

From Saul to Paul

His transformation and our own

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Note 3: Roman emperors during Paul's lifetime

Paul lived under five different emperors, to which he often made reference in an indiscriminate manner as "Caesar". They are the following:

Octavius (31 B.C. to 14 A.D.): He governed after defeating Mark Anthony in Actium, which led to the suicide of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra. Although formally he was defined as the "first citizen", in practice he was the sovereign of Rome. In the opinion of many, this was the "golden era" of Rome.

Tiberius (14-37 A.D.): He was an adopted son of Caesar Augustus. He resolved most conflicts diplomatically whenever possible. He left great fortune in the treasury of the empire.

Caligula (37-41 A.D.): He was the son of Germanicus, who was the adopted son of the emperor Tiberius. He proved to be a weak emperor and mentally unstable. He took very seriously his role as a Roman god. He wasted funds of the treasury and raised taxes.

Claudius (41-54 A.D.): Brother of Germanicus and nephew of Tiberius, he sought to correct the errors of Caligula and return to the principles of Augustus Caesar. He died poisoned by his fourth wife (who was his niece), the mother of Nero.

Nero (54-68 A.D.): Son of Claudius, he began to govern at 17 years of age. He declared the Christians guilty for the famous conflagration of Rome in 64 A.D. and, as a result, began a persecution that probably included the execution of Paul as well as Peter. He committed suicide in the year 68 A.D., which was celebrated in the streets of Rome.