

People of the Bible

Zealots

Zealotry was originally a political movement in 1st century Judaism. It sought to incite the people of Judaea Province to rebel against the Roman Empire. The ultimate goal was to drive Rome from the Holy Land by force of arms. Simon the zealot was a disciple of Jesus.

Another group, likely related, was the Sicarii. This is the name of a long knife with a curved blade. This knife was used by these Jewish zealots to actually go into a crowd and slip that knife into those people who they thought were not holding to the principles of Judaism. The most opportune time to carry this out was a great feast. This is the kind of terrorism that we even see today in the Middle East. It seems to be part of the character of the Middle East.

Today, members of some units of the Israel Defense Forces climb Masada and declare "Masada Shall Not Fall Again," in Hebrew. This is done at their graduation from basic training.