

Statement of belief: *“Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”* (John 17:17 KJV)

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The Historical Evidence for Caesar Augustus’ Death on August 19, 10 CE

Abstract:

Correctly dating of the death of Caesar Augustus is very significant and important because that event and the date generally attributed to it, August 19, 14 A.D., is used as the basis for most or even all of conventional dating of the history and of the events in and surrounding the first century A.D. and thus also for the events of the New Testament. Use a faulty foundation and the entire structure built upon it will be flawed!

Our road to ultimate truth is frequently long and circuitous. The simple and direct routes are frequently overlooked. So it was for me and that which is found below is not how I originally arrived at these results re the date of the death of Caesar Augustus. What’s found below is a simplified and much more direct route to the recognition of the correct date pertaining to the death of Caesar Augustus. He died in 10 CE, and not, as generally assumed, in 14 CE!:

Considerations and calculations (For the full context of the quotes please see [References](#) below!):

1. From [Phlegon](#) we learn that an *“eclipse of the Sun took place greater than any previously known, and night came on at the sixth hour of the day, so that stars actually appeared in the sky,”* i.e. a total eclipse that occurred between 11 AM and noon visible from a location known to Phlegon. This is [a rare enough event](#) as specified by the characteristics given that it may be identified as the solar eclipse of November 24, 29 CE. Given that this is identified by Phlegon as having occurred *“in the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad,”* we may then first recognize that said fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad **began on July 1, 29 CE and ended at the beginning of July 1, 30 CE,** and then...
2. Thanks to [Josephus](#) we can next date *“the battle at Actium... which fell into the hundred eighty and seventh Olympiad, where Caesar and Antony were to fight for the supreme power of the world...”* to some time **between the beginning of July 1, 36 BCE and the beginning of July 1, 35 BCE.** That is: $(202*4) - (186*4) = 808 - 744 = 64$ years. $29 \text{ CE} - 64 \text{ years} = -35 = 36 \text{ BCE}.$
3. Thus it follows that, the battle at Actium occurred in the Olympic year beginning July 1, 36 BCE, and the 1st of the 44 years, when **Caesar Augustus “ruled the State... by himself for forty-four” years** as referenced by [Suetonius](#), ended in the Olympic year beginning July 1, 35 BCE **and the 44th year ended at the beginning of July 1, 10 CE.**
4. It follows that *when Caesar Augustus died “on the fourteenth day before the Kalends of September at the ninth hour,” i.e. on August 19, 10 CE, he had “ruled the State... by himself for forty-four” years,* just as claimed by [Suetonius](#).

References:

Quoting Origen and Phlegon:

Origen ("[ca 185 - ca 254 A.D.](#)")

"And **Phlegon** also who compiled the Olympiads writes about the same things in his 13th book in the following words: **In the fourth year of the 202nd Olympiad, an *eclipse of the Sun took place greater than any previously known*, and night came on at the sixth hour of the day, so that stars actually appeared in the sky; and a *great earthquake* took place in Bithynia and overthrew the greater part of Niceaea;**"

("From: [Phlegon, Olympiades, fragment 17](#). Quoted in Historical Eclipses and Earth's Rotation, by F Richard Stephenson, Cambridge University Press, 1997, page 359-360;" [Solar Eclipse Newsletter, Vol. 8:11, Nov 2003](#). Cf. [Google Book Search](#) and [MrEclipse.com](#).)

Quoting Josephus:

"1. HEREUPON Herod held himself ready to go against the king of Arabia, because of his ingratitude to him, and because, after all, he would do nothing that was just to him, although Herod made the Roman war an occasion of delaying his own; for *the battle at Actium was now expected, which fell into the hundred eighty and seventh olympiad, where Caesar and Antony were to fight for the supreme power of the world...*"

(Josephus, Antiquities of the Jews, [Book XV:5:1](#))

Quoting Suetonius:

"8:2 When Caesar, after recovering the Spanish provinces, planned an expedition against the Dacians and then against the Parthians, Augustus, who had been sent on in advance to Apollonia, devoted his leisure to study. As soon as he learned that his uncle had been slain and that he was his heir, he was in doubt for some time whether to appeal to the nearest legions, but gave up the idea as hasty and premature. He did, however, return to the city and enter upon his inheritance, in spite of the doubts of his mother and the strong opposition of his stepfather, the ex-consul Marcus Philippus. 3 Then **he** levied armies and **henceforth ruled the State**, at first with Marcus Antonius and Marcus Lepidus, then with Antony alone for *nearly twelve years*, and finally **by himself for forty-four**.

"100 *He died in the same room as his father Octavius, in the consulship of two Sextuses, Pompeius and Appuleius, on the fourteenth day before the Kalends of September at the ninth hour, just thirty-five days before his seventy-sixth birthday.*"

(Suetonius, The Lives of the Caesars, [The Life of Augustus](#))