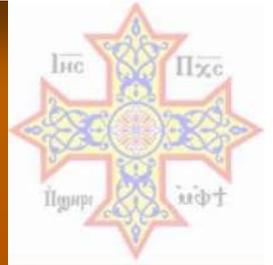




Ecclesiastical History

Part 3

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Ecumenical Council of Constantinople



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Who is Macedonius?



- He is known as the ENEMY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
- He was a follower of Arius and because of that the Arians managed to make him Bishop of Constantinople in 343 A.D.
- The Emperor banished and exiled Macedonius from his see in 360 A.D. because Macedonius transported the body of the emperor's father Constantine the Great from one burial location to another without the emperor's permission.
- Macedonius was preaching the Arian heretical beliefs while he was Bishop of Constantinople but when he was exiled from his see, Macedonius began teaching a strange heresy.

What was his heresy?

- He taught that the Holy Spirit is a divine work spread across creation and not a distinctive hypostasis like the Father or the Son. Furthermore, he declared that the Holy Spirit is a creature similar to the angels but of a higher celestial rank than them.

Who is Apollinarius?



- He was the **Bishop of Laodicea (in Syria)**
- He was a strong **opponent to the Arians**
- He was a strong **defender of the divinity of Christ.**

What was his heresy?

- He taught that the divinity of Christ substituted for his human soul and suffered pain, crucifixion and death along side His humanity.
- **Pope St. Athanasius in his epistle to the Church of Antioch emphasized that Christ has a rational human soul as He is fully human just as He is fully divine.**
- Apollinarius also taught that the hypostases were unequal as he said that while the Holy Spirit is great yet He is less than the Son and that the Father is greater than both of them.

Who is Eusebius?

- He was a bishop

What was his heresy?

- He taught that the Holy Trinity was one hypostasis who appeared as the Father in the Old Testament then became a man in the New Testament featured as the Son and descended upon the Apostles in the upper room on Pentecost featured as the Holy Spirit.



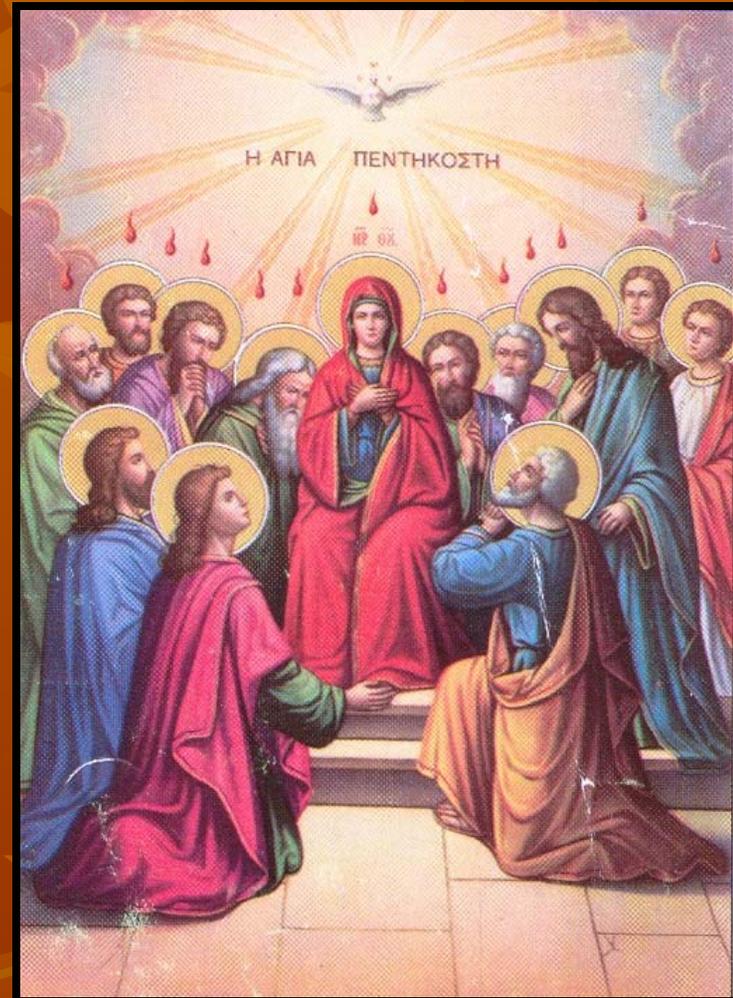
Calling the Ecumenical Council

- The emperor himself begged the bishops of every country to come to Constantinople.
- All the bishops who attended this council were from the Eastern Roman Empire.
- The choice of Constantinople was favorable only for the emperor to keep a close eye on the proceedings of the council.
- 150 Bishops signed the Nicaeno-Constantinopolitan Creed



Famous Attendees of the Council

- **Pope Saint Timothy of Alexandria (Egyptian)**
- **Bishop Meletius of Antioch**
- **Bishop Saint Gregory of Nyssa**
- **Bishop Saint Gregory the Theologian (Nazianzus)**
- **Bishop Damasus of Rome did not attend or send any representatives but did accept the rulings of this council**



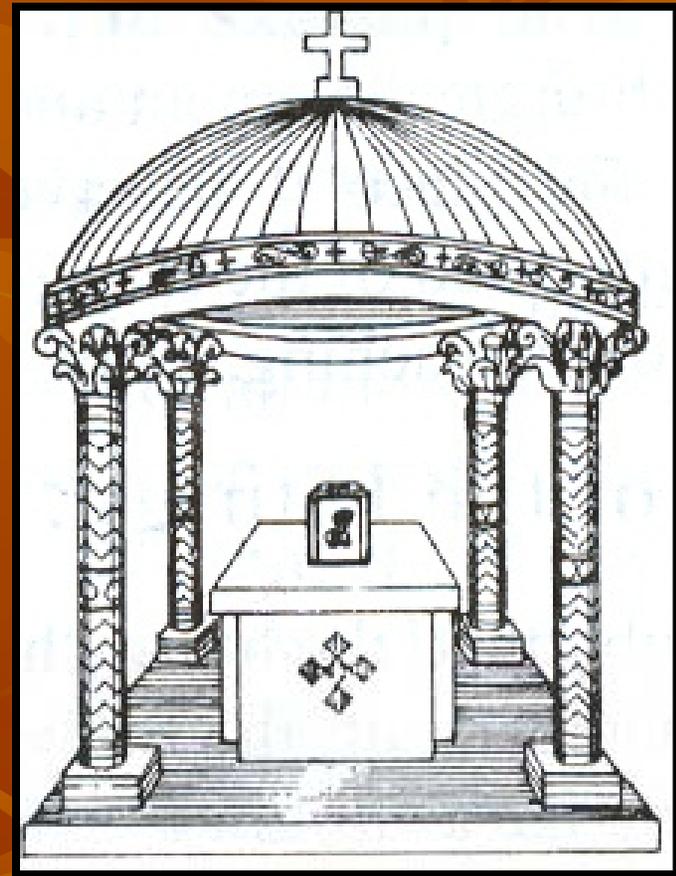
The Significance of the Crisis

- Confirmed the divinity of the Holy Spirit and the humanity of the Son while also maintaining co-essentiality and distinct hypostatic identity within the Holy Trinity.



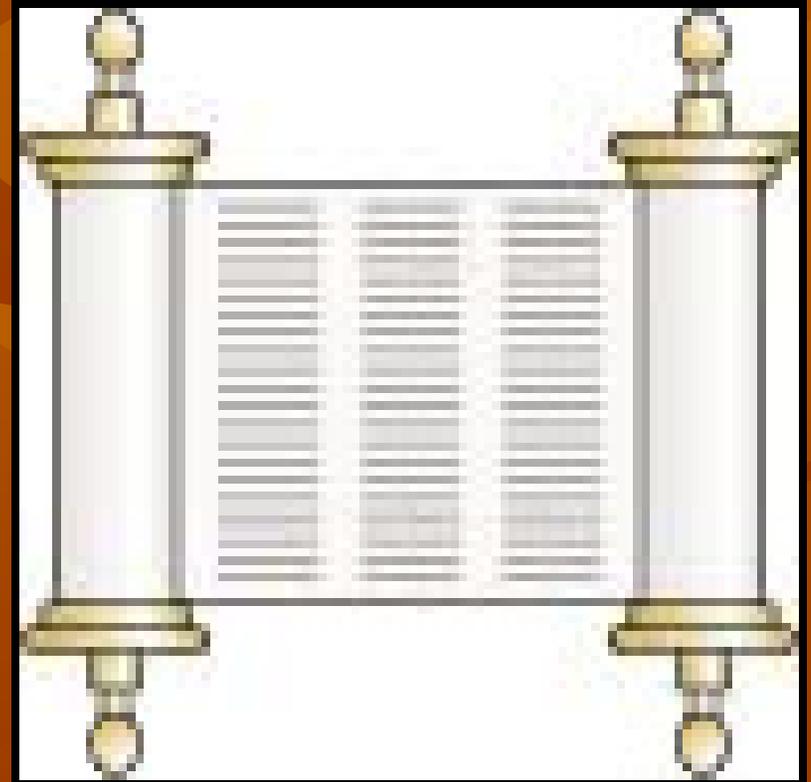
The Purpose of the Constantinopolitan Council

- To expand the Nicene Creed to include emphasis on the divinity of the Holy Spirit.
- To investigate Saint Gregory Nazianzus eligibility as Bishop of Constantinople.
- Saint Gregory was born in the city of Arianzus, Asia Minor in 325 A.D. and died in the same city in 389 A.D.

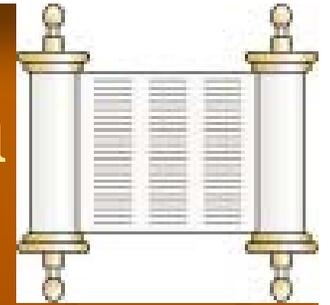


The Events of the Constantinopolitan Council

- At this stage, in **381 A.D.**, was held the second of the three great worldwide councils which is the **Holy Ecumenical Council of Constantinople**.
- The actual co-ordinator seems to have been **Bishop Meletius of Antioch**, but the final judgement came from **Pope St. Timothy of Alexandria**.
- Of all the Acts (minutes) of this Council, which, it has been maintained, were numerous, only three fragments have reached us: **the creed, the canons; the synodal decree.**



The Nicaeno-Constantinopolitan Creed



- We believe in One God, God the Father, the Pantocrator, Who created heaven and earth and all things seen and unseen. We believe in One Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all ages, Light of Light, True God of True God, Begotten not created, of one essence with the Father [*homoousion to patri*], by Whom all things were made; who for us men and our salvation came from Heaven, and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and of the Virgin Mary, and became Man. And He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate, suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose from the dead, according to the Scriptures, ascended into heaven; He sits at the right hand of His Father, and He is coming again in His glory to judge the living and the dead, Whose kingdom shall have no end. **Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Life-Giver Who proceeds from the Father. Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. Who spoke by the prophets.** And in one, Holy, Universal and Apostolic Church. We confess one baptism for the remission of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the coming age, Amen.

- (*Catholic Encyclopedia & revision from Eusebius' Ecclesiastical History*)

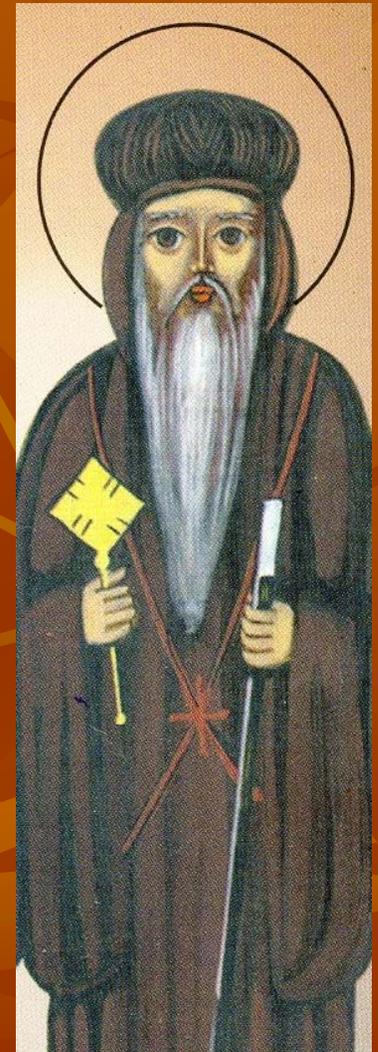


The Canons of Constantinople

- **Canon 1:** is an important dogmatic condemnation of all shades of Arianism, also of Macedonianism and Apollinarianism.
- **Canon 2:** renews the Nicene legislation imposing upon the bishops the observance of diocesan and patriarchal limits [boundaries].
- **Canon 3:** famous for its declaration that because Constantinople is the new capital it shall be included with the other major apostolic sees to form the pentarchy or “rule-of-five”- Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem, Rome and Constantinople.
- **Canon 4:** declares invalid the consecration of Maximus, the Cynic philosopher and rival of Saint Gregory of Nazianzus as the Bishop of Constantinople.
- **Canon 6:** dealt with complains brought against some bishops
- **Canon 5&7:** regulates what must be done when heretics or their followers return to the Orthodox faith

Reaction of the other Bishops

- All the **150 bishops** declared themselves ready to subscribe to this **Nicano-Constantinoplitan Creed**, convince that it contained the ancient faith of the Apostolic Church.



The Opposition



- Macedonius, Apollinarius and Eusibius were excommunicated, divested of ecclesiastical ranks and exiled.
- Arius and his writings were also branded with anathema once again after Nicea.

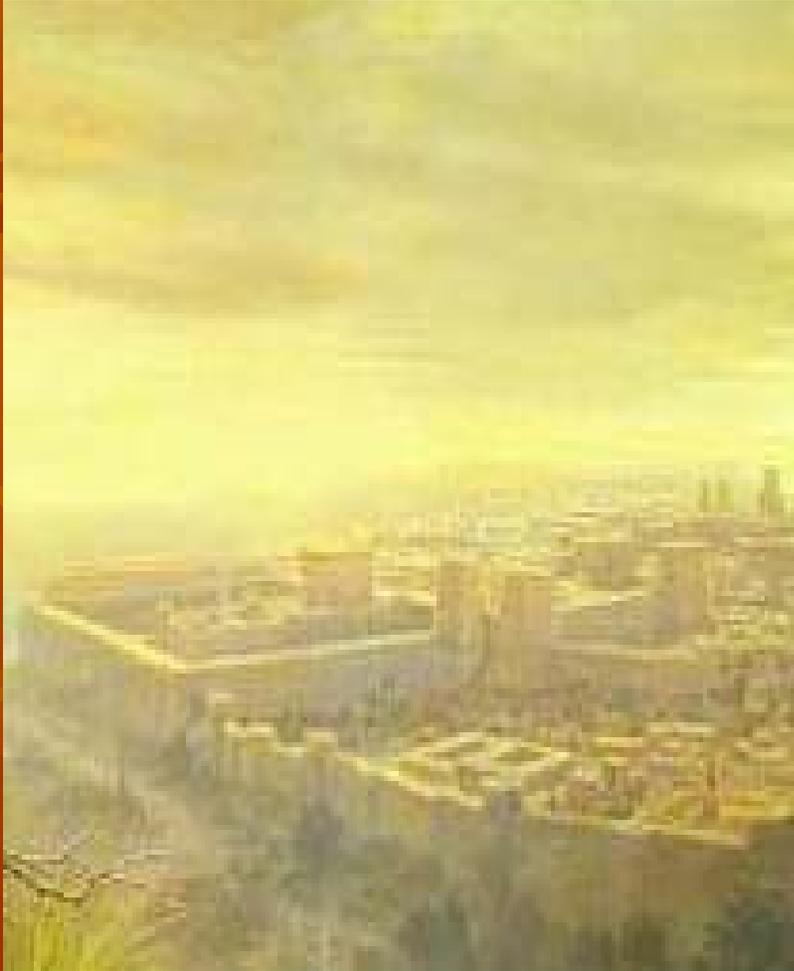
Emperor Theodosius the Great and the Council of Constantinople



- The Council was opened by the righteous Emperor Theodosius the Great from Constantinople where he kept a close eye on the proceedings.
- He issued a decree in 381 A.D. making Christianity the official religion of the Roman Empire.
- He also ordered the destruction of the pagan temples.
- He was unusually cruel when he murdered 7000 Thetholonians because some of them murdered their governor.
- As a result of this massacre the holy bishop Saint Ambrose of Milan revealed to the Emperor his mistake, excommunicated him and forbade him entering the church until he repents saying “How can you stand in front of God with the guilt of murdering those people? Can you stand in this holy place with your hands covered in the blood of those innocent people?”.
- The Emperor remained 8 months without entering the church. When he wanted to enter the church, he went to a nearby area of the church asking permission to enter from Bishop Ambrose. Bishop Ambrose told him that your public sin must be denounced publicly. The Emperor wept and repented publicly as he entered the church.



The Conclusion



- At the close of this council the Emperor Theodosius the Great issued an imperial decree (dated July 30th) declaring that the churches should be restored to those bishops who confess the equal Divinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Thanks for Listening