

~AUGUSTUS (77)
(Au-gus'tus) [August One]

- This title was given to **Gaius Octavius**. Later Roman emperors also assumed the title.
- But when Paul appealed to be kept for the decision by the **August One**, I commanded him to be kept until I should send him on up to Caesar. (**Acts of Apostles 25:21**)
- But I perceived he had committed nothing deserving of death. So when this man himself appealed to the **August One**, I decided to send him. (**Acts of Apostles 25:25**)
- But by itself when used as a name, it refers to **Octavius**, the first emperor of the Roman Empire.
- In **September, 31 B.C.E**, 13 years after the assassination of his great-uncle Julius Caesar, **Octavius** emerged the undisputed ruler of the Roman Empire. He declined the titles king and dictator but accepted the special title **Augustus** bestowed upon him by the Senate, **January 16,27 B.C.E**.
- After the death of Lepidus in **12 B.C.E**, **Augustus** assumed the title Pontifex Maximus. With his rise in power he made reforms in government, reorganized the army, established the Praetorian Guard.
- So that my bonds have become public knowledge in association with Christ among all the Praetorian Guard and all the rest. (**Philippians 1:13**)
- And built and repaired many temples.
- In **2 B.C.E**, a decree went forth from **Caesar Augustus** for all the inhabited earth to be registered. And all people went traveling to be registered, each one to his own city.
- Now in those days a decree went forth from **Caesar Augustus** for all the inhabited earth to be registered. (**Luke 2:1**)
- And all people went traveling to be registered, each one to his own city. (**Luke 2:3**)

- This decree resulted in Jesus being born in Bethlehem in fulfillment of Bible prophecy.
- And there must stand up in his position one who is causing an exactor to pass through the splendid kingdom, and in a few days he will be broken, but not in anger nor in warfare. (**Daniel 11:20**)
- And you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, the one too little to get to be among the thousands of Judah, from you there will come out to me the one who is to become ruler in Israel, whose origin is from early times, from the days of time indefinite. (**Micah 5:2**)
- Aside from this registration of the people for taxation and army conscription, appointment of governor's in some provinces, and execution of the death penalty, **Augustus** interfered very little with local government. His policy, which continued after his death, granted the Jewish Sanhedrin sweeping powers.
- Hence Pilate said to them; Take him yourselves and judge him according to your Law. The Jews said to him; It is not lawful for us to kill anyone. (**John 18:31**)
- This imperial leniency gave the subjects less provocation to rebel.
- **Augustus** had little choice for a successor. His nephew, two grandsons, a son-in-law, and a stepson all died, leaving only his stepson Tiberius. **Augustus** died **August 17, 14 C.E, August 19, Julian calendar**, the month he had named after himself.