

Class 7b
The Gospel of Mark





Priene Calendar
Inscription
9 BCE

*The Greeks of Asia resolve to
reset their calendar from a
lunar calendar to a solar one,
beginning on the birthday of
Augustus Caesar*

since [the birthday] of the god
was the beginning of the
good new[s] for the world
that came by reason of him

ROME: FROM REPUBLIC TO EMPIRE



POMPEY
63 BCE



JULIUS CAESAR
49-44 BCE



OCTAVIAN, aka CAESAR AUGUSTUS
27 BCE-14 CE





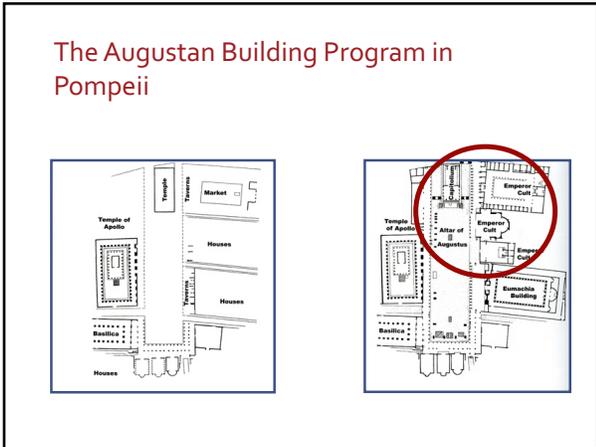
Ara Pacis Augustae, Rome



Winged victory on ship's prow holding wreath/crown of victory

Emperor on chariot, holding olive branch
Inscription: Imp[erator] Caesar







Who Is Our Father?

Father—
may your name be kept holy!
let your reign come:

our day's bread give us today;
and cancel our debts for us,
as we too have cancelled for
those in debt to us;
and do not put us to the
test!



Who Is the Son of God?



The Gospel of Mark

Storyline & Features

- Handout: Your observations
- Vestiges of oral preaching
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- Apocalyptic drama with open ending
 - gospel originally ended at 16:8
- A strange motif: the "messianic secret"

The Gospel of Mark

Connecting the Author's Context to the Themes

▪ Response to turmoil of mid-1st century

- Nero's persecution of Christians (64 CE)
- Jewish Revolt, destruction of Jerusalem (70 CE)
- deaths of eyewitnesses

THEMES
*Jesus as suffering
messiah*
*Real enemy = Satan
(religious leaders = proxies)*

▪ Challenges of discipleship

- pressure under persecution
- internal tensions over leadership

disciples' failures
messianic secret

▪ Spread of message not only to Jews
but also Gentiles

*overtures to
Gentiles*
