**NICEA**

**First Council of the Church**
- Set pattern for future councils
- Met in Asia Minor
- Near Palestine
- Error in the Church decision mainly N.E.
- Made fund, decision re Christ's divinity

**Antecedents**
- Gnosticism (no logical connection)
- No hierarchical authority
- X = Aion (Spirit)
- Docetism (no true humanity in X)
- Manichaeism (two gods to explain evil)
- Liberated Church
- Disunity in Church over doctrine
- Preoccupation with peace at all costs
- Union of church and state

**Role of Constantine**
- Dimmed focus on Christ, but real issue was plurality of S's in God

**Arguments**
1. God cannot have a natural son
2. Why not?
   - Generation implies causality
   - Priority in time
   - Dependence, voluntariness, mutability
   - Ignorance in Christ
   - Submissiveness of Christ
   - Philosophy requires
   - If Father not generated, then the Son cannot be identical in nature with Father, why?
   - Bc. Son cannot be both generated and ungenerated
   - There is no foundation in human experience for a generation
   - Without a beginning, in end, no chance in nature

**Position of Arius**
- Role of Athanasius (May 2)
  - Appeal to pope
  - Opp. from Bp's
  - Opp. from Gentile
  - Writings - early martens
  - Newman's conversion
  - Lg. reputation
  - Mysteries not contrary to S

**I. Decision**
1. Condemnation of Arius
2. Prof. of faith in creed

**II. Decrees**
1. Est. divinity of Christ
2. Est. plurality of S's in God
3. Arian ban
   - Either did not attend NICEA
   - Or walked out

**Consequences**
- Polarization
- Evangelization
- Islam
- Hsp. active in gap of years
- Discussion on basis of wisdom