

The Origins of Rome

1. Where, when and by whom was the first site at Rome settled?

The first settlement at Rome was on the Palatine Hill in the 8th century by the Latini.

2. What were the strategic advantages of this site?

The Palatine and the surrounding hills afforded defensive positions which were enhanced by the Tiber River to the west with an island that made it easier to build a bridge. The Tiber River also gave access to the Tyrrhenian Sea and protected the Via Salaria (The Great Salt Way) that led to the important salt mine in Ostia. It was also situated in a central position to govern trade from Magna Graecia to the south and Etruria to the north.

3. What was the "Cloaca Maxima"?

A great underground channel which drained the local swamps and was used as a sewer.

4. Who was Tarquinius Superbus and who replaced him?

Tarquinius Superbus was the seventh and last king of Rome who was driven out when Rome became a republic in 509 B.C. and was replaced by two magistrates called consuls.

The Roman Forum

5. What was the "Roman Forum"?

It was the cultural, social and political heart of Rome and the center of the Roman Empire.

6. What were some of the other forums at Rome?

1. Julian Forum
2. Augustan
3. Nerva Forum
4. Trajan Forum



View from the Palatine of the Roman Forum

7. What was "Trajan's Column"?

A spectacular column commemorating Trajan's victories over the Dacians.

8. What was the "Curia"?

The Curia was the meeting place for the senators where they conducted government business.

9. Where was the Roman Forum situated?

The Roman Forum sat between the Palatine and the Capitoline Hills.



Trajan's Column

10. What was the "rostra"?

The rostra was a speaker's platform used by Roman politicians to make public speeches. It got its name from the ships' prows (rostra) which decorated it and had been captured in Rome's early sea victories.

11. What was the "Temple of Vesta"?

The Temple of Vesta was a small circular building near the Temple of Julius Caesar which housed the Vestal Virgins and where the sacred eternal flame of Rome was kept.

Rome and Judea

12. When and by whom was Judea conquered by Rome?

In 63 B.C. by Pompey the Great.

13. What was the cause of the Jewish revolt in 66 A.D.?

Excessively high taxes instituted by governors who aimed at maximizing profits.

14. Who was the emperor at the time of the Judean revolt and who was given the command of the Roman legions to suppress the revolt?

Nero was the emperor and the command went to Vespasian who would soon become emperor when Nero was assassinated.

15. Who conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the Great Temple?

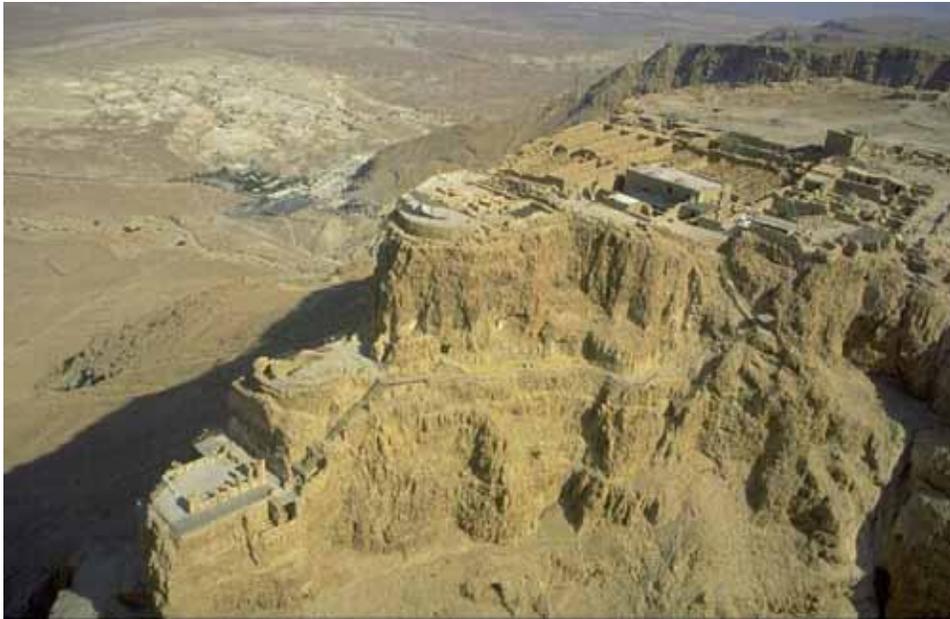
Titus, the son of Vespasian and his ultimate successor.

16. Who was the commander of the Jewish zealots who occupied the fortress of Masada?

Eleazar ben Ya'ir

17. Who was Josephus?

A 1st century A.D. historian who wrote about the Jewish revolt.



The fortress of Masada near the Dead Sea

*****This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.*****