

- c. Julian, perhaps to get away from his uncle, asked to be sent to Athens to study. In Athens he studied the Neo-Platonic views on the side. He was a kind, tolerant, intellectual man and lived a very simple life. His uncle called him to lead an army in France, and he proved himself an exceedingly able general. Constantius became alarmed at the popular sentiment which compared himself so unfavorably to Julian as emperor. When he summoned Julian to Rome, Julian refused and during a campaign against his nephew he died. Julian then became emperor.

2. His Policies:

- a. Julian had never seen Christianity at its best instead ~~he~~ had been forced to go through forms of religions worship which he never felt by his vicious, vain uncle. When he had assumed office therefore he renounced Christianity and encouraged paganism as the true religion of the empire.
- b. He at first proclaimed religious freedom and permitted the orthodox bishops such as Athanaceous to return from exile. His own religion was the lofty spiritual Neo-Platonic interpretation of polytheism. As such he offered little appeal to the rank paganism of his day. He found that paganism of itself would not grow, and he was forced to persecute individuals who stood in his way, particularly the very active orthodox bishops.
- c. He decreed that all pagan property should be restored and pagan temples rebuilt by those who had confiscated them.
- d. He decreed that since the Christians did not believe the teachings of the Greek philosophers, they should not be permitted to teach the classics.
- e. He extended his friendship to the Jews and removed the ban which for 200 years, since the time of Hadrian, had kept them outside Jerusalem. He encouraged them to rebuild their temple, deliberately attempting to disprove Biblical prophecy in connection with the temple. The Jews gathered their wealth from all over the empire. However, when they began to dig at the site of the temple, fire from the earth forced them to cease. Few historical events are better authenticated than this. Gibbon the skeptical, anti-Christian, ^{historian} says it did happen, probably due to gases in connection with the accumulated rubbish of centuries.