

“How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony!”
Psalm 133:1 (NLT)

1. The Burnt House Museum - Jerusalem¹

- The Romans burned the house in 70 AD when they destroyed Jerusalem and God’s House.
- It is believed that the house belonged to the Kathros family – a priestly family.
- How did it get to this point of utter destruction?

2. The Great Jewish Revolt or Jewish War (66 AD – 70 AD):

- The Zealots got what they wanted in 66 AD – an all-out war with Rome.
- Eventually, the Romans lay siege to Jerusalem.
- Infighting among the Jews – antagonized by the Zealots.
- By 70 AD, Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed.

3. Yosef ben Matityahu – Rebel Commander in Galilee

- Fought against Rome in Galilee
- 67 CE was caught by the Romans under Vespasian (who would eventually become Emperor).
- Taken as a slave or interpreter to Vespasian and eventually takes on the Flavian name.
- **Flavius Josephus**

4. Rabbinic Interpretation of these events and the destruction of the Temple:

- God’s Temple was destroyed twice in history:
 - 586 BCE – Babylonians under Nebuchadnezzar
 - 70 AD – Romans
- Why were the two Temples destroyed?
- “Baseless Hatred” – they (Jewish brothers) hated each other for no reason.

"Why was the first temple destroyed?

Because of three iniquitous things that existed there - idolatry, illicit relations, and bloodshed.

But the second temple - why was it destroyed?

Because of baseless hatred that existed there."

Yoma Folio 9b

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Burnt_House

5. **Jesus’ message of Forgiveness v. ‘Baseless hatred’ –**

- Jesus promotes a message of Forgiveness.
- Within 40 years of his death, the country devolves into war.
- If a nation cannot forgive, ‘brother hating brother,’ they will not remain a nation.

“When people lack the ability to forgive, they are unable to resolve conflict. The result is division, factionalism, and the fragmentation of a nation into competing groups and sects...Those who seek freedom must learn to forgive.”

Jonathan Sacks, *Covenant and Conversation: Genesis*, pg. 327

6. **Biblical message of Forgiveness –**

- Genesis – a story of brothers and their relationships

Brotherly Relationship	End Result	Verse
Cain and Abel	Murder (fratricide)	Gen. 4:8
Shem, Ham, Japheth	Cursing	Gen. 9:25
Isaac and Ishmael	Reunite (no embrace)	Gen. 25:9
Jacob and Esau	Reunite w/ embrace	Gen. 33:4
Joseph and brothers	Forgiveness	Gen. 50:15-21

Genesis 50	Exodus 1
Dysfunctional family	A nation

Introduction of the concept of forgiveness

7. **the power of Forgiveness:**

- Joseph is a type of Messiah – the suffering servant.
 - This is the first example of the power of forgiveness in the Bible.
- Jesus preaches the same exact message – brothers must be able to forgive one another.
 - A house divided cannot stand.

8. How do we get from “seeking revenge” to “loving our neighbor?” (Leviticus 19:18; Mark 12:31)

“You shall not **seek revenge** or **bear a grudge** against any of the ‘sons of your people’

But...

Forgiveness

You shall **love your neighbor** as yourself. I am the LORD”