## Symbols of Early Christianity on Ancient Roman and Medieval Coins

Christianity spread originally in the ancient Roman empire. The emperor Constantine I, the Great had the <u>First Council of Nicaea</u> standardize Christianity circa 325 A.D.. Since those times, the symbols of Christianity were well wide-spread on ancient coinage. Certainly an interesting topic to collect and explore. This article puts many different topics relating to Christianity together for a quick guide to those topics on ancient coins. There may be more topics to explore, and I would like to add them to the list, if you should like to let me know about them. May this be helpful to you.

- 1. Coins of Jerusalem are certainly another intersting topic to collect, that are connected with the "Holy Land"
- 2. Tribute Penny coins were issued by Tiberius Roman Emperor: 14-37 A.D. -
- 3. Pontius Pilate Known chiefly for the Trial and Crucifixion of Jesus Christ. His coins exist and are an interesting area to collect.
- 4. <u>Constantine I 'The Great'</u> <u>Roman Emperor</u>: 307-337 A.D. is also known as saint Constantine, and are important for Christianity.
- 5. Saint Helena, the mother of Constantine the Great
- 6. Aelia Flacilla Roman Empress Theodosius I Wife 379-385 A.D., known as the Orthodox Saint Aelia Flacilla
- 7. Coins with the cross on them were mostly minted by emperors Theodosius II and Arcadius.



8. Coins with the Chi-Rho, which was a combination of the initials of Jesus Christ in Greek, the letters X and P. The pronunciation of those two letters was actually Chi for X and Rho for the P. This symbol was said "By this Sign I shall Conquer" used by Constantine I 'The Great'. Notice how in the coin on the right, the emperor holds a captive by the head, while holding the standard with the Chi-Rho, called the labarum.



9. <u>Ancient Roman coins depicting Angels, know in Roman times as Victory</u>. It is easy to establish a connection with the ancient Greek goddess <u>Nike</u> or <u>Victory</u> that was adopted by the early Christians and known nowadays as angels.



10. Jesus Christ on ancient/medieval Byzantine Coins



11. Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ



12. Byzantine Coins depicting various saints.



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