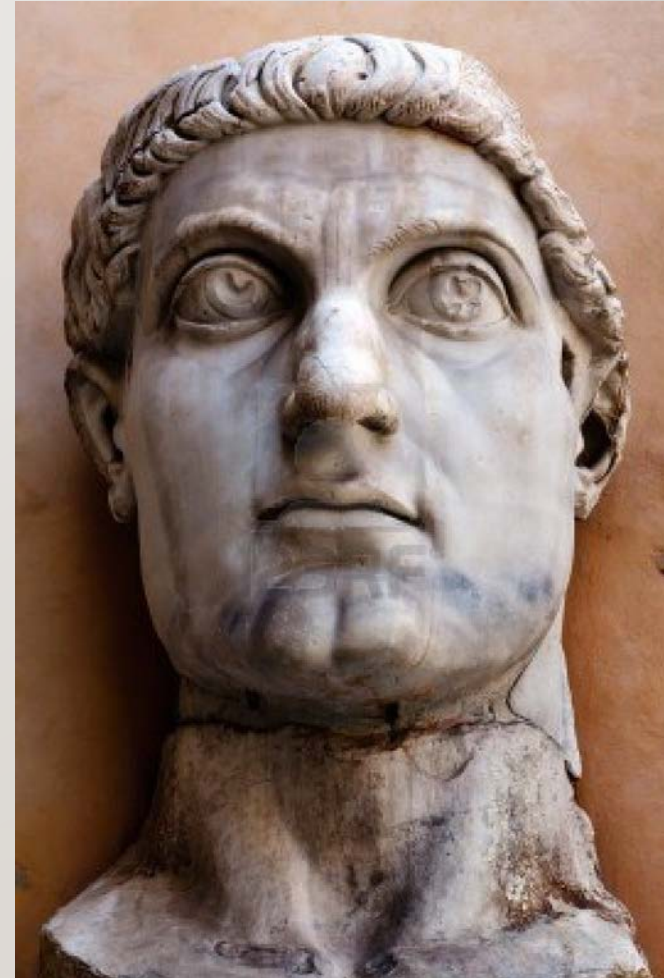


PAGAN OR CHRISTIAN:
HOW DO THE ACTIONS OF THE
ROMAN EMPEROR CONSTANTINE
THE GREAT PORTRAY HIS
RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

IN HOC SIGNO VINCES - 'ΕΝ ΤΟΥΤῳ ΝΙΚΑ



INTRODUCTION

- This presentation will be detailing the second chapter of my dissertation, looking at whether the emperor Constantine was a Christian, and if he was, when was he a Christian
- I will be arguing that Constantine was a Christian and accepted the Christian God in AD 312.

SCHOLARSHIP

- Modern scholarship, as ever, disagrees with not only whether he was a Christian but when he accepted God
- Gerberding and Moran claim pre AD 312
- Edwards, Jones, and Brown claim AD 312
- Pohlsander claims AD 337

PRIMARY SOURCES

- Out two primary sources for this period and therefore the dissertation are Lactantius and Eusebius of Caeserea
- Both were Christian bishops
- Both were close friends of the emperor Constantine



IN HOC SIGNO VINCES

“He said that about noon, when the day was already beginning to decline, he saw with his own eyes the trophy of a cross of light in the heavens, above the sun, and bearing the inscription, **CONQUER BY THIS**. At this sight he himself was struck with amazement, and his whole army also, which followed him on this expedition, and witnessed the miracle.”

Eusebius, Life of Constantine I.28.



“WHILE he was thus circumstanced, he completed the tenth year of his reign. On this occasion he ordered the celebration of general festivals, and offered prayers of thanksgiving to God, the King of all, as sacrifices without flame or smoke.”

Eusebius, Life of Constantine I.48.

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