

In the summer of 67 C.E., Roman troops under the command of Vespasian, the future emperor, overran the soldiers under the command of Josephus at Jotapata, just north of Sepphoris in Lower Galilee. Vespasian captured Josephus, and Josephus delivered his famous prophecy to Vespasian that predicted Vespasian's ascent to the emperor's throne. The Jewish revolutionaries in this, the First Jewish Revolt against Rome, withdrew to the Golan Heights, where they gathered at Gamla. Here on this ridge--shaped like a camel's back, which accounts for its name (Josephus, *War* 4.1ff.)--fierce fighting ensued between the Jewish defenders and the Romans, but Gamla eventually fell. Behind the wall to the left, the excavation of a synagogue is in progress.