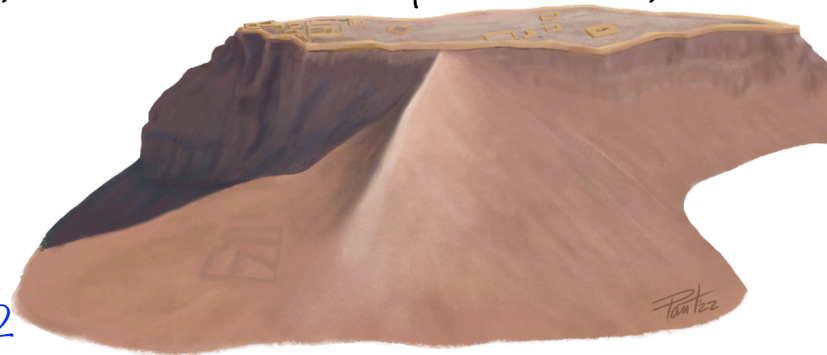


# Sicarii, John, Zealots, Simon, Idumeans

- Sicarii under Eleazar ben Yair - [Book 7, chapter 8, sec 1](#)  
Commander of Sicarii, at Masada, descendant of Judas of Galilee of Zealots.

Sicarii got together **against those that were willing to submit to the Romans, and treat them in all respects as if they had been their enemies**, both by **plundering** them of what they had, by **driving away their cattle**, and by **setting fire to their houses**; ...Now this was in reality no better than a pretense and a cloak for barbarity which was made use of by them, & to color over their avarice, which they afterwards made evident by their own actions; for **those that were partners with them in their rebellion joined also with them in the war against the Romans**, & went further lengths with them; in their impudent undertakings against them; and when they were again convicted of dissembling in such their pretenses, they still more **abused those that justly reproached them for their wickedness**. Indeed that was a time most fertile in all manner of wicked practices, insomuch that **no kind of evil deeds were left undone**; nor could any one so much as devise any bad thing that was new, **so deeply were they all infected**, and strove with one another in their single capacity, and in their communities, who should run the greatest lengths in **impiety towards God, and in unjust actions towards their neighbors**; the **men of power oppressing the multitude**, and the **multitude earnestly laboring to destroying the men of power**. The one part were desirous of tyrannizing over others, and the rest of offering violence to others, and of plundering such as were richer than themselves. They were the **Sicarii** who first **began these transgressions**, and first became barbarous towards those allied to them, and left no words of reproach unsaid, and no works of perdition untried, in order **to destroy** those whom their contrivances affected.

But Jesus said to him, **Put your sword in its place for all who take the sword will perish by the sword.** [Matthew 26:52](#)



John, Zealots, Simon & Idumeans, [Book 7, Ch 8, sec 1](#)

Yet did **John** demonstrate by his actions that these **Sicarii** were more moderate than he was himself, for he not only **slew all such as gave him good counsel to do what was right**, but treated them worst of all, as the most bitter enemies that he had among all the citizens; nay, he filled his entire country with 10,000 instances of wickedness, such as a man who was already hardened sufficiently in his impiety towards God would naturally do; for the food was unlawful that was set upon his table, and he rejected those purifications that the law of his country had ordained; so that it was no longer a wonder if he, who was so mad in his impiety towards God, did not observe any rules of gentleness and common affection towards men. Again, therefore, what mischief was there which **Simon the son of Gioras** did not do? or what kind of abuses did he abstain from as to those very **free-men who had set him up for a tyrant**? What friendship or kindred were there that did not make him more bold in his **daily murders**? For they looked upon the doing of mischief to strangers only as a work beneath their courage, but thought their **barbarity towards their nearest relations** would be a glorious demonstration thereof.

The **Idumeans** also **strove with these men** who should be guilty of the greatest madness! For they (all), vile wretches as they were, **cut the throats of the high priests**, that so no part of a religious regard to God might be preserved; they thence proceeded to **destroy** utterly the least remains of a **political government**, and introduced the most complete scene of iniquity in all instances that were practicable; under which scene that sort of people that were called **Zealots** grew up, & who indeed corresponded to the name; for they **imitated every wicked work**; nor, if their memory suggested any evil thing that had formerly been done, did they avoid zealously to pursue the same; and although they gave themselves that name from their zeal for what was good, yet did it agree to them only by way of irony, on account of those they had unjustly treated by their wild & brutish disposition, or as thinking the greatest mischiefs to be the greatest good. Accordingly, they all met with such ends as God deservedly brought upon them in way of punishment; for all such miseries have been sent upon them as man's nature is capable of undergoing, till the utmost period of their lives, and till death came upon them in various ways of torment; yet might one say justly that they suffered less than they had done, because **it was impossible they could be punished according to their deserving**. But to make lamentation according to the deserts of those who fell under these men's barbarity, this is not a proper place for it;