

In the year 66 AD the Jews of Judea rebelled against their Roman masters. In response, the Emperor Nero dispatched an army under the generalship of Vespasian to restore order.

By the year 68, resistance in the northern part of the province had been put down and the Romans turned their full attention to the subjugation of Jerusalem. That same year, the Emperor Nero died by his own hand, creating a power vacuum in Rome.

In the resultant chaos, Vespasian was declared Emperor and returned to the Imperial City. It fell to his son, Titus, to lead the remaining army in the assault on Jerusalem.





The Roman legions surrounded Jerusalem and began to slowly squeeze the life out of the Jewish stronghold. By the year 70, the attackers had breached Jerusalem's outer walls and began ransacking the city. The assault culminated in the burning and destruction of the Temple.





In victory, the Romans slaughtered thousands. Of those spared from death: thousands more were enslaved and sent to toil in the mines of Egypt, others were dispersed to arenas throughout the Empire to be butchered for the amusement of the public. The Temple's sacred relics were taken to Rome where they were displayed in celebration of the victory.

After Rome destroyed Jerusalem and the Second Temple in 70, the Great Revolt ended—except for the surviving Zealots, who fled Jerusalem to the fortress of Masada, near the Dead Sea. There, they held out for three years. Once it became apparent that the Tenth Legion's battering rams and catapults would soon succeed in breaching Masada's walls, Elazar ben Yair, the Zealots' leader, decided that all the Jewish defenders should commit suicide. 960 Jews committed suicide.

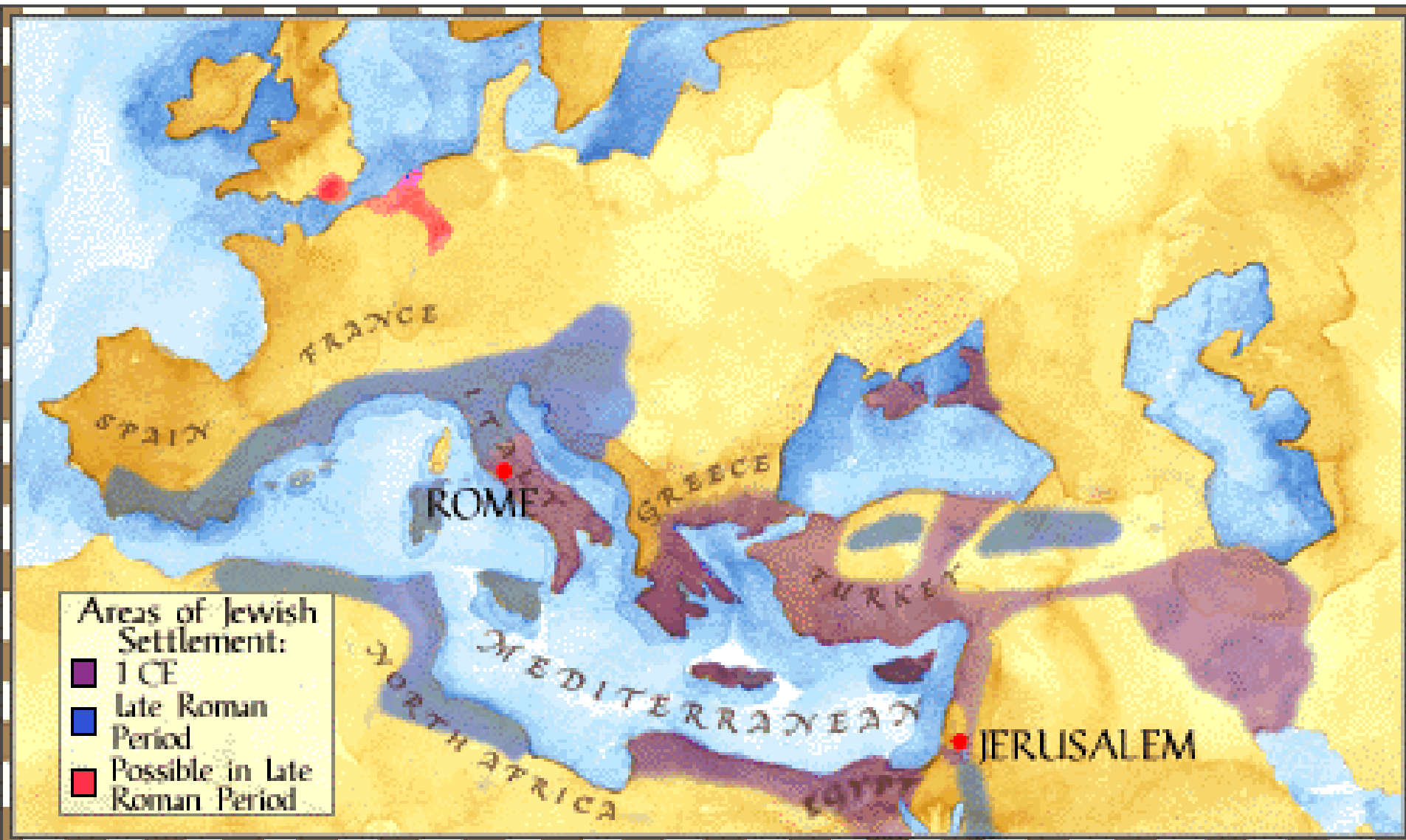




In 135 AD the Romans put down another Jewish revolt and leveled the city of Jerusalem. The Romans also officially banned the Jews from living in Palestine.

The Jews were exiles, but many Jews were comforted by remembering their ancestors during the Babylonian Exile. Psalm 137 offered some comfort to the exiles.





The Jewish Diaspora

# Maimonides' 13 Principles of Faith

In his commentary on the Mishna (tractate Sanhedrin, chapter 10), The Medieval Rabbi Moses Maimonides formulates his **13 principles of faith**. They summarized the basic premises of Jewish belief with regards to:

1. The existence of God
2. God's unity
3. God's spirituality and incorporeality
4. God's eternity
5. God alone should be the object of worship
6. Revelation through God's prophets
7. The preeminence of Moses among the prophets
8. God's law given on Mount Sinai
9. The immutability of the Torah as God's Law
10. God's foreknowledge of human actions
11. Reward of good and retribution of evil
12. The coming of the Jewish Messiah
13. The resurrection of the dead

