

Polytheist to Monotheist

Rome's transition from Pagan Pantheon to Christian Church in late antiquity

“Christus, the founder of the name, had undergone the death penalty in the reign of Tiberius... and the pernicious superstition was checked for a moment, only to break out once more, not merely in Judaea, the home of the disease, but in the capital itself, where all things horrible or shameful in the world collect... the confessed members of the sect were arrested; next, on their disclosures, vast numbers were convicted, not so much on the count of arson as for hatred of the human race.” - Tacitus Annals Book XV ch.44

Christianity went from a despised sect to the state religion in a matter of centuries, partially due to its believers persistence despite persecution.

Roman religion had gone through much change through the centuries. It had been used as a tool of integration to newly conquered peoples, as their gods were blended into the mythology that the Romans worshipped.

In fact, the god **Sol Invictus** themselves are a blended mixture of the gods, with parts of **Helios** from Greco-Roman mythology being the origin, and a sun god of Syrian origin called **Sol Invictus** being assigned the same title.

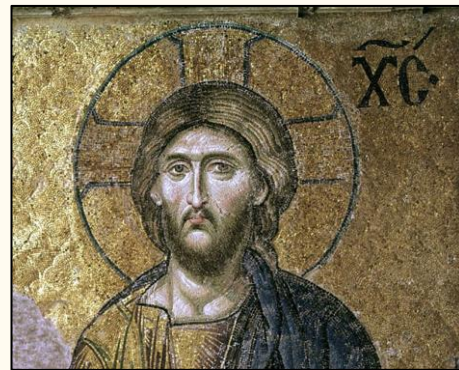
There is a trend in later antiquity for the Roman pantheon to slowly change to a more centralised, but not necessarily monotheistic, religion.



The Roman pantheon always had a head god of some sort, whether it be **Jupiter** (**Optimus Maximus**)



Sol Invictus



Or, eventually, **Jesus the Christ**

Image Sources

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