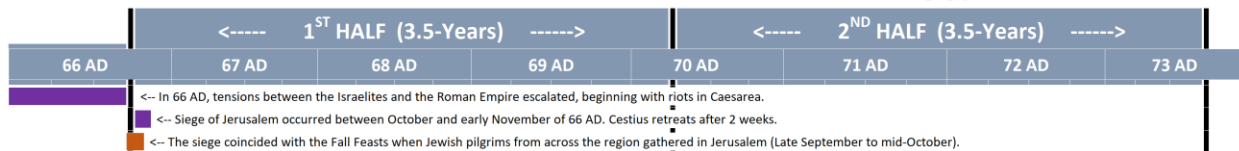


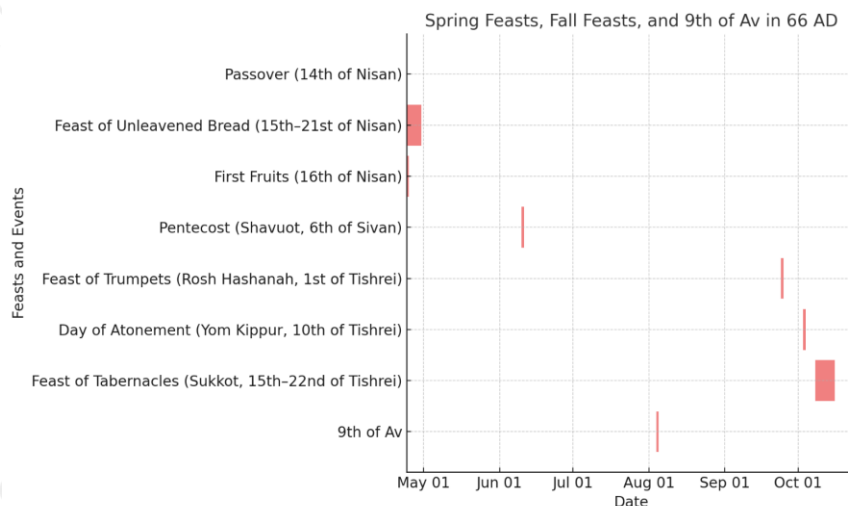
## APPENDIX 8 - The Jewish-Roman War of 66-73 AD.

Let's take a brief look at history. In 66 AD, tensions between the Israelites and the Roman Empire escalated, beginning with riots in Caesarea. In early September of 66 AD, a Revolt in Jerusalem began when armed Jewish rebels took control of Jerusalem, driving out Roman forces. The rebels also set fire to the palace of Herod the Great and other Roman administrative buildings. The rebels declared independence by this time, signaling the beginning of open rebellion against Rome.

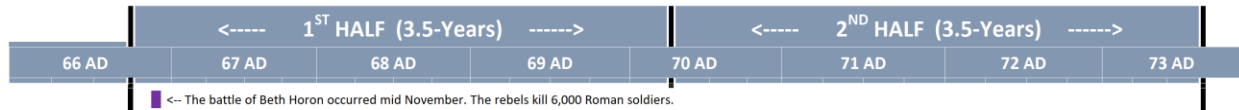
The Siege of Jerusalem occurred between October and early November of 66 AD. The Roman governor of Syria, Cestius Gallus, marched a large force to Jerusalem in response to the rebellion. He reached Jerusalem and laid siege to the city. The siege coincided with the Fall Feasts when Jewish pilgrims from across the region gathered in Jerusalem. Many of these pilgrims may have joined the rebellion, bolstering the ranks of the Jewish fighters. The influx of pilgrims may have strained the city's resources, including food and water, but it also created an atmosphere of heightened religious fervor and unity against the Romans. Despite some early success, including breaching parts of the outer city, Gallus inexplicably decided to retreat after only a few weeks.



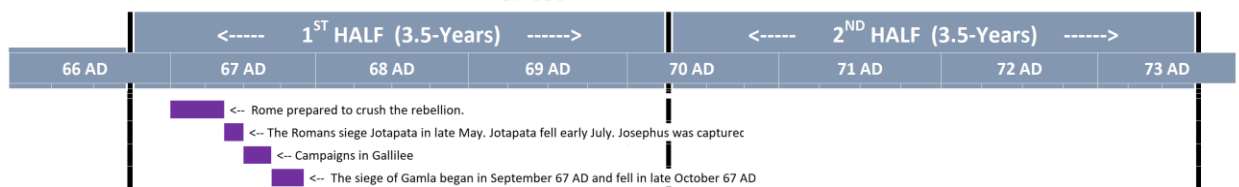
Notice from the chart below that the Fall Feasts begin in late September and continue to mid-October. The Romans time their sieges to coincide with the Jewish feasts when pilgrims gathered in large numbers in Jerusalem.



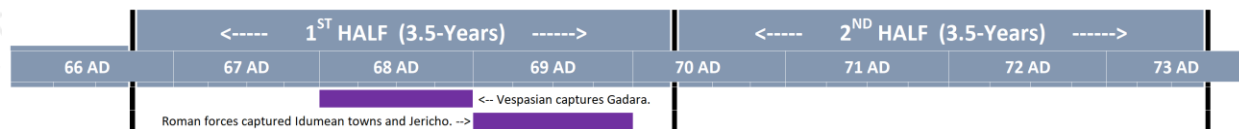
The Battle of Beth Horon occurred mid-November 66 AD. As Cestius Gallus withdrew from Jerusalem, Jewish forces pursued him and ambushed his army at the narrow mountain pass of Beth Horon. The Jewish rebels inflicted heavy casualties, killing approximately 6,000 Roman soldiers and capturing large quantities of Roman weaponry and supplies. This victory was a significant morale boost for the rebels and marked one of their greatest successes during the revolt.



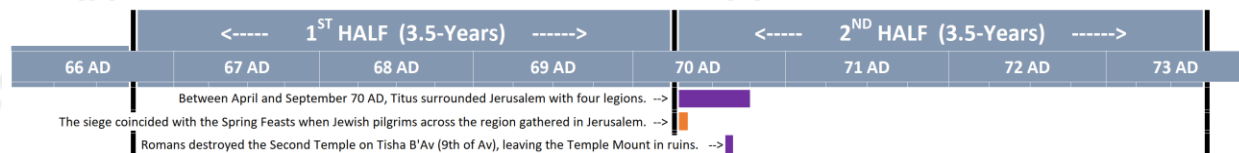
In 67 AD, Rome Prepared to Crush the Rebellion. Emperor Nero dispatched General Vespasian to lead the campaign. Vespasian arrived in Judea with a massive force, systematically targeting rebel strongholds to weaken the Jewish resistance. The Roman siege of Jotapata, a key Jewish stronghold in Galilee, began in late May 67 AD. After a brutal 47-day siege, the city fell to Roman forces in early July 67 AD. The Jewish commander Josephus, who led the defense, was captured during this siege. The siege of Gamla began in September 67 AD after Roman forces moved from other campaigns in Galilee. Gamla, known as "the Masada of the North," fell in late October 67 AD following fierce resistance. Thousands of defenders and civilians died, with many leaping to their deaths from the cliffs surrounding the city to avoid capture.



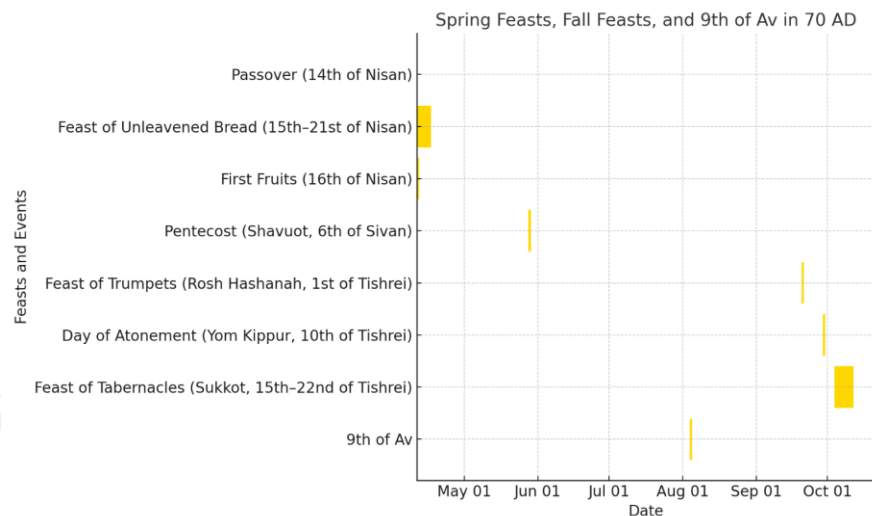
In 68 AD, Vespasian moved south, capturing towns in Gadara and the region of Perea, systematically suppressing the rebellion. In 69 AD, Roman forces captured Idumean towns and Jericho, forcing rebel factions to retreat to Jerusalem. Following Emperor Nero's death in 68 AD, Vespasian was declared emperor in 69 AD. He left Judea, leaving his son, Titus, to lead the final assault.



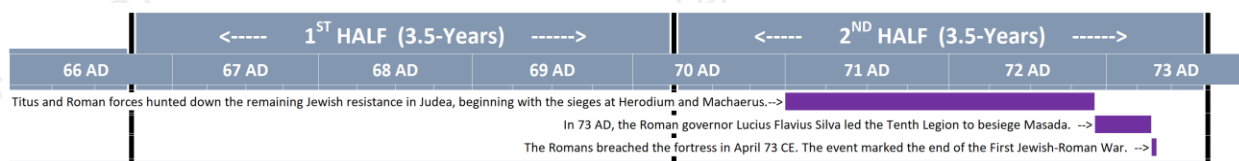
Between April and September 70 AD, Titus surrounded Jerusalem with four legions. Jerusalem was divided by infighting among Jewish factions (Zealots, moderates, and others). The Romans breached the city's outer defenses and ultimately destroyed the Second Temple on Tisha B'Av (9th of Av), leaving the Temple Mount in ruins. Over a million Jews were killed, and survivors were enslaved or scattered. The destruction marked a profound shift in Jewish religious life, moving from Temple-based worship to Rabbinic Judaism focused on synagogues and Torah study. This marked a pivotal moment in Jewish history and foreshadowed the ultimate fulfillment.



Once again, The siege coincided with the Fall Feasts when Jewish pilgrims from across the region gathered in Jerusalem. (as shown on the chart below).



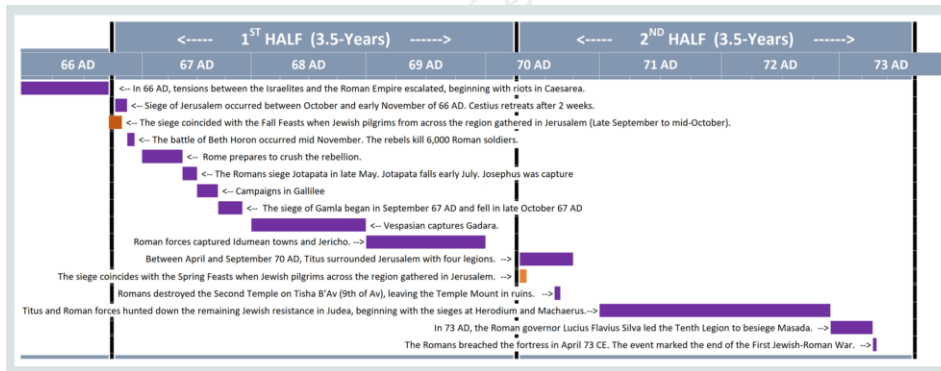
After Jerusalem's Fall in 71-72 AD, Titus and Roman forces hunted down the remaining Jewish resistance in Judea, beginning with the sieges at Herodium and Machaerus, smaller fortresses used by rebel groups. In 73 AD, the Roman governor Lucius Flavius Silva led the Tenth Legion to besiege Masada, which had become a refuge for the Sicarii, an extremist Jewish sect led by Eleazar ben Yair. The Romans built a massive ramp on the western side of the fortress to breach its defenses. When the Romans breached Masada, they found that nearly 1,000 defenders had committed mass suicide rather than surrender.



By studying history and what happened between 66 AD and 73 AD, we learn how Jesus' discourse in Matthew 24, Mark 13, and Luke 21 played out. This is useful because specific historical patterns tend to repeat, especially when involving double fulfillment. Much of what occurred between 66 AD and 73 AD serves as a model for the upcoming, more comprehensive second fulfillment.

In a few paragraphs, we can briefly summarize what happened in these seven years: In 66 AD, tensions between the Israelites and the Roman Empire escalated, beginning with riots in Caesarea. The Siege of Jerusalem occurred between October and early November of 66 AD. After only two weeks, Cestius Gallo inexplicably decided to retreat. The Romans planned the siege from late September to mid-October to coincide with the Fall Feasts. It seems the Romans intended to kill devoted Jewish pilgrims who traveled from across the region to gather in Jerusalem.

Three and half years later, between April and September 70 AD, Titus surrounded Jerusalem with four legions. Once again, the siege coincided with the Spring Feasts when Jewish pilgrims across the region gathered in Jerusalem. Several months later, the Romans destroyed the Second Temple on Tisha B'Av (9th of Av), leaving the Temple Mount in ruins and killing a million Jewish people trapped in Jerusalem. Three years later, in April 73 AD, the Romans breached the Masada fortress. The event marked the end of the First Jewish-Roman War. These events are highlighted in the timetable below.



1.4.2 - The Jewish-Roman War From 66 - 73 AD