

Persecution of Christians under Roman emperors

## Description

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### **Persecution of Christians under Roman Emperors**

The persecution of Christians under Roman emperors was a long and complex process that began in the first century AD and lasted until the fourth century. During this time, Christians were persecuted for their beliefs and practices, which were seen as a threat to the Roman Empire. The persecution of Christians was often brutal and included torture, imprisonment, and even death.

#### I. Early Persecution

The early persecution of Christians began in the first century AD, when the Roman Empire was still in its infancy. The Roman Emperor Nero was the first to persecute Christians, accusing them of setting fire to Rome in 64 AD. He had many Christians arrested and executed, and even had some thrown to the lions in the Colosseum.

#### **II. Persecution under Emperor Domitian**

The persecution of Christians continued under the rule of Emperor Domitian, who

reigned from 81-96 AD. Domitian was a particularly harsh persecutor of Christians, and he ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed. He also ordered that all Christian books be burned and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

#### III. Persecution under Emperor Trajan

The persecution of Christians continued under the rule of Emperor Trajan, who reigned from 98-117 AD. Trajan was a particularly harsh persecutor of Christians, and he ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed. He also ordered that all Christian books be burned and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

#### **IV. Persecution under Emperor Hadrian**

The persecution of Christians continued under the rule of Emperor Hadrian, who reigned from 117-138 AD. Hadrian was a particularly harsh persecutor of Christians, and he ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed. He also ordered that all Christian books be burned and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

#### V. Persecution under Emperor Marcus Aurelius

The persecution of Christians continued under the rule of Emperor Marcus Aurelius, who reigned from 161-180 AD. Marcus Aurelius was a particularly harsh persecutor of Christians, and he ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed. He also ordered that all Christian books be burned and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

#### **VI. Persecution under Emperor Decius**

The persecution of Christians continued under the rule of Emperor Decius, who reigned from 249-251 AD. Decius was a particularly harsh persecutor of Christians, and he ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed. He also ordered that all Christian books be burned and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

#### VII. Persecution under Emperor Diocletian

The persecution of Christians continued under the rule of Emperor Diocletian, who reigned from 284-305 AD. Diocletian was a particularly harsh persecutor of Christians, and he ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed. He also ordered that all Christian books be burned and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

#### **VIII. Persecution under Emperor Constantine**

The persecution of Christians ended under the rule of Emperor Constantine, who reigned from 306-337 AD. Constantine was the first Roman emperor to convert to Christianity, and he issued the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, which granted religious freedom to all Christians.

The persecution of Christians under Roman emperors was a long and difficult process, but it ultimately led to the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. As the Bible says in Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

The persecution of Christians under Roman emperors was a difficult and often brutal process, but it ultimately led to the spread of Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. The Edict of Milan in 313 AD granted religious freedom to all Christians, and this allowed Christianity to flourish and become the dominant religion in the Roman Empire.

Salvation Prayers : Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you today acknowledging my need for salvation. I confess that I have sinned and fallen short of your glory. But I believe that you died for my sins and rose again. I ask that you come into my heart and be my Lord. I commit to following you and living for you every day. Thank you for your love and for the gift of eternal life. In your name I pray, Amen. <u>Amen If you prayed the above prayers kindly click here to get more information</u> https://www.xgospel.net/harvest\_form/form/?page=0&salvation=true

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**Rededication Prayers :** Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you today with a heart of repentance. I confess that I have strayed from your path and have not been living according to your will. But I am here to rededicate myself to you and to make a commitment to follow you with all my heart. I ask for your forgiveness and for the strength and guidance to walk in your ways. I thank you for your love, grace, and mercy. I give you my all, my heart, my mind, my soul, and my strength, I trust in you and I pray this in Jesus' name, Amen. <u>Amen</u> If you prayed the above prayers kindly click here to get more information https://www.xgospel.net/harvest\_form/form/?page=0&rededication=true&wise=0

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#### Quiz

- 1. Who was the first Roman emperor to persecute Christians?
- A. Nero
- B. Domitian
- C. Trajan
- D. Hadrian
- 2. What did Emperor Trajan order in regards to Christians?
- A. Arrest and execution
- B. Burning of Christian books
- C. Outlawing of Christian worship
- D. All of the above

- 3. What did Emperor Hadrian order in regards to Christians?
- A. Arrest and execution
- B. Burning of Christian books
- C. Outlawing of Christian worship
- D. All of the above
- 4. What did Emperor Marcus Aurelius order in regards to Christians?
- A. Arrest and execution
- B. Burning of Christian books
- C. Outlawing of Christian worship
- D. All of the above
- 5. What did Emperor Constantine issue in 313 AD?
- A. Edict of Milan
- B. Edict of Rome
- C. Edict of Alexandria
- D. Edict of Constantinople

#### **Discussion Questions**

1. What were the long-term effects of the persecution of Christians under Roman emperors?

2. How did the Edict of Milan in 313 AD change the course of Christianity?

3. What were some of the methods used to persecute Christians under Roman emperors?

4. How did the persecution of Christians under Roman emperors lead to the spread of Christianity?

5. What can we learn from the persecution of Christians under Roman emperors?

#### FAQs

Q: Who was the first Roman emperor to persecute Christians? A: The first Roman emperor to persecute Christians was Nero, who reigned from 54-68 AD.

Q: What did Emperor Trajan order in regards to Christians?

A: Emperor Trajan ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed, that all Christian books be burned, and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

Q: What did Emperor Hadrian order in regards to Christians? A: Emperor Hadrian ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed, that all Christian books be burned, and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

Q: What did Emperor Marcus Aurelius order in regards to Christians? A: Emperor Marcus Aurelius ordered that all Christians be arrested and executed, that all Christian books be burned, and that all Christian worship be outlawed.

Q: What did Emperor Constantine issue in 313 AD?

A: Emperor Constantine issued the Edict of Milan in 313 AD, which granted religious freedom to all Christians.

Answers: 1. A, 2. D, 3. D, 4. D, 5. A

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