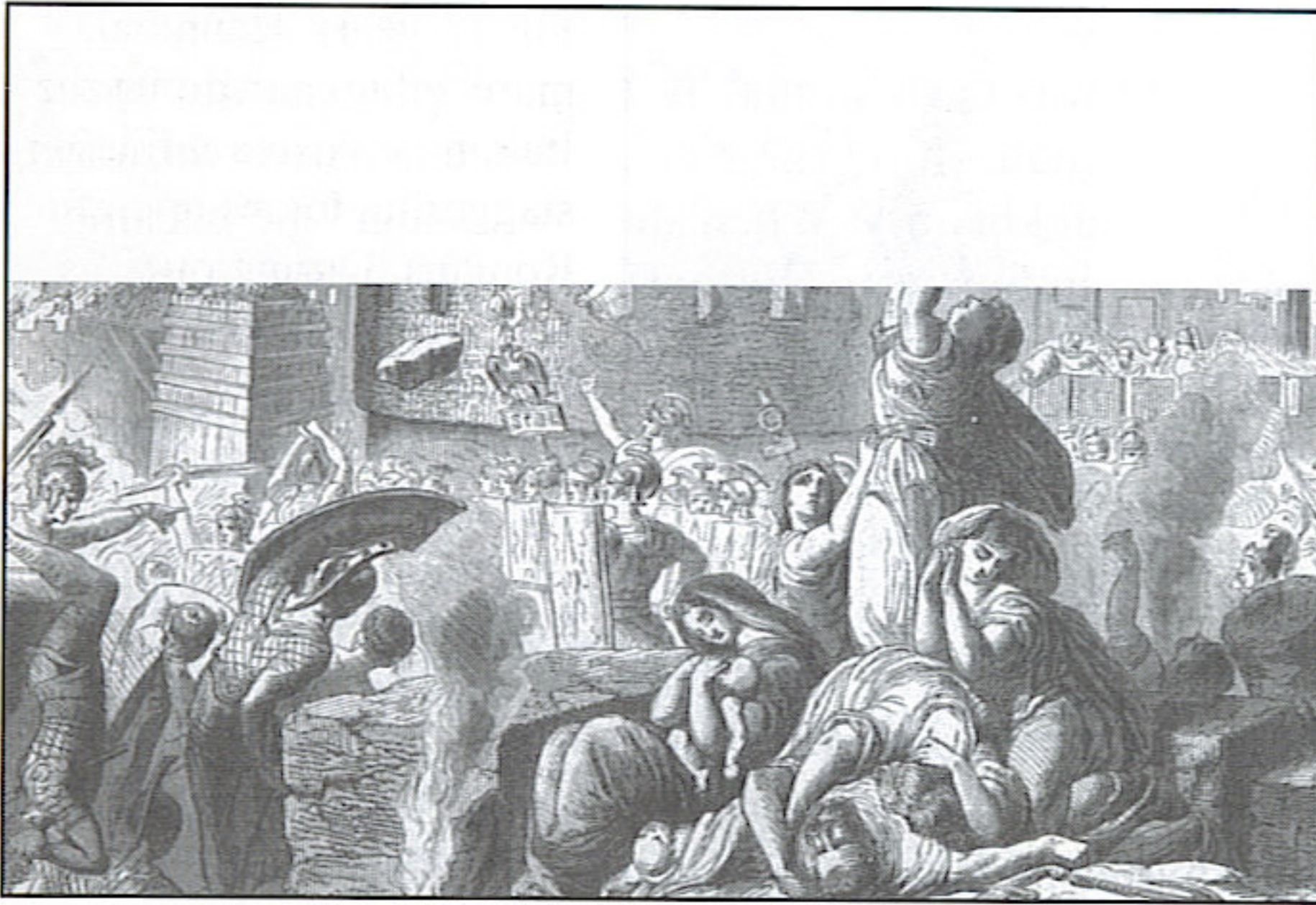


## Event E: The Third Punic War



In the decades following the Second Punic War, Rome continued to expand its territories throughout the Mediterranean region. Meanwhile, Carthage carefully honored the treaty it had signed with the Romans and did not acquire any new territories. Carthage did not build new warships, paid the fine to Rome, and declared no wars. Having lost much of their military power, the Carthaginians watched as the Mediterranean Sea became a “Roman lake.”

Despite Carthage’s decline in power and status, some Roman leaders still felt that it had not been punished severely enough. They demanded vengeance. The ability of the Carthaginians to rebuild their trade and to increase their wealth especially angered the Romans. Hostile feelings increased in 153 B.C.E., when Roman ambassadors returned from Carthage reporting that the city was larger and more beautiful than Rome. Following this report, one Roman leader made it a practice to end each of his speeches with the words, “Carthage must be destroyed!”

Consumed by hatred and mistrust, Roman leaders began to antagonize Carthage, hoping to provoke another war. When neighboring Numidians (pronounced noo-MID-ee-ans) attacked Carthaginian towns, the Romans refused to let the Carthaginians take defensive action. In addition, the Romans sent ambassadors to Numidia and secretly encouraged additional attacks. Finally, in 149 B.C.E., the Carthaginians decided to take action and fought back against the Numidians. Recognizing that this attack violated their treaty with Rome, Carthaginian leaders quickly prepared to make amends to the Roman Senate. They sent a group of ambassadors to Rome, hoping to re-establish peace with Rome. However, the Roman Senate refused to talk to these representatives and instead declared war on Carthage, starting the Third Punic War.

**What happened next?** How do you think the Romans finally destroyed the power of Carthage?

**Notes about the outcome of the event:**