

Significant Jewish-Related Events in the 1st & 2nd Centuries of the Christian Era

- 33 Jesus predicted the coming destruction of Jerusalem;
Jesus died & resurrected at Jerusalem during Passover/Unleavened Bread
Jesus ascended from the Mount of Olives 10 days before Pentecost
The Church began at Jerusalem on Pentecost
The 207th Sabbatical Year began in the Fall
- 34 Saul of Tarsus (later Paul, “Apostle to the Gentiles”) was converted
- 64 70% of Rome burned to the ground
- 65 Emperor Nero began the first Roman persecution of Christianity, accusing them of arson
- 66 The 12th Roman Legion set up camp north of the Temple Mount at Passover
Jewish Christians abandoned Jerusalem in accordance with Jesus’ warnings
The “First Jewish Rebellion” began with the destruction of the withdrawing legion
Many Jews abandoned Jerusalem in expectation of Roman reprisals
Peter was crucified at Rome as a Christian ringleader around this time
- 67 “Year Two” of the Jewish Rebellion began in the Spring
Paul was beheaded at Rome as a Christian ringleader around this time
- 68 “Year Three” of the Jewish Rebellion began in the Spring
Nero was assassinated in the late Spring
The 212th Sabbatical Year began in the Fall
- 69 “Year Four” of the Jewish Rebellion began in the Spring
Vespasian declared Emperor by his legions in the Summer
- 70 “Year Five” of the Jewish Rebellion began in the Spring
Titus established a Roman military cordon around Jerusalem at Passover
Both the Temple & Jerusalem were destroyed by the Summer
1.1 million Jews died during the few months of the siege, most at the hands of other Jews
Nearly 100,000 other Jews were captured by the Romans & made into slaves
Judaism shifted from a focus on Temple rituals to a focus upon reading, prayer & good deeds
However, Jews developed the custom of mourning at Jerusalem’s ruins each 5*10 on their calendar
- 71 “Year Six” of the Jewish Rebellion began in the Spring
Upon returning from Judea, Titus was given a Triumphal Procession in Rome
Emperor Vespasian ordered practicing Jews to pay their annual Temple Tax to Rome
- At least some Jewish Christians ceased Jewish practices around this time*
- 73 The 7-year “First Jewish Rebellion” ended with the capture of Masada in the early Spring
- 80s/
90s A second Roman persecution of Christianity took place under Emperor Vespasian
- 90s The Jewish Temple Tax was aggressively collected
Clement of Rome wrote his letter to the Corinthians
John passed on Jesus’ Book of Revelation to Christians in Roman Asia

- 96 Emperor Nerva ended the aggressive collection of the Jewish Temple Tax
- 98 Emperor Trajan continued Roman persecution of Christianity
- 108 “Bishop” Ignatius surrendered himself to Trajan at Antioch
Ignatius wrote seven letters on his way to being executed via wild animals in Rome
- 110 “Bishop” Polcarp of Smyrna wrote a letter to the Philippians
- 112 Trajan affirmed to Pliny of Bithynia that Christians should be punished but not sought out
- 113 Trajan departed Syria for his military campaign against Parthia
- 115-
117 Jews in Cyrene started a “Second Jewish Rebellion,” being soon joined by Jews in Egypt, Cyprus & Judea, killing nearly half a million non-Jews in the process
- 117 Trajan gave up on the Parthian campaign & returned to Italy, where he died
Legate Hadrian of Syria became Emperor after Trajan’s death
Emperor Hadrian finished putting down the “Second Jewish Rebellion”

Even more Jewish Christians broke off ties to their ethnic heritage around this time

- 122-
133 Hadrian toured the Roman Empire, assessing its condition
- 130 Hadrian decided to rebuild Jerusalem as a Roman city named “Aelia Capitolina,” with a Temple specifically dedicated to Jupiter, arousing Jewish anger
- 132 Simon bar Kosebah took the lead in a “Third Jewish Rebellion”
Simon styled himself as the “Prince” of Israel & began his operations at Modi’in
At least one rabbi portrayed him as Messiah (renaming him “Bar-Kokhba” or “Star-Son”)
Letters from the period show that Simon ruled as an immoral tyrant
He even threatened to punish Jewish Christians who refused to join his army
- 134-
136 Hadrian used 6 reinforced legions to crush this “Third Jewish Rebellion”
Many Roman soldiers died during this military operation
More than half a million Jews were killed & over a thousand Jewish cities destroyed
Anyone of Jewish extraction was barred from visiting Aelia Capitolina at any time
The Roman province of “Judea” was renamed “Syria Palestina”

The break between Christianity & Judaism was pretty much complete by this time