

-The Son is described with eternal generation
-The Father and the Son are identical in essence.

-There is perfect equality between the Father and the Son.

-The Son is identified as the Logos (Arius would agree only to this point..he would not see the logos as eternal, however.) Alexander reasoned that if there was a time when God existed apart from the logos, then at that point God existed without reason and it was too much of a point for him to buy.

(3) Alexander may or may not hve been able to carry the fight by himself. 'He had Arius condemned by s synod of African bishops in 321 and later achieved the same status at a synod in Antioch. But the chief spokesman for his cause proved to be his deacon-secretary, Athanasius (d. 373) who succeded Alexander in the bishopric in 328 and survived a series of persecutions and exilements that is nearly unrivaled in the Imperial age.

Background to Nicaea:

(Arius vs. Alexander and Athanasius

Athanasius had one of the great theological minds of the age and argued that the end result of Arius' teaching was the negation of salvation. The 'Word' would be at best a "demigod" and the whole concept of Biblical salvation which seemed to rest on a tot sacrifice originated in the economy of God, would have been lost. He pushed this point and would not permit any substitute ideas. Enforcing the ideas of Alexander, a theological argument raged in the eastern part of the Empire which makes the Calvinist-Arminian disputes look mild indeed.

The bulk of the problem, we should note, was in the east where (until 324) Licinius was the leading public official. With his demise under the encouragement of Constantine, the method of universal council becomes andobvious means to the settling of the dispute.

2. The Procedure of the Council

- q a. The call for the Council was by Constantine.. ...for a meeting of the bishops at Nicaea ("capitol" of Bithynia in May 20, 325. 318 church men came, only five from the west although one of these, Hosius of Cordova, was selected as moderator. (He was a representative of Sylvester in Rome although his election was due to the long time friendship -he enjoyed with the emperor...that may have been one of the reasons he represented-somewhat unofficially-Rome, also.) Before the end of the century, Ambrose of Milan would liken these 318 to the men of Abraham's army in Genesis 14

Nicene Council: The Meeting.