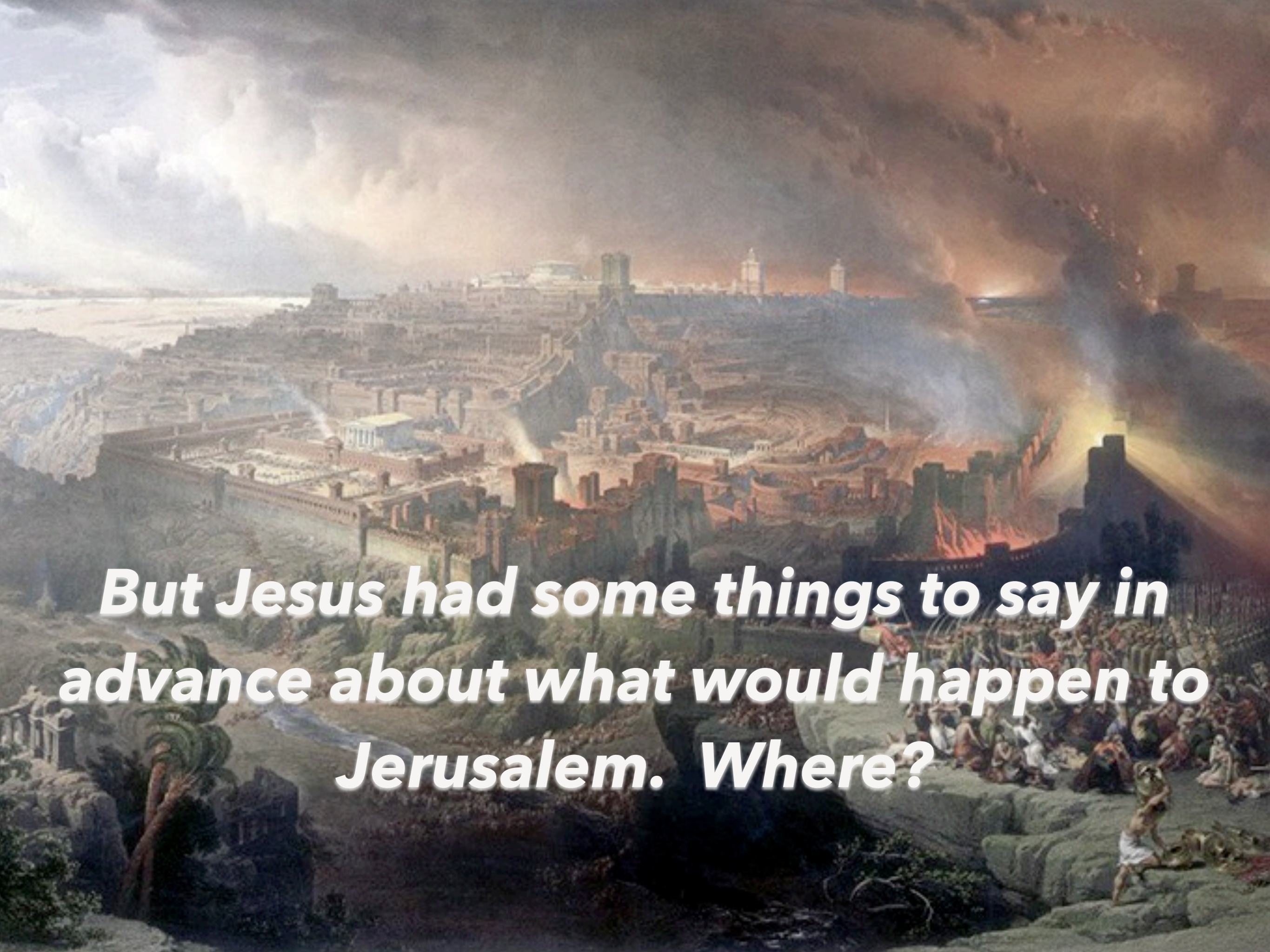




# JERUSALEM FOR MANY YEARS CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN FAITH





A dramatic painting depicting the destruction of Jerusalem. The city is shown in flames and smoke, with a large crowd of people gathered on a rocky hillside in the foreground, looking towards the burning city. The sky is filled with dark, swirling clouds and a bright light source, possibly the sun or a fire, creating a sense of divine judgment. The architecture of the city is detailed, showing various buildings and fortifications. The overall tone is somber and apocalyptic.

***But Jesus had some things to say in advance about what would happen to Jerusalem. Where?***





**OLIVET DISCOURSE OF JESUS  
FROM MOUNT OF OLIVES  
OVERLOOKING JERUSALEM**



**MATTHEW 24  
MARK 13  
LUKE 19 & 21**



# LUKE 19:41-44





**LUKE 19:41-44 give summary of  
FOUR ACTIONS AS ROMANS ATTACK**

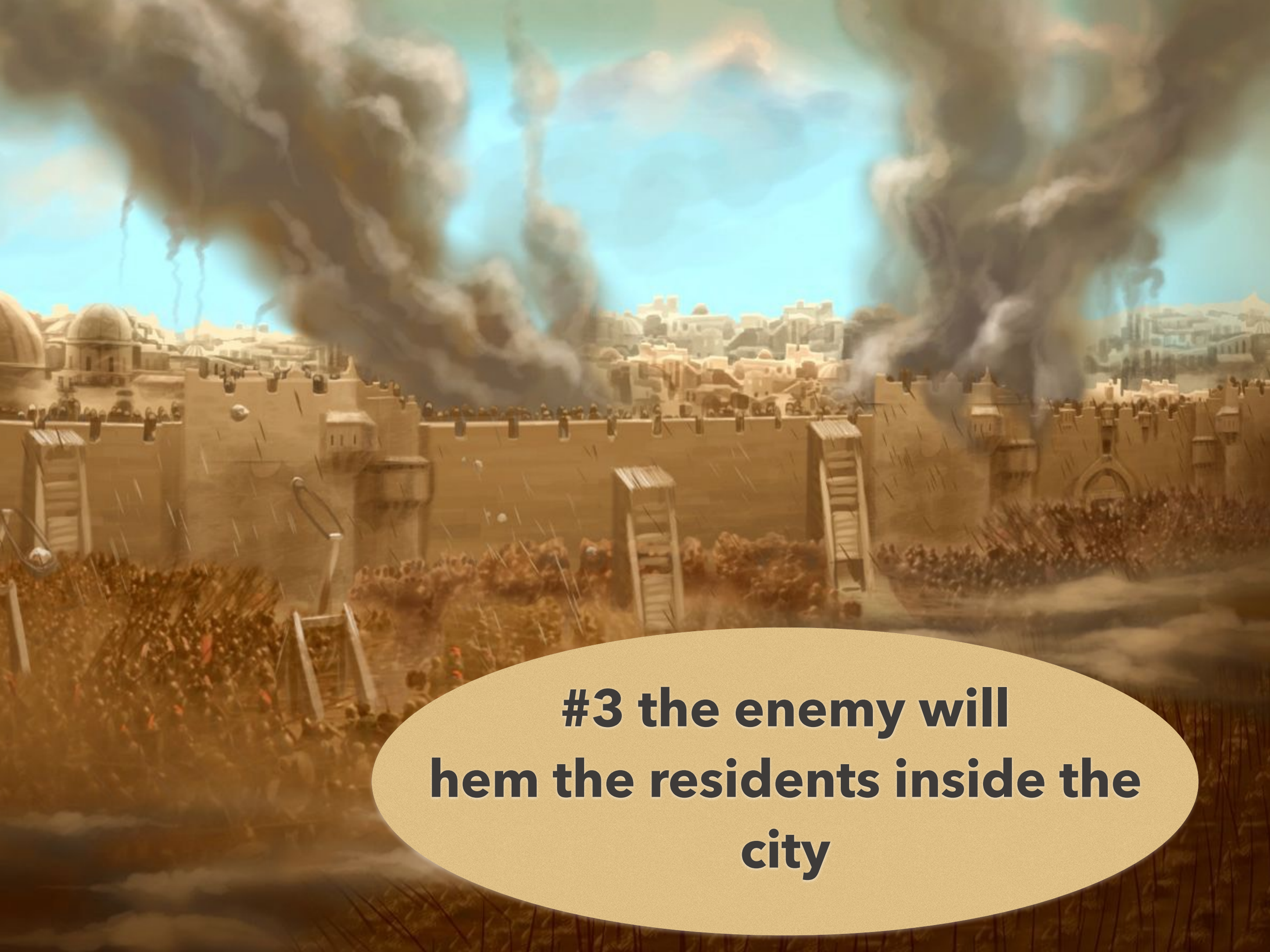
**#1**

**Enemy will erect  
embankment at walls  
of Jerusalem**

**#2 Enemy will  
encircle city as  
they lay siege**








**#3 the enemy will  
hem the residents inside the  
city**





**#4 The  
enemy will  
dash adults &  
children to the  
ground.**

**UTTER DEFEAT !**



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





**Map of Roman Empire**  
at its greatest extent  
..... Roman Empire at the time of Jesus





**Roman Emperor Caligula  
ruled over Palestine**

**In AD 39 he declared  
himself a god.**



**Caligula  
demanded that  
his statue be  
erected in  
temples.**





**Jews resisted  
putting his image  
in the Jerusalem  
temple. So Caligula  
vowed to destroy  
the Jews.**

**But he was  
assassinated in  
January 41 AD**





## **WHAT IRRITATED THE JEWS & LED TO HATRED & RESISTANCE?**

- \* Having to pay taxes to Roman Emperor.**
- \* Losing independence to foreign power.**
- \* Losing control to Gentiles, of all people.**
- \* Having to give loyalty and worship to Roman emperors who were viewed as divine gods.**



# **Rome sent procurators to Palestine to collect taxes from the Jews**



**AD 66 Roman procurator FLORUS seized silver from the Jewish temple treasuries. Jews mocked him in public protests**

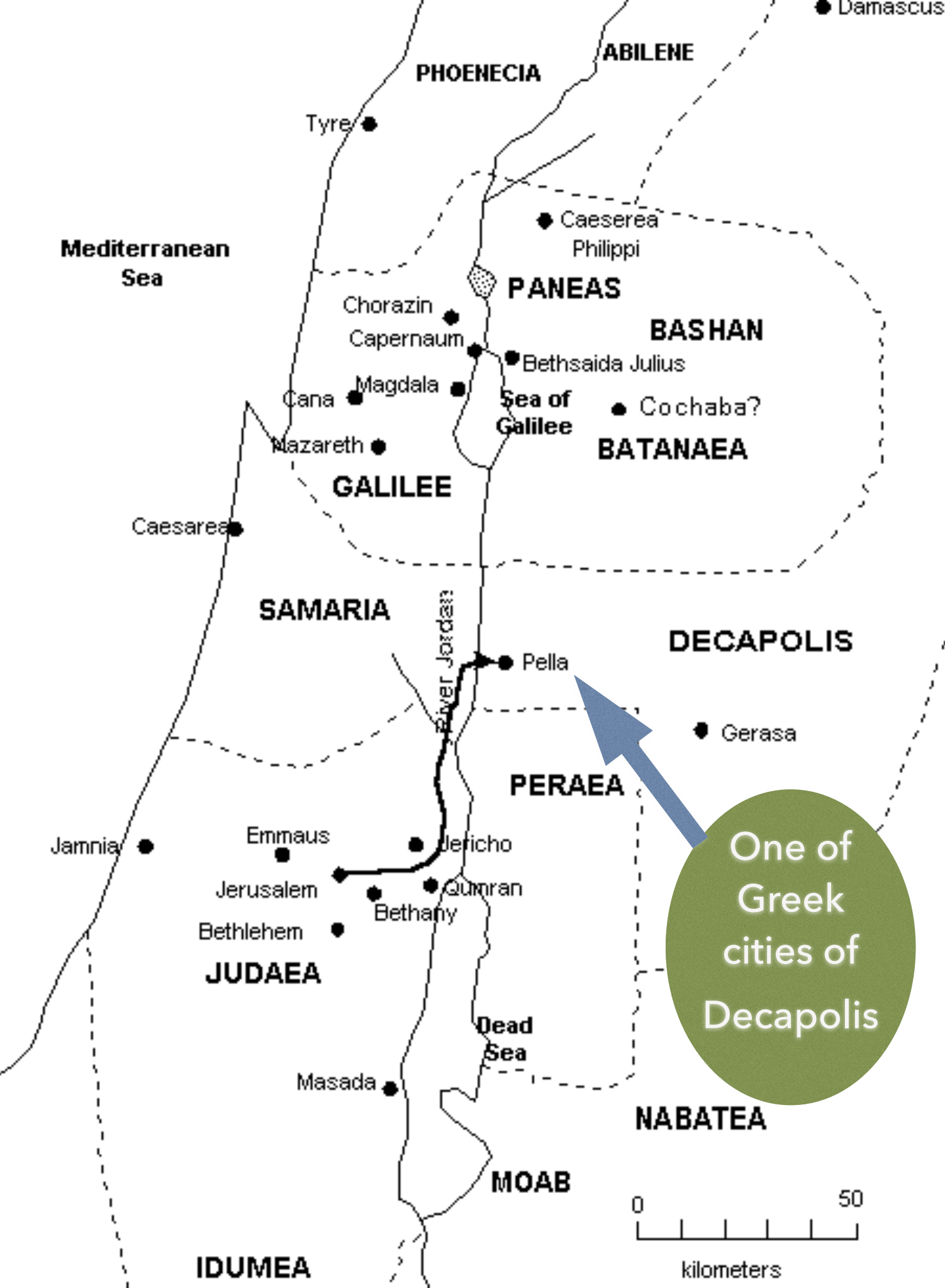




**Florus sent soldiers to end protests. He left Jerusalem & headed to Caesarea. Left behind only 100 soldiers.**

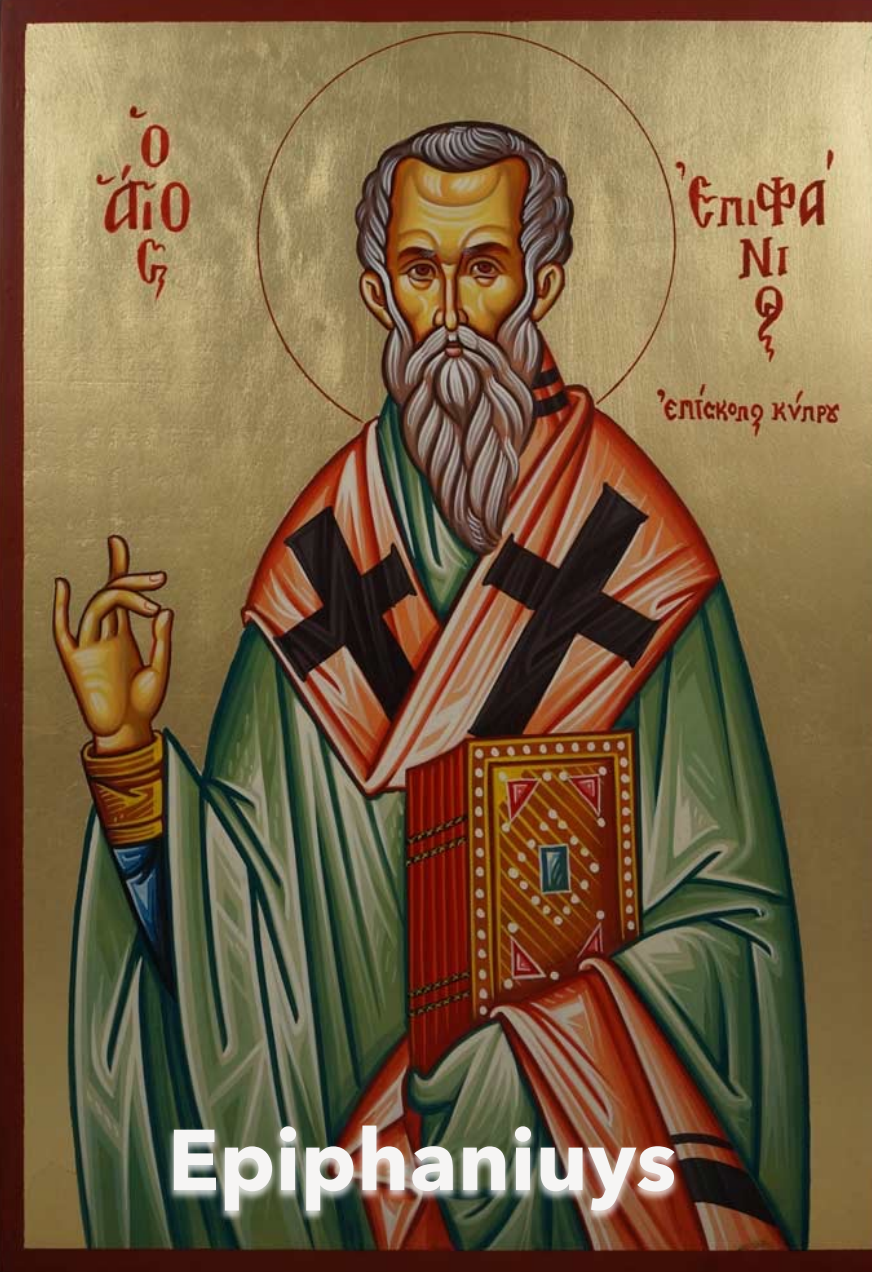
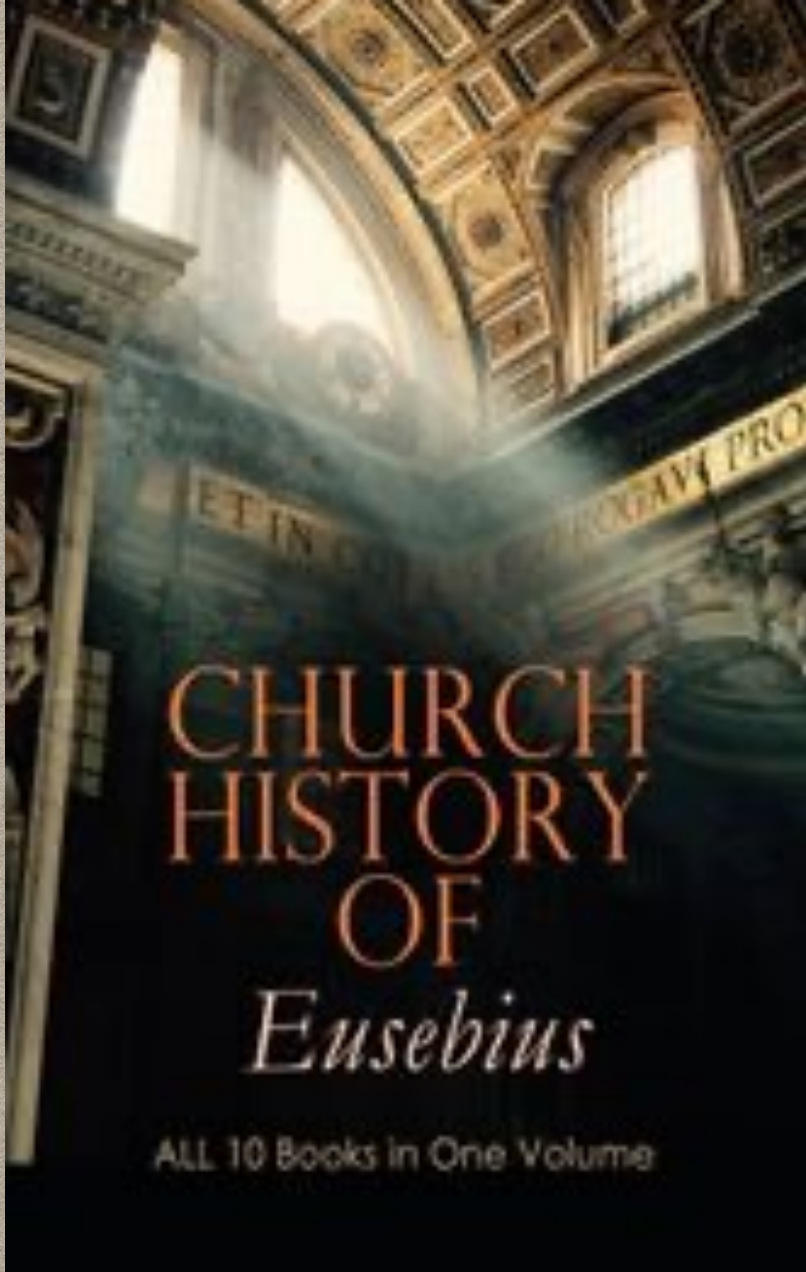
**Protestors took control of fortress of Antonia, Masada, temple**





**Believers fled  
Jerusalem for Pella c.  
AD66  
cf. Eusebius 3.5 and  
Epiphanius**





**Flight from Jerusalem to Pella  
Told by Eusebius and Epiphanius**





**Jesus in Luke**  
**21:20-21**

**"When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city."**



**Riots  
spread with  
blood on  
streets & fires  
set**



**Spread beyond Jerusalem. Led to Jewish War**



FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS

# THE JEWISH WARS

*Flavius  
Josephus*

THE WARS  
OF THE JEWS



# Josephus mentions two groups that stirred up opposition



**Sicarri = dagger men**



**Zealots**





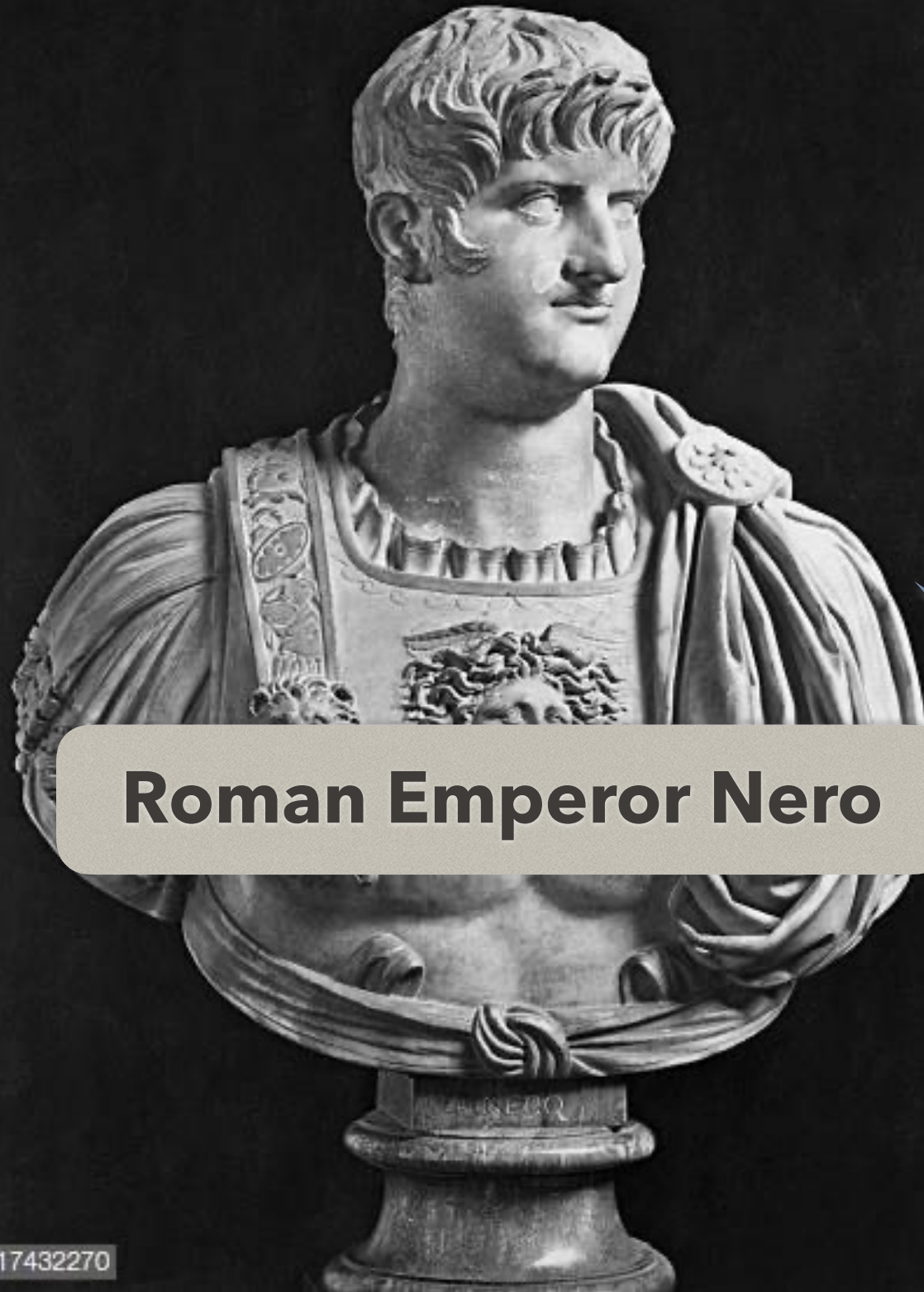


**CESTIUS GALLIS**  
**Roman governor**  
**Of Syria**

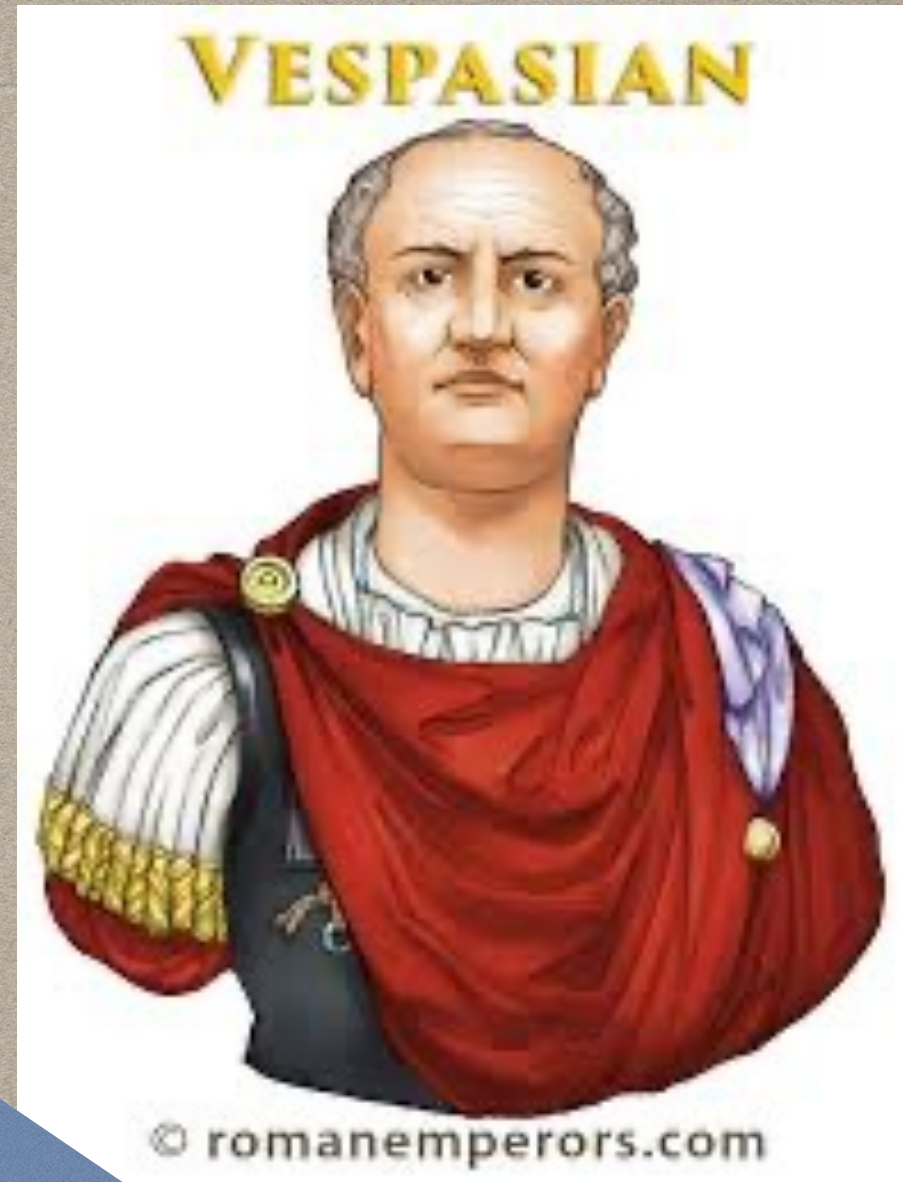


**Headed with troops to  
Jerusalem but lost half of  
them. So retreated and  
headed back to Syria.**





**Roman Emperor Nero**



**I sent Vespasian in AD 67 with Tenth Roman Legion to Israel. He took back the country for the Romans.**





**Back in  
Rome Nero  
commits  
suicide  
June AD  
68**





**VESPASIAN**  
**REPLACES NERO**  
**AS THE ROMAN**  
**EMPEROR - Returns**  
**from Jerusalem in**  
**AD 69**

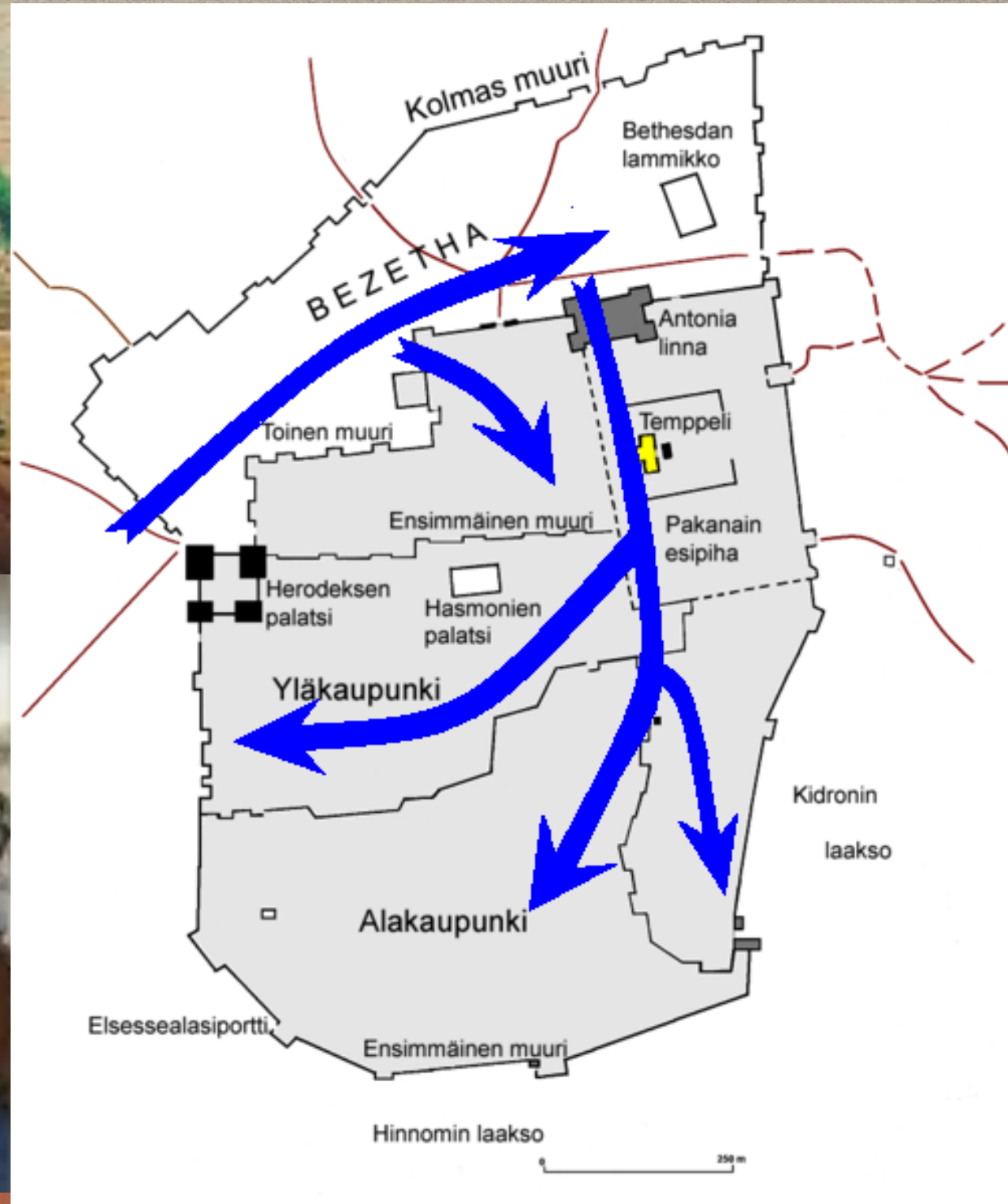
**Left behind his son**  
**TITUS to take over**  
**the war**





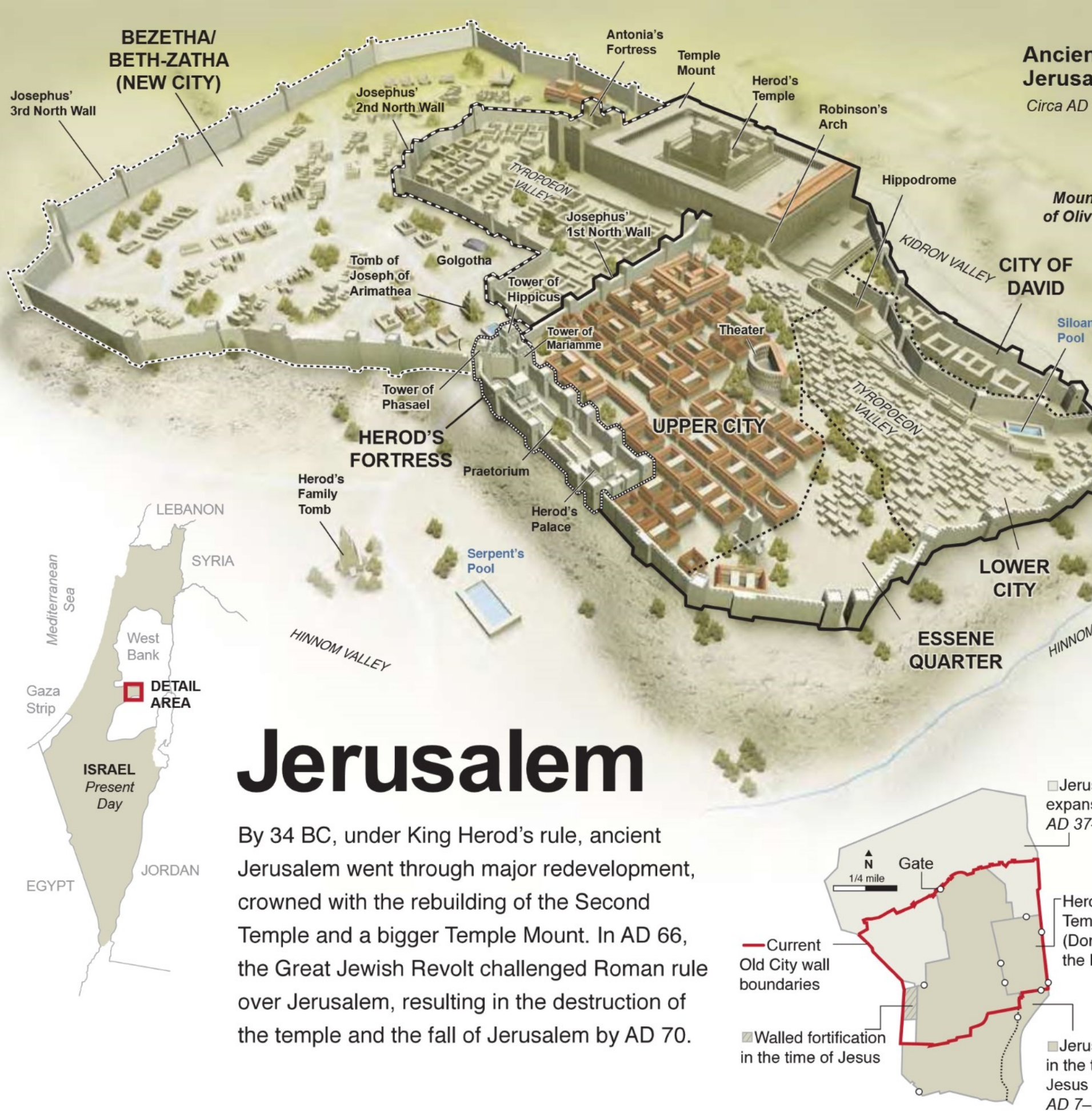
# **III. THE STORY OF THE SEIGE OF JERUSALEM UNDER TITUS**





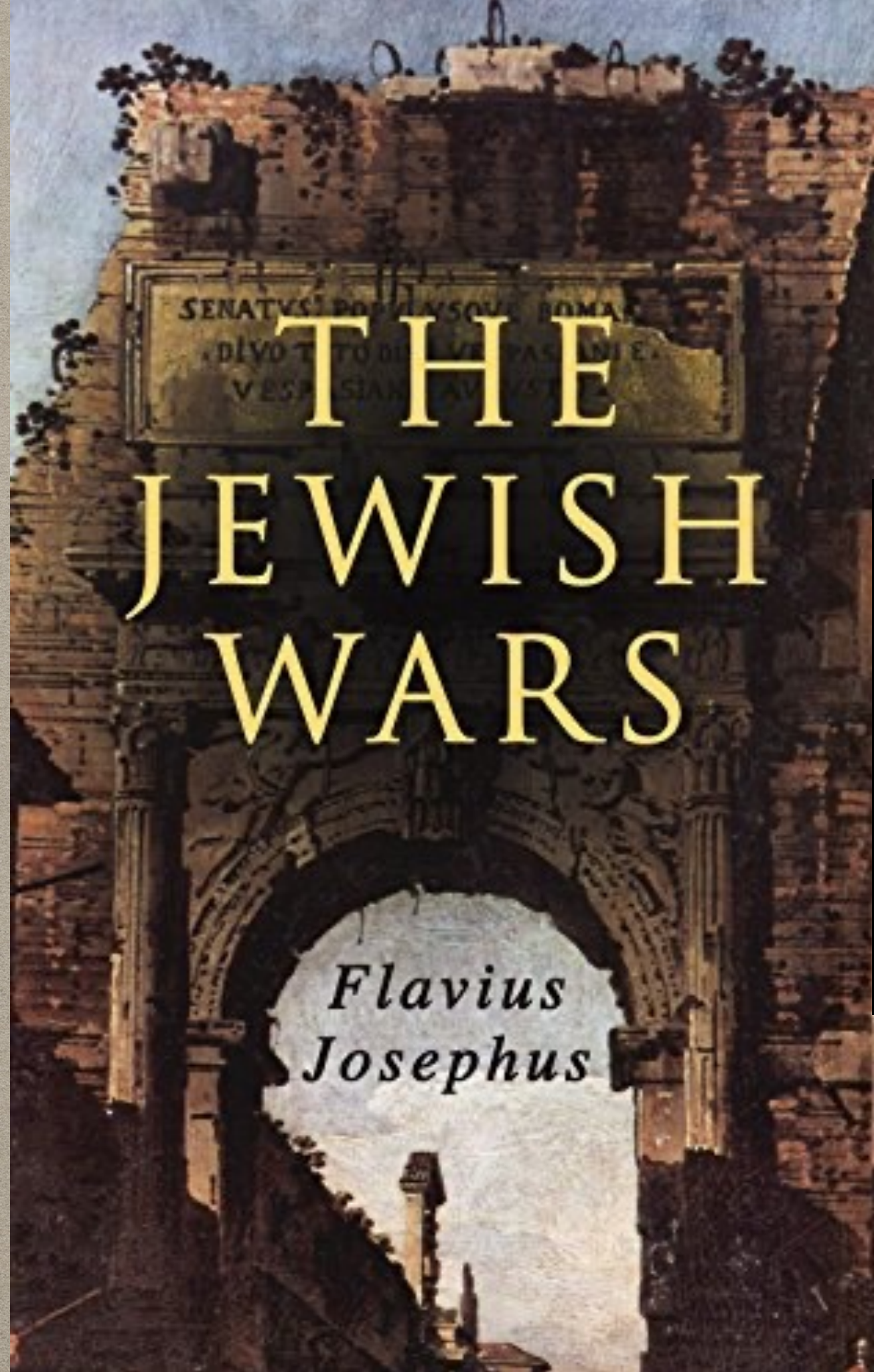
**TITUS LEADS 4 LEGIONS OF ROMAN SOLDIERS TO  
LAY SIEGE TO THE WALLED CITY**





**Took 3 weeks to take control of heart of city. But the war extended for 3 months to control the entire city including temple. Suffering of the people was horrendous.**



The book cover features a detailed illustration of the ruins of the Temple in Jerusalem. A large, ornate archway is the central focus, with a bright light emanating from its opening. Above the arch, a stone tablet contains Latin text. The title 'THE JEWISH WARS' is printed in large, yellow, serif capital letters across the middle. The author's name, 'Flavius Josephus', is written in a smaller, italicized font within the archway.

# THE JEWISH WARS

*Flavius  
Josephus*







**HOW DID THE ROMANS ENTER THE CITY? Siege ramp**



**AUGUST**  
**AD70**

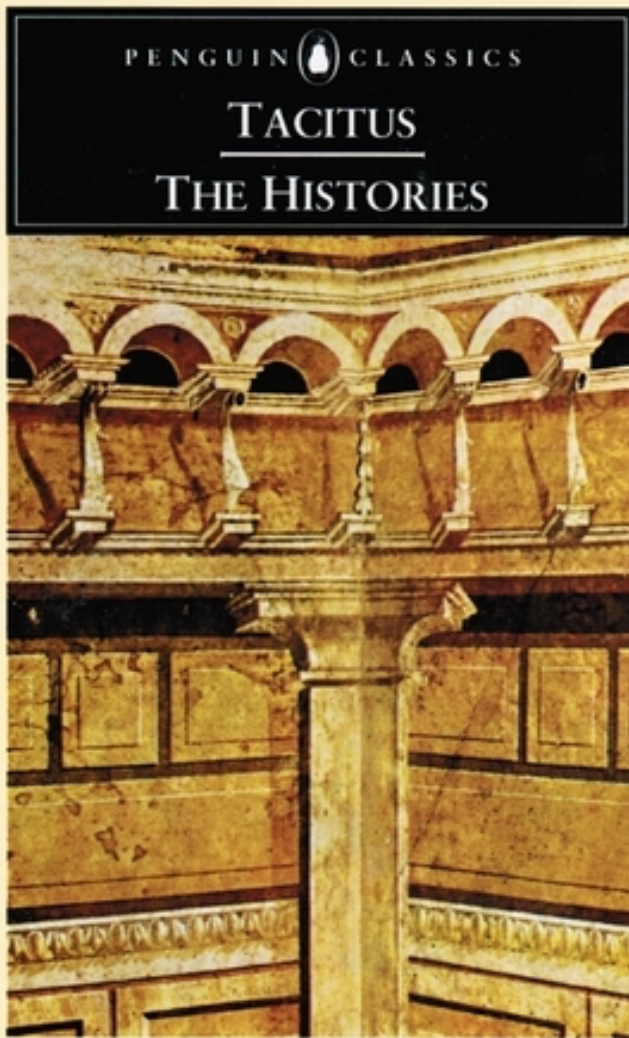




# WHY DID TITUS BURN AND DESTROY THE TEMPLE? (cf. Tacitus)

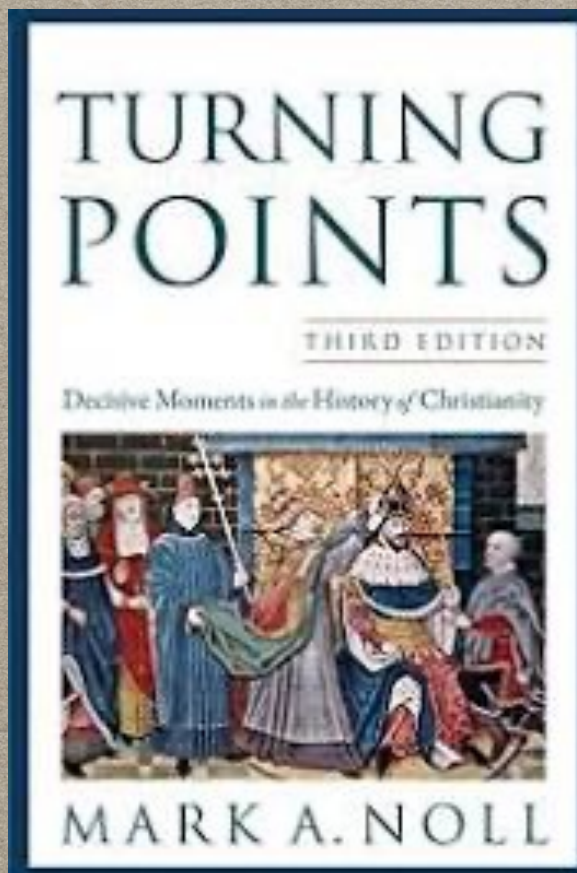






Tacitus reported that Titus deliberately wanted the temple destroyed.

***“For he wanted to eradicate the temple in order that the Jewish and Christian religions might more completely be abolished; for although these religions were mutually hostile, they had nevertheless sprung from the same founders; the Christians were an offshoot of the Jews, and if the root were taken away the stock would easily perish.”*** (cf. Noll, Turning Points p. 15)








**People starving. Killed off last holdouts.  
Wife of high priest scavenged for bread  
crumbs in the streets.**





**Some fled to  
Masada - wiped  
out AD 73**





**After battle over it was a long-  
hot summer**




**As many as one million  
died, 100,000 Jews  
enslaved**





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





**Mark 13:1-2**  
**Luke 19:44**

**Fallen stones from Temple Mount destruction**









**1900 years old from 82 AD**

**50 ft x 44 ft. x 15 ft**

"People of Rome to the divine Titus Vespasian Augustus, son of Vespasian"



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





**1) The fall of Jerusalem with destruction of the temple marked the end of the Jewish system of offering physical sacrifices on an altar.**



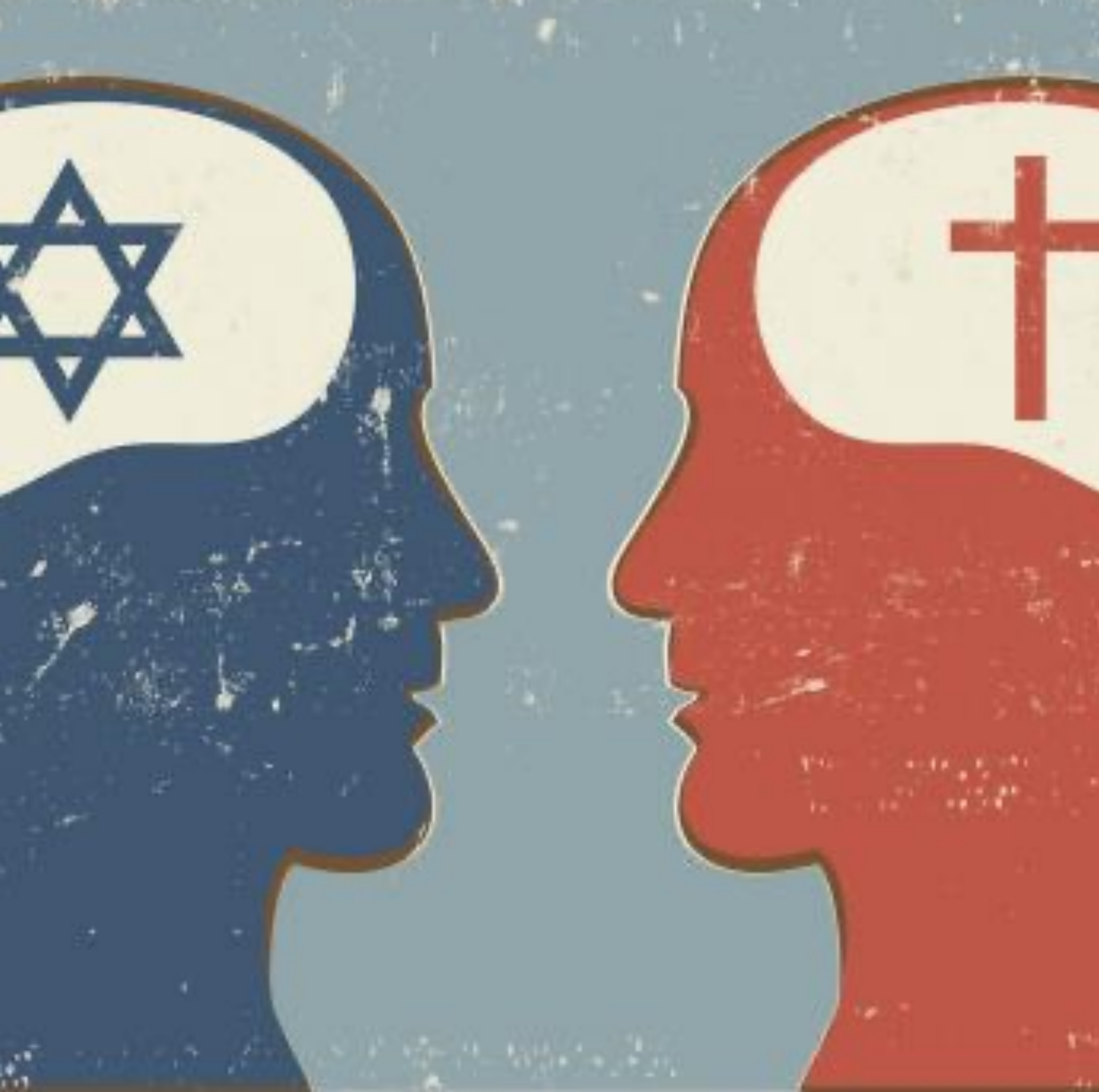


**REBUILD THE TEMPLE? NO !**

**Hebrews 10:10**

**Hebrews 10:12 "Offered for all time a single sacrifice"**





**2) A split developed moving the followers of Jesus away from the Jewish community and practices.**



**3) The fall of Jerusalem was a sign of God's judgment on unresponsive people. Luke 19:44 *"They will not leave one stone on another, because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."***







**4) The fall of Jerusalem was used providentially by God to scatter believers to other parts of the world.**



**Soon  
more  
Christians  
in Antioch  
than in  
Jerusalem  
(Acts  
11:19)**





# The Spread of Christianity



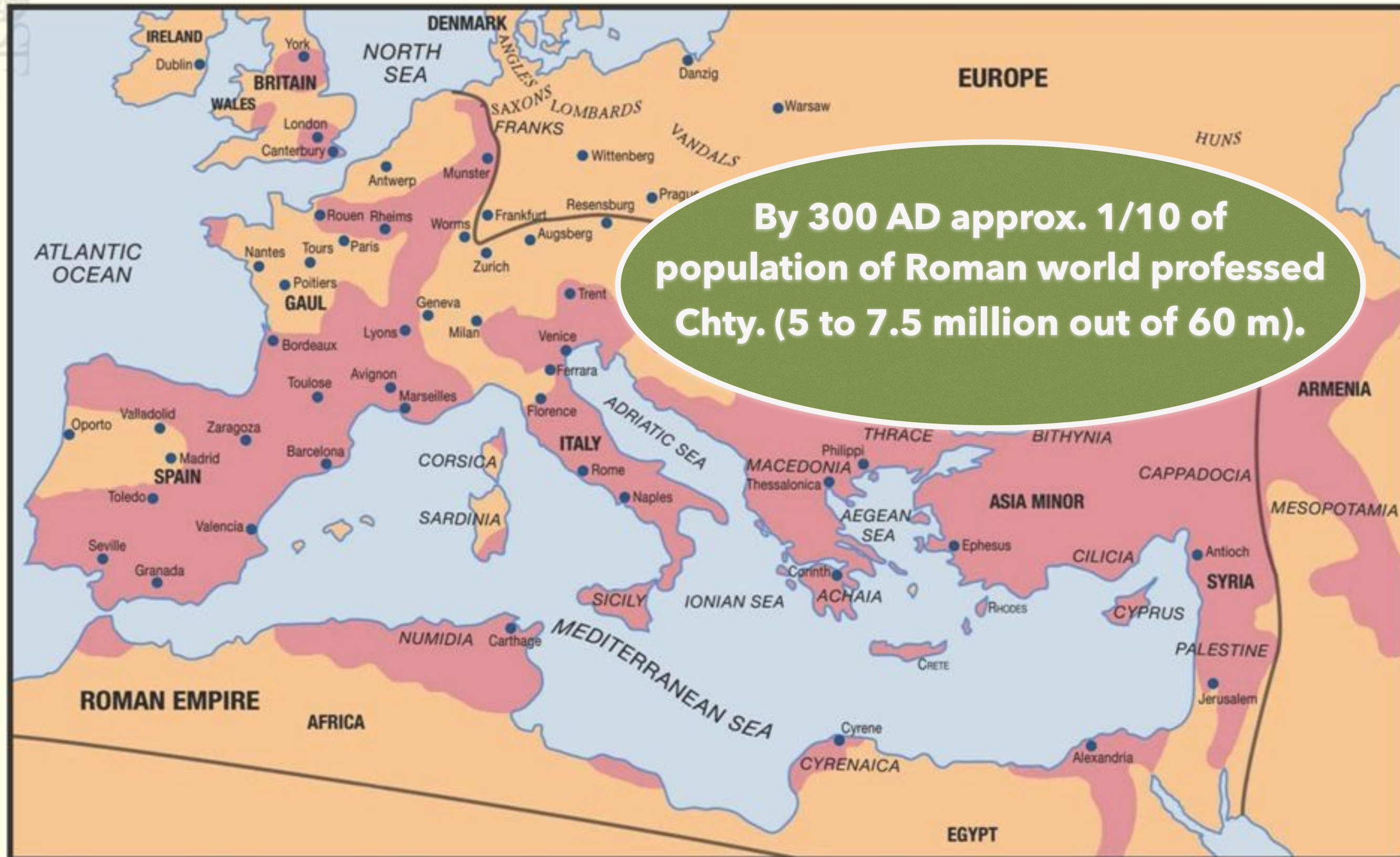
The outward spread of Chty. went throughout the Roman world & the Middle East



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a small, vintage-style globe. The globe is made of a dark, reflective material, possibly metal or polished wood, and features a grid of latitude and longitude lines. It is mounted on a small, ornate metal stand. The hand is positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers gently gripping the globe. In the background, several gold coins are scattered on a light-colored surface, some in focus and others blurred. The overall lighting is soft and warm, creating a sense of historical significance and global reach.

**The Fall of Jerusalem  
was another catalyst  
toward Christianity  
becoming a global  
faith !!!**





— Boundary of the Roman Empire AD 325

Expansion of Christianity in the Roman Empire AD 325





**The true story of the Fall of Jerusalem & judgment of sin begins to make sense if we believe in the doctrine of providence, realizing that life still has some unanswered questions.**



# HEIDELBERG CATECHISM

- **27. Q. What do you understand by the providence of God?**
- A. God's providence is His almighty and ever present power,[1] whereby, as with His hand, He still upholds heaven and earth and all creatures,[2] and so governs them that leaf and blade, rain and drought, fruitful and barren years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty,[3] indeed, all things, come not by chance[4] but by His fatherly hand.[5]
- [Heb. 1:3](#). . . . sustaining all things by His powerful word
- [Acts 14:17](#) . . . He has shown kindness by giving you rain from heaven and crops in their seasons





**NEXT SESSION:**  
**CONSTANTINE THE GREAT AND THE EDICT OF MILAN**