

Abstract

Domitian was traditionally considered to be one of the first emperors, who persecuted Christians, however, since the middle of 19th century there have been doubts about the extent and later even the historicity of this persecution and so far no general agreement has been formed among scholars. This thesis does not agree with the theory that Domitian systematically persecuted Christians, instead it considers more probable that the Christian communities were sporadically attacked (primarily verbally) by the surrounding populace and that the local authorities could occasionally step in. This conclusion will be reached based on examining the primary sources that are thought to contain information about the situation of Christians under Domitian and it focuses on the location of Asia Minor as well as the city of Rome. At the same time the thesis concerns itself with the opinions of modern authors and points out the flaws in the arguments of those, with whom it does not agree.