

and held this post until he succeeded him in 328 as the bishop of Alexandria. His promotion of the Nicene doctrine after the council was vigorous, as his opposition had been to Arius beforehand. When Constantine and his sons wavered on the points of the issue, he spoke strongly to the matter...strong enough to be exiled for his opinion. Unwilling to compromise the doctrine as he understood it, he was deported (exiled) no less than five times but saw the matter through and finally, during the last years of his bishopric, saw the Nicene position triumphant by the time of his death in 373 AD.

Indefatigable in all duties, it was his service at Nicaea that made his reputation in the church. His FOUR ORATIONS AGAINST THE ARIANS constitute important polemical literature. Included among his theological works are THE INCARNATION, THE EXPOSITION OF THE FAITH, and THE DOCTRINES. He contributed commentaries on the Psalms and wrote a general apologetic for the benefit of unbelievers. He was the outstanding scholar of the age and in the east his influence saved the message of the Gospel from theological catastrophe. His influence is surely monumental. The Nicene creed is the definitive statement on the deity of Christ and it is uniformly received in all parts of the church. His methodology would also be important in the later formulation of doctrines not yet clearly expressed or understood. Athanasius could have benefitted from a "tact-course" but he was one of the truly heroic figures in this age of the church and all of the evangelical church today is powerfully indebted to him.

Ascetically inclined, he was fascinated with "holy lives" and his life of Anthony, VITA ANTONIA, is interesting and worthwhile reading although it may make you wonder how critically Athanasius viewed his sources.

#### Eusebius of Caesarea

Born about 270 AD he was the first systematic chronicler of the history of the church although not the first historian. His death came in 340 and from a doctrinal perspective his life spanned some of the most interesting years in the development of doctrine. His attempt with history was to gather the materials and produce a continuous narrative. Bishop of Caesarea, he was a theological follower of Origen, to some degree, and a man of agreeable spirit. At Nicaea he does not demonstrate