Times were hard under Roman tyranny. Life marked

with fear and oppression replaced the days of Hasmonean

independence. Gone were the days of powerful King David

and Solomon. The new world order divided society into the

weak and helpless struggling against the powerful and coercive.

Fear gripped the kingdom of Israel as the heavy hand

of Roman oppression placed the Israelites under subjection.

Despotism fostered resistance groups like the Zealots and

Sicarii, who sought in vain to restore Israel to independence

and glory. Their bold rebellion and attacks on their oppressor

led to retaliation and escalating hardship.

A Jewish family entered this world in obscurity. Their

descendants would change the world forever and one day

reinstate the kingdom of Israel under the authority of the

Jewish Messiah. Their lives bore witness to the best of humankind

and the worst of humankind. Life under authoritarian

dictatorship pressed them all into a life of faith in

the most adverse conditions.

This is their story.