

1. Hezekiah the Zealot – 47 BC

(159) but that youth of his was no impediment to him; but as he was a youth of great mind, he presently met with an opportunity of signaling his courage; for, finding there was one **Hezekias, a captain of a band of robbers**, who overran the neighboring parts of Syria with a great troop of them, he seized him and slew him, as well as a great number of the other robbers that were with him;¹

Josephus Antiquities Book 14 (159)

2. Herod the Great crushes the opposition in Galilee (39-38 BC):

414 (During the winter of 38-39 BCE) while snow fell from God, (Herod) came to Sepphoris (in Galilee). Then, planning to end the evil deeds of some **bandits (Gk: *Iestai*. See Matt. 27:38)** who were **dwelling in caves**, from (Sepphoris) he sent a cavalry troop and three infantry companies out against them.

These (**caves**) were very close to a village named **Arbela** [between Capernaum and Tiberias]. And in forty days he arrived in full force... And he rallied all of Galilee, except those in the **caves**... 422 Now the **caves** were in extremely rugged hills. They had entrances in the middle of cliffs with sharp rocks around them. The **bandits** hid out in these places with their whole households. But the king (Herod) had crates built and he let these down on them, hanging by iron chains from a machine on top of the mount... Now the crates were full of soldiers holding big hooks with which they were going to kill the bandits who stood against them, by dragging them out and pulling them down...

430 So when these things happened, the caves were quiet. And leaving (his friend) Ptolemy as general in those parts, the king went into Samaria... But those who had previously troubled Galilee attacked Ptolemy and killed him... But **Herod came back and punished them**. For he captured some of the **rebels**. And he besieged and killed those who sought refuge in fortified positions. And he tore down their fortifications, thus ending the rebellion. And he also penalized the cities of Galilee 100 talents.

Josephus, Antiquities Book 14 (414-433)

¹ Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). [*The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged*](#) (p. 376). Peabody: Hendrickson.

3. Judas the Galilean – (4 BC)

(271) There was also Judas, the son of that Ezekias who had been head of the robbers; which Ezekias was a very strong man, and had with great difficulty been caught by Herod. This Judas having gotten together a multitude of men of a profligate character about Sepphoris in Galilee, and made an assault upon the palace [there], and seized upon all the weapons that were laid up in it, and with them armed every one of those that were with him, and carried away what money was left there;²

Josephus Antiquities Book 17 (271)

4. Judas the Galilean (from Gamla) – 6 CE – leads a revolt.

“yet there was one Judas, a Gaulonite, of a city whose name was **Gamala**, who, taking with him Sadduc, a Pharisee, became zealous to draw them to a revolt, who both said that this taxation was no better than an introduction to slavery, and exhorted the nation to assert their liberty³

Josephus Antiquities Book 18 (4)

for Judas and Sadduc, who excited a fourth philosophic sect among us, and had a great many followers therein, filled our civil government with tumults at present, and laid the foundation of our future miseries, by this system of philosophy, which we were before unacquainted withal⁴

Josephus Antiquities Book 18 (9)

5. Josephus on the sect of the Zealots

(23) But of the fourth sect of Jewish philosophy, **Judas the Galilean was the author**. These men agree in all other things with the Pharisaic notions; but they have an inviolable attachment to liberty; and say that God is to be their only Ruler and Lord. They also do not value dying any kind of death, nor indeed do they heed the deaths of their relations and friends, nor can any such fear make them call any man Lord;⁵

² Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). [*The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged*](#) (pp. 469–470). Peabody: Hendrickson.

³ Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). [*The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged*](#) (p. 476). Peabody: Hendrickson.

⁴ Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). [*The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged*](#) (pp. 476–477). Peabody: Hendrickson.

⁵ Josephus, F., & Whiston, W. (1987). [*The works of Josephus: complete and unabridged*](#) (p. 477). Peabody: Hendrickson.