



Titus' speech at fall of Jerusalem

- Titus' Speech - Book 6, chapter 6, sec 2

2... But for the tyrants themselves, & those that were with them, when they found that they were encompassed on every side,...without any method of escaping, they desired to treat with **Titus** by word of mouth. Accordingly, such was the kindness of his nature, & **his desire of preserving the city from destruction**. ...While the multitude stood on each side; those of the **Jewish nation about Simon & John**, with great hopes of pardon; & **Romans about Caesar**, in great expectation how **Titus** would receive their supplication. So Titus charged his soldiers to restrain their rage, and appoints an interpreter between them, which was a sign that he was the conqueror, & said,

"I hope you sirs, are now satiated with the miseries of your country, who have not had any just notions, either of our great power, or of your own great weakness, but have, like **madmen**, after a **violent & inconsiderate manner**, made such attempts, as have **brought your people, your city, & your holy house to destruction**. You have been men that have **never left off rebelling since Pompey** first conquered you, & have, since that time, **made open war with the Romans**. Have you depended on your multitude, while a very small part of the Roman soldiery have been strong enough for you? Have you relied on the fidelity of your confederates? And what nations are there, out of the limits of our dominion, that would choose to assist the Jews before the Romans? Are your bodies stronger than ours? Nay, you know that the (strong) Germans themselves are our servants. Have you stronger walls than we have? Pray, what greater obstacle is there than the walls of the ocean, with which the Britons are encompassed, & yet do adore the arms of the Romans. Do you exceed us in courage of soul, & in the sagacity of your commanders? Nay, indeed, you cannot but know that the very Carthaginians have been conquered by us. It can therefore be nothing certainly but the kindness of us Romans which hath excited you against us, who, in the **first place**, have given you this land to possess; & in the **next place**, have set over you kings of your own nation; ...

2...& in the **third place**, have preserved the laws of your forefathers to you, and have withal permitted you to live, either by yourselves, or among others, as it should please you:

and, what is our chief favor of all we have given you leave to gather up that tribute which is paid to God with such other gifts that are dedicated to him; nor have we called those that carried these donations to account, nor prohibited them; till at length **you became richer than we ourselves**, even when you were our enemies; and **you made preparations for war against us with our own money**; nay, after all, when you were in the employment of all these advantages, **you turned your too great plenty against those that gave it you**, & like **merciless serpents**, have **thrown out your poison against those that treated you kindly**. I suppose, therefore, that you might despise the slothfulness of Nero, & like limbs of the body that are broken or dislocated, you did then lie quiet, waiting for some other time, though still with a malicious intention, & have now showed **your distemper to be greater than ever**, & have **extended your desires** as far as your impudent & immense hopes would enable you to do it.

At this time **my father came into this country, not with a design to punish you for what you had done under Cestius, but to admonish you**; for had he come to overthrow your nation, he had run directly to your fountain-head, and had immediately laid this city waste; whereas he went & burnt Galilee & the neighboring parts, & thereby **gave you time for repentance**; which instance of humanity you took for an argument of his weakness, & nourished up your impudence (no shame or modesty, cocky boldness) by our mildness. **When Nero was gone out of the world, you did as the wickedest wretches would have done, & encouraged yourselves to act against us by our civil dissensions, & abused that time, when both I & my father were gone away to Egypt, to make preparations for this war.**

- Titus' Speech - Book 6, chapter 6, sec 2 & 3

2...Nor were you ashamed to raise disturbances against us when we were made emperors, & this while you had experienced how mild we have been, when we were no more than generals of the army. But when the government was developed upon us, & all other people did thereupon lie quiet, & even foreign nations sent embassies, & congratulated our access to the government, then did you Jews show yourselves to be our enemies. You sent embassies to those of your nation that are beyond Euphrates to assist you in your raising disturbances; new walls were built by you round your city, seditions arose, & other tyrant contended against another, & a **civil war** broke out among you; such indeed as became none but so **wicked a people** as you are. I then came to this city, as unwillingly sent by my father, & received melancholy injunctions from him. When I heard that the people were disposed to peace, I rejoiced at it; I exhorted you to leave off these proceedings before I began this war; I spared you even when you had fought against me a great while; I gave my right hand as security to the deserters; I observed what I had promised faithfully. When they fled to me, I had compassion on many of those that I had taken captive; I tortured those that were eager for war, in order to restrain them. It was **unwillingly** that I brought my engines of **war against your walls**; I always prohibited my soldiers, when they were set upon your slaughter, from their severity against you. After every victory I **persuaded you to peace**, as though I had been myself conquered. When I came near your temple, I again departed from the laws of war, & **exhorted you to spare your own sanctuary, & to preserve your holy house to yourselves**. I allowed you a quiet exit out of it, & security for your preservation; nay, if you had a mind, I **gave you leave to fight in another place**. Yet have you still despised every one of my proposals, & have **set fire to your holy house with your own hands**. And now, vile wretches, do you desire to treat with me by word of mouth? To what purpose is it that you would save such a holy house as this was, which is now destroyed? What preservation can you now desire after the destruction of your temple? Yet do you stand still **at this very time in your armor**; nor can you bring yourselves so much as to pretend to be supplicants even **in this your utmost extremity**. **O miserable creatures!** what is it you depend on? **Are not your people dead? Is not your holy house gone? Is not your city in my power?** And are not your own very lives in my hands? And do you still deem it a part of valor to die? However, **I will not imitate your madness**. If you throw down your arms, & deliver up your bodies to me, I grant you your lives; & I will act like a mild master of a family; what cannot be healed shall be punished, & the rest I will preserve for my own use.

Their reply back moving Titus against them:

3. To that offer of Titus they made this reply: That **they could not accept of it, because they had sworn never to do so**, but they desired the might have leave to go through the wall that had been made about them, with their wives & children; for that they would go into the desert, & leave the city to him. At this Titus had great indignation, that when they were in the case of men already taken captives, they should pretend to make their own terms with him, as if they had been conquerors. So he ordered this proclamation to be made to them. That they should no more come out to him as deserters, nor hope for any further security; for that he would henceforth spare nobody, but fight them with his whole army; & that they must save themselves as well as they could; for that **he would from henceforth treat them according to the laws of war**. so he gave orders to the soldiers both to burn & to plunder the city; who did nothing indeed that day; but on the next day they set fire to the repository of the archives, to Acra, to the council-house, & to the place called Ophelia's; at which time fire proceeded as far as the palace of queen Helena, which was in the mid of Acra; the lanes also were burnt down, as were also those **houses that were full of the dead bodies** of such as were **destroyed by the famine**.