

JOSEPHUS

εἰς τε χεῖρας ἰόντες οὐδὲν κακίους τὰς τόλμας τῶν
 475 Ῥωμαίων ᾗσαν, ἐπιστήμη δ' ἐλείποντο. πρὸς τε
 τὰς μηχανὰς ἀντετείχιζον ἐρειπομένων τῶν πρῶ-
 των οἰκοδομημάτων, ὑπὸ γῆν τε ἀπαντῶντες ἐν
 ταῖς μεταλλεύσεσι¹ διεμάχοντο, ἀπονοία δὲ τὸ
 πλέον ἢ προμηθεΐα χρώμενοι προσελιπάρουν τῷ
 πολέμῳ εἰς τοῦσχατον, καὶ ταῦτα μεγάλου στρατοῦ
 περικαθημένου σφᾶς καὶ λιμῷ ταλαιπωρούμενοι
 καὶ σπάνει τῶν ἐπιτηδείων· τὸν γὰρ ἐβδοματικὸν
 476 ἐνιαυτὸν συνέβη κατὰ ταῦτ'² εἶναι. ἀναβαίνουσι
 δὲ ἐπὶ τὸ τεῖχος πρῶτον μὲν λογάδες εἴκοσι,
 ἔπειτα ἑκατοντάρχαι Σοσσίου· ἡρέθη γὰρ τὸ μὲν
 πρῶτον τεῖχος ἡμέραις τεσσαράκοντα, τὸ δὲ δεύ-
 τερον πεντεκαίδεκα· καὶ τινες τῶν περὶ τὸ ἱερὸν
 ἐνεπρήσθησαν στοῶν, ὥς Ἡρώδης Ἀντίγονον

¹ ἐν ταῖς μεταλλεύσεσι] αὐταῖς μετ. AMW: μεταλλεύουσι ex Lat. Hudson.

² κατὰ ταῦτ' P: κατὰ ταῦτόν V: κατ' αὐτόν rell. E: tunc Lat.

^a This is another detail not found in *B.J.* Josephus here seems to say that the siege took place during a sabbatical year, namely that which extended from Oct. 38 to Oct. 37 B.C., as most scholars assume. But there is good reason to believe that this sabbatical year extended from Oct. 37 to Oct. 36 B.C. (see the notes on *Ant.* xii. 378, xiii. 234, xiv. 201 and below, § 487). We must therefore, it seems, make one of the three following assumptions: (1) Josephus knew that the siege occurred in the summer of the year corresponding to 37 B.C. but was mistaken in saying (or implying) that this fell in a sabbatical year (beginning Oct. 38 B.C.). (2) Josephus assumed that the siege took place during a sabbatical year, in the summer of 36 B.C. This seems to be borne out by the statement below, § 488, that Sossius and Herod captured Jerusalem 27 years after Pompey had done so (63 B.C.); thus Jerusalem fell in 36 B.C. as maintained by Gumpach and Caspari (*ap.* Schürer i. 358 n. 11). Zeitlin's argument, *MT*, 694

fight hand to hand, but while they were not inferior to the Romans in daring, they fell short of them in science. Against the siege-engines they devised counter-defences when their first constructions gave way, and fought underground when they met the enemy in the mines; and acting in desperation rather than with foresight, they persevered in the war to the very end—this in spite of the fact that a great army surrounded them and that they were distressed by famine and the lack of necessities, for a sabbatical year happened to fall at that time.^a The first to mount the wall were twenty^b picked men, and after these came Sossius' centurions. The first wall was taken in forty days,^c and the second in fifteen more; and some of the porticoes round the temple were burnt, which Herod accused Antigonus of

Jerusalem
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Sossius.

pp. 20-27, that the 27 years do not give 36 B.C. but Jan. (10th of Tebet), 37 B.C., reckoning 26 years and a fraction from Pompey's entry in the summer of 63 B.C., is invalidated by, among other things, the reference to the summer in § 473. (3) Josephus knew that the siege took place in the summer of 37 B.C. and was referring, rather vaguely, to a sabbatical year that began soon after the fall of Jerusalem, that is, in Oct. 37 B.C. This is not so improbable as it may seem at first. If the inhabitants of Jerusalem were distressed by famine in the summer of 37 B.C., they would not be able to lay in an extra supply of provisions for the latter part of the sabbatical year beginning in October—hence their desperation. To be sure, the 27 years of § 488 make a difficulty here, and we should have to assume that Josephus made a slip in arithmetic.

One hardly knows which assumption to prefer, in view of the apparently irreconcilable inconsistencies in Josephus himself, apart from his inconsistency with other ancient sources (see below, § 487-488 notes).

^b *B.J.* does not give the number.

^c This detail and those following in §§ 476-478 have no parallel in *B.J.*