

# NICEA

## IMPORTANCE

- FIRST CNL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH
  - SET PATTERN FOR FUTURE COUNCILS
  - MET IN ASIA MINOR
    - NEAR PALESTINE
    - ERROR IN THE CHURCH MAINLY N.E.
  - MADE FUND. DECISION RE X'S DIVINITY
- H.S.P. Active in 99 of ops.  
Discussion & Decision CRISIS

## ANTECEDENTS

- GNOSTICISM
  - GNOSIS NOT FAITH
  - NO HIERARCHICAL AUTHORITY
  - X = AION (SPIRIT)
- DOCETISM
  - NO TRUE HUMANITY IN X
- MANICHAEISM
  - TOO GODS TO EXPLAIN EVIL
  - NO REAL HUM. FREEDOM
  - EVIL IN X
  - NO INCARN. BEC. BODY EVIL

## ROLE OF CONSTANTINE

- LIBERATED CHURCH
- DISUNITY IN CHURCH OVER DOCTRINE
- PREOCCUPATION WITH PEACE AT ALL COSTS
- SUMMONED BPS
- UNION OF CH & STATE

## POSITION OF ARIUS

- IMMEDI. FOCUS ON CHRIST, BUT REAL ISSUE WAS PLURALITY OF PERS IN GOD
- ARGUMENTS

- 1) GOD CANNOT HAVE A NATURAL SON
- 2) WHY NOT?
  - GENERATION IMPLIES
    - CAUSALITY
    - PRIORITY IN TIME
    - DEPENDENCE
    - VOLUNTARIETY
    - MUTABILITY

- NIT. SHD BE REINTERPRETED
  - IGNORANCE IN CHRIST
  - SUBMISSIVENESS OF CHRIST

- PHILOSOPHY REQUIRES
  - IF FATHER NOT GENERATED THEN THE SON CANNOT BE IDENTICAL IN NATURE WITH FATHER, WHY?  
BEC. SON CANNOT BE BOTH GENERATED AND UNGENERATED

- THERE IS NO FOUNDATION IN HUMAN EXPERIENCE FOR A GENERATION
  - WITHOUT A BEGINNING IN END
  - "CHANGE" IN BEING

## ROLE OF ATHANASIOS (MAY 2)

- 1) APPEAL TO POPE
- 2) OPP. FROM BPS
- 3) OPP. FROM EAST
- 4) WRITINGS - EARLY 4th CENT.
- 5) NEWMAN'S CONVERSION
- 6) LIT. REPUTATION
- 7) MYSTERIES NOT CONTRARY TO PSN

## I. DECISION

- 1) CONDEMNATION OF ARIUS
- 2) PROF. OF FAITH IN CREED

## II. DECESS

- 1) EST. DIVINITY OF CHRIST
- 2) EST. PLURALITY OF PERS IN GOD
- 3) ARIAN BPS
  - EITHER DID NOT ATTEND NICEA
  - OR WALKED OUT

POLARIZATION ——— EVANGELIZATION ——— ISLAM

## CONSEQUENCES