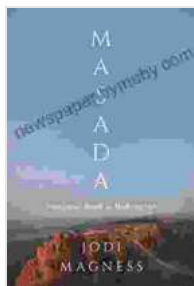


# Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth



## Masada: From Jewish Revolt to Modern Myth

by Jodi Magness

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 69267 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

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The story of Masada is one of the most iconic and enduring in Jewish history. In 73 CE, a group of Jewish rebels held out against the Roman army for over two years at the fortress of Masada, located on a high plateau in the Judean Desert. The siege ended in tragedy, with the rebels committing mass suicide rather than surrendering to the Romans.

Masada has become a symbol of Jewish resilience and determination, and its story continues to be told and retold today. It has been the subject of numerous books, films, and other works of art. In this article, we will explore the history of Masada, from its origins as a Jewish fortress to its modern-day status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

## The Jewish Revolt

The Jewish Revolt against the Roman Empire began in 66 CE. The rebels were motivated by a number of factors, including Roman taxation policies,

the presence of Roman troops in Judea, and the perceived threat to Jewish religious freedom. The revolt was initially successful, and the rebels were able to drive the Romans out of Jerusalem. However, the Romans eventually regained control of the city, and the revolt was crushed in 73 CE.

During the revolt, a group of Jewish rebels led by Eleazar ben Yair seized the fortress of Masada. Masada was a strategically important location, as it overlooked the Dead Sea and the main road between Jerusalem and Jericho. The rebels held out against the Romans for over two years, but they were eventually defeated. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, the rebels committed mass suicide rather than surrendering to the Romans.

The story of the siege of Masada has become a powerful symbol of Jewish resistance to oppression. It has been used to inspire Jews throughout history, and it continues to be a popular tourist destination today.

## **Archaeological Excavations**

The first archaeological excavations at Masada were conducted in the 1960s by a team led by Yigael Yadin. Yadin's team uncovered the remains of the fortress, including the walls, towers, and living quarters. They also found a number of artifacts, including weapons, pottery, and coins. Yadin's excavations helped to shed light on the history of Masada and the Jewish Revolt.

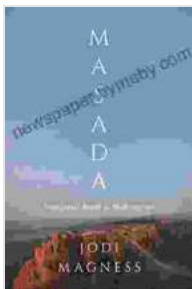
In the 1990s, a second team of archaeologists led by Ehud Netzer began excavating Masada. Netzer's team discovered a number of new artifacts, including a large collection of ostraca (inscribed potsherds). These ostraca provide valuable information about the daily life of the rebels who lived at Masada.

The archaeological excavations at Masada have helped us to gain a better understanding of the history of the fortress and the Jewish Revolt. They have also helped to preserve the site for future generations.

## Masada Today

Masada is now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is a popular tourist destination, and visitors can explore the remains of the fortress and learn about its history. Masada is also a symbol of Jewish resilience and determination, and it continues to inspire people around the world.

The story of Masada is a powerful reminder of the Jewish people's struggle for freedom and independence. It is a story that has been told and retold for centuries, and it continues to inspire people today. Masada is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and it is a popular tourist destination. It is a place where visitors can learn about the history of the Jewish people and the importance of freedom and independence.



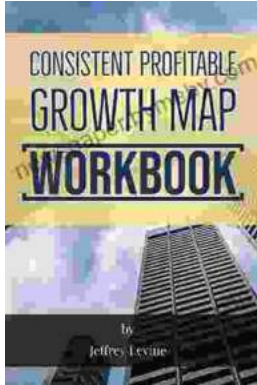
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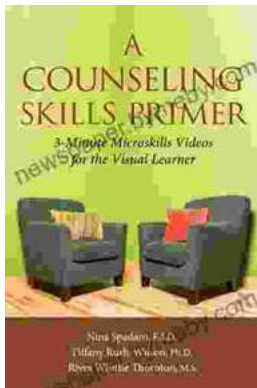
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