

EXCERPT FROM JOSEPHUS, ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS, BOOK 18, CHAPTER 1

Now **Cyrenius**, a Roman senator, and one who had gone through other magistracies, and had passed through them till he had been consul, and one who, on other accounts, was of great dignity, came at this time into Syria, with a few others, being **sent by Caesar to be a judge of that nation, and to take an account of their substance** and to dispose of Arche-laus's money; but the Jews, although at the beginning they took the report of a taxation heinously, yet did they leave off any further opposition to it, by the persuasion of Joazar, who was the son of Beethus, and high priest; so they, being over-persuaded by Joazar's words, gave an account of their estates, without any dispute about it. Yet was there **one Judas, a Gaulonite, (1) of a city whose name was Gamala, who, taking with him Sadduc, (2) 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 liberty;** as if they could procure them happiness and security for what they possessed, and an assured enjoyment of a still greater good, which was that of the honor and glory they would thereby acquire for magnanimity.... **All sorts of misfortunes also sprang from these men,** and the nation was infected with this doctrine to an incredible degree; one violent war came upon us after another, and we lost our friends which used to alleviate our pains; there were also very great robberies and murder of our principal men.... a famine also coming upon us, reduced us to the last degree of despair, as did also the taking and demolishing of cities; nay, **the sedition at last increased so high, that the very temple of God was burnt down by their enemies' fire.**