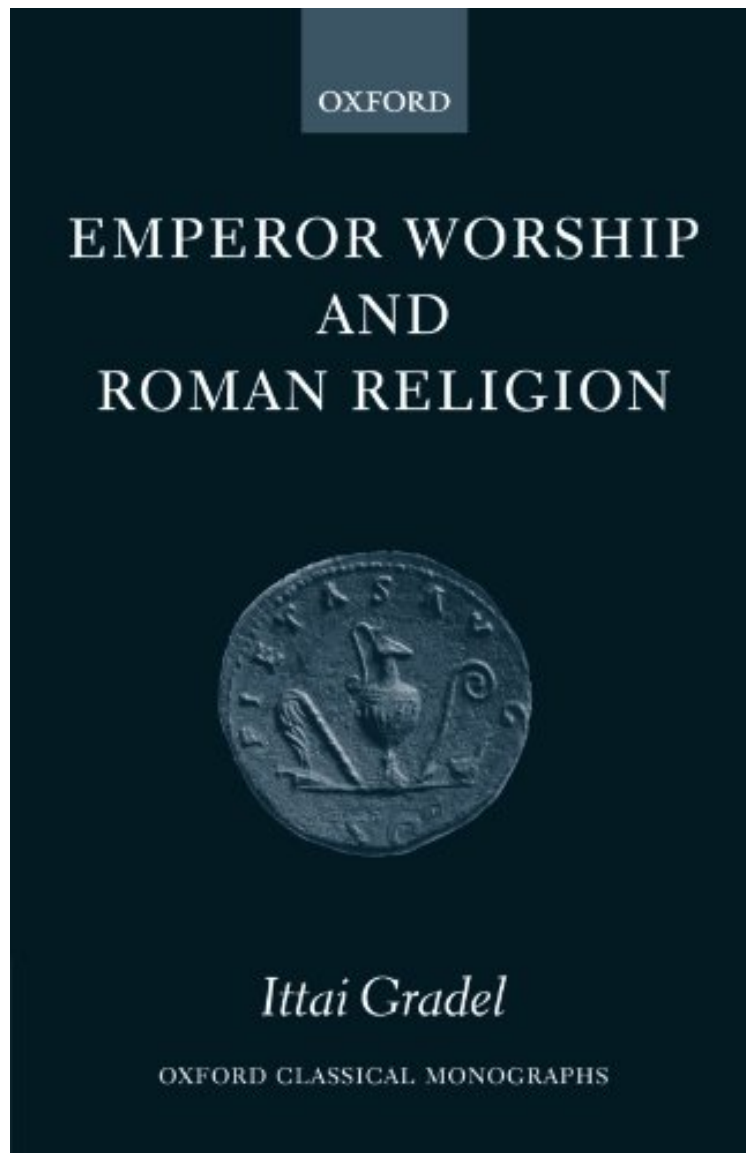


(Download free ebook) Emperor Worship and Roman Religion (Oxford Classical Monographs)

Emperor Worship and Roman Religion (Oxford Classical Monographs)

Ittai Gradel

*audiobook / *ebooks / Download PDF / ePub / DOC*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#2766113 in Books 2004-09-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 5.40 x .90 x 8.40l, 1.32 #File Name: 0199275483428 pages | File size: 66.Mb

Ittai Gradel : Emperor Worship and Roman Religion (Oxford Classical Monographs) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Emperor Worship and Roman Religion (Oxford Classical Monographs):

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Ambitious and Challenging By Kevin Oliver Following in the

footsteps of Simon Price, Gradel undertakes a study of the Roman "imperial cult" on its own terms (i.e. free from the "Christianizing assumptions" that have burdened the subject for much of history). But whereas Price focuses chiefly on the practice of emperor worship in the Greek East, Gradel confines his study to the phenomenon as found in Italy and Rome itself. Despite long-held assumptions about the essential foreignness of Roman emperor worship, Gradel endeavors to show that the practice is in fact very much in keeping with traditional Roman practice. Moreover, Gradel sees a relationship between certain forms of emperor worship (particularly those analogous to the worship of the paterfamilias in household cult) and the current monarch's public relationship with the Senate and other elites, thereby offering one explanation for why certain practices are associated with "despotic" or "mad" emperors in the histories as written by members of the elite class. Gradel does make certain statements and assumptions that could use further support or at least further elaboration. And only time will tell to what degree this revisionist view of emperor cult is accepted by classicists in general. But it is a challenging and ambitious work that I hope will encourage further inquiry into the question of emperor worship as a legitimate feature of Roman religion. Highly recommended to anyone interested in this field of study. See also Price's *Ritual Power*.

While Roman religion worshipped a number of gods, one kind in particular aroused the fury of early Christians and the wonder of scholars: the cult of Roman emperors alive or dead. Was the divinity of emperors a glue that held the Empire together? Were rulers such as Julius Caesar and Caligula simply mad to expect such worship of themselves? Or was it rather a phenomenon which has only been rendered incomprehensible by modern and monotheistic ideas of what religion is--or should be--all about? This book presents the first study of emperor worship among the Romans themselves, both in Rome and in its heartland Italy. It argues that emperor worship was indeed perfectly in keeping with Roman religious tradition, which has been generally misunderstood by a posterity imbued with radically different notions of the relationship between humans and the divine.

"Gradel's work is eminently readable.... He impressively handles a wide range of evidence, deftly analyzing epigraphic, numismatic and archaeological data alongside literary testimonia."--Bryn Mawr Classical Review
Author Ittai Gradel is Lecturer in the Department of History, University of Copenhagen.