

EPIC Wk 5 Conversion/Councils (313 – 499 AD)

Review: Conversion/Councils Part 1

- Constantine II wins battle of Milvian Bridge; he sees Cross in sky, applies to shields to win battle
- Church becomes *legalized* in Roman Empire and is at peace from *external* persecution, but *internal* persecution come from new heresy of *ARIANISM*.
- **1ST Ecumenical Council of Nicaea** to counter heresy; drafts *The Creed* (we use every Sunday at Mass); defined Jesus was **consubstantial** (of same likeness) as God¹
- Church no longer persecuted; some turn to living in simple life of solitude (generally in Egyptian desert) to *practice penance, to fast and grow closer to Christ*

Arianism (cont'd): Some EASTERN bishops troubled by use of word *consubstantial*

*Eusebius of Nicomedia*² publicly supports Creed but promotes Arianism; forms bond with Constantine who only wants peace and unity in Empire and that includes The Church.

Caesarean-papism – used to describe Constantine's meddling in Church affairs; tries to become ruler of Church, even appoints bishops

St Athanasius (EASTERN Bishop): ordered by Constantine to accept Arianism as a legal faith and Athanasius refuses; becomes Bishop of Alexandria (328) for 45 years but Eusebius of Nicomedia orchestrates his exile 4 times (25 yrs.) in Gaul (France), Holy Land, Rome to try to keep him from defending the faith

Council of Tyre (not ecumenical council but local counsel; pope did not approve): Purpose was to trap Athanasius and dispose of him; false accusations, Athanasius goes into exile; most of EASTERN bishops remain with Arianism

336 AD: Arias dies in bathroom in Constantinople before meeting with Emperor Constantine

337 AD: Emperor Constantine dies on Pentecost Sunday (Eusebius of Nicomedia had baptized him)

Constantine's intentions were good but approached it from political rule of the Church and got involved in Arian controversy. Arianism continues to affect church into 4th century and even in WEST when EASTERN Bishops sent missionaries to Germanic tribes

Emperor Julian the Apostate (361-363): Constantine died, political turmoil, then Emp Julian's family murdered for political reasons he believed were done by the Christians (Julian doesn't forget). He is elected Emperor by army of the WEST and becomes Emperor of Rome; tried to nullify his Christian baptism; he restored many of pagan temples; attempted to start a church based on Catholic Church's hierarchy; restored status of Orthodox bishops who followed Arianism; referred to Jesus as *pale Galilean*; tried to rebuild Temple in Jerusalem to nullify Jesus' prediction that Temple would be destroyed (1st rebuild destroyed by earthquake; 2nd rebuild had balls of fire came from ground that burned workers, he stopped rebuild; dies in battle with Persians in 363 AD)

Edict of Thessalonica: issued February 27, 380 AD (20 yrs. after Emp Julian) that ordered all subjects of the Roman Empire to profess the faith of the bishops of Rome and Alexandria, making the Nicene Christianity the state religion of the Roman Empire. Catholicism becomes official and sole religion of Roman Empire.

2nd Ecumenical Council: Council of Constantinople (381)²: Emperor Theodosius called council to address continued Arianism and new heresy: Macedonism (heresy that denied the divinity of Holy Spirit); Council added *Holy Spirit* to the Creed.

Patriarchy of The Church: Disagreement about who was patriarchy of The Church: Constantinople, Rome, Alexandria, Antioch, or Jerusalem? Increased tensions between EAST and WEST Church that leads to *Great Schism* in 11th century and continuance of two halves of The Church.

St. Augustine⁴ (354-430): lead immoral life away from The Church; his mother, St. Monica prayed constantly for his conversion; St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan helped Augustine to return to the faith. Augustine becomes Bishop of Hippo in North Africa (395); very influential, considered bridge between *old (Roman) world* and *new (Catholic) world*; schooled in Roman ways, history, and philosophy; wrote about his spiritual life in autobiography in *Confessions*, discusses living life separate from Christ and embracing the faith.

City of God: Written by St. Augustine to answer question about what happened in Rome in 410 AD (sacked by Germanic barbarians over non-recognition of their efforts on part of Empire – destruction of Rome blamed on Christians); **City of Man** is based on *self-love* but **City of God** is based on *love of God* and **self-lessness and faith** is the **KEY** to world history; cannot *discard* faith and think it has no bearing on the world; *we have to know our faith to understand the history of the world*

Other Heresies St Augustine fought:

Donatism: Validity of Sacrament depends on worthiness of minister; no clemency for those who lapsed (Defense: God through His grace has chosen this man to be conduit to confer grace on us through celebration of the sacraments; gives explanation of sacramental theology)

Pelagianism: Denied Original Sin (was a personal sin); Denied necessity of Grace (Jesus did not need to do anything for us to restore relationship with God) (Defense: Augustine gives fuller understanding of Jesus's mission, role of God's grace, how grace operates in our lives, provides solid theological foundation)

3rd Ecumenical Council of Ephesus (431) - 1 yr. after Augustine died; shortest council on record – 1 day; 200 Bishops attended): addresses heresy out of EAST by Nestoria (Bishop of Constantinople, 428) -

Nestorianism: 1. God came down and took fleshy human garment – Christ was two persons: one divine, one human. Emperor is Theodosius II called council, Pope St. Celestine I, Bishop Cyril of Alexandria

confirmed belief that Jesus was one person, two natures – one human, one divine. 2. Mary was not mother of God: *We confess the holy virgin to be the Mother of God because God the Word took flesh and became man from his very conception united himself the temple, he took from her.*" Council of Ephesus.

People danced in the street chanting, *Holy Mary, Mother of God.*

4th Ecumenical Council of Chalcedon (451): Affirms two canons:

1. Jesus is fully human and fully divine.

2. Constantinople is equal in authority to Rome.

Pope St. Leo the Great I (440-461): called *great* because

1. Effectively dealt with heresy of Monothelism – *one nature*; Christ has only one will, human nature absorbed by divine nature; Jesus was not human, is TRUE GOD but not true man; writes letter to Patriarch of Constantinople (**Tome of Pope St Leo⁴**) DEFENSE: Jesus came, felt emotion, felt need to eat, was tempted by this world but difference is that His *human nature* never gave in to those temptations. Emperor Marcian called **Council (#4) of Chalcedon. 600 Bishops attended**, with full approval of Pope St Leo the Great – affirmed Jesus possessed two natures, fully human and fully divine (*hypostatic union*).

2. Defended Rome against Atilla the Hun (450) from sacking the city and later in **455**, convinced the Vandal King Genseric to loot the city but not destroy or burn it. They took the **Great Menorah³** which has never been seen again.

Fall of Roman Empire (476): German chieftains have set up Emperors for last 20 yrs. and the last one of the **WEST** was only 16 yrs. old, **Romulus Augustulus (475-476)**(grandson o Leo I and son of final Emperor Zeno) and was forced to resign by German chieftain Odoacer who called himself King. He recognized lax authority of **EASTERN** Emperor Zeno until he was perceived as a threat and was eventually killed by a rival, Theodoric the Great (King of Ostrogotha)

With total collapse of Roman Empire in 491, The Church fills vacuum of authority and gives some administrative order to continue to carry on WESTERN Civilization.

Conversion of the Franks: King Clovis of Franks married Clotilde, a Bulgarian Princess and a Catholic. She converts her husband, and the citizens follow. *France has been called the eldest daughter of the Church.*

¹ (WF) **Gen 1:27- 28:** *So, God created man in his own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them...* **Gen 2:7:** *then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground and **breathed** into his nostrils the **breath of life** and man became a **living soul**.*

² **2nd Ecumenical Council:** condemned Arianism, Macedonism; added Holy Spirit to the Creed 150 bishops in attendance; upheld decisions of Nicaea regarding Arianism, condemned Macedonism (heresy

denying the divinity of the Holy Spirit; proclaimed Holy Spirit Third Person of the Trinity equal to the Father and the Son. Pope St Damascus did not know about council but **centuries later** was accepted as ecumenical council.

Wikipedia.com - Seven canons, four of these doctrinal canons and three disciplinary canons, are attributed to the council and accepted by both the EASTERN Orthodox Church and the ORIENTAL Orthodox Churches; the Roman Catholic Church accepts only the first four because only the first four appear in the oldest copies and there is evidence that the last three were later additions. **The third canon** reads: *The Bishop of Constantinople, however, shall have the prerogative of honor after the Bishop of Rome because Constantinople is New Rome.*

³**The Great Menorah:** In Jewish tradition, the menorah, with its treelike form and ornamentation, is often associated with the burning bush as well as the tree of life. And these are associated with the presence of the Lord (or the Shechinah, the fiery pillar and cloud of His presence; see Bible Dictionary, "Shechinah"). According to scholars, the Menorah was lost forever when either the Visigoths sacked Rome in 410 CE/AD, or the Vandals in 455 CE/AD. Many conflicting legends arose as to its fate during the chaotic centuries that followed.

⁴**WEBSITE HANDOUTS:** (lighthouseideas.org TAB: EPIC 2022 Password: EXODUS33 (case sensitive)

HO#17 Tome of Pope Leo to St. Flavian

HO#27 St Augustine Writings

The GREAT SCHISM OF 1054 AD

On July 16, 1054, Patriarch of Constantinople Michael Cerularius was excommunicated from the Christian church based in Rome, Italy. Cerularius's excommunication was a breaking point in long-rising tensions between the Roman church based in Rome and the Byzantine church based in Constantinople (now called Istanbul). The resulting split divided the European Christian church into two major branches: 1. the **WESTERN Roman Catholic Church** and the 2. **EASTERN Orthodox Church**. This split is known as the Great Schism, or sometimes the "East-West Schism" or the "Schism of 1054."

The Great Schism came about due to a complex mix of religious disagreements and political conflicts. One of the many religious disagreements between the WESTERN (Roman) and EASTERN (Byzantine) branches of the church had to do with whether or not it was acceptable to use unleavened bread for the sacrament of communion. (The WEST supported the practice, while the EAST did not.) Other objects of religious dispute include the exact wording of the Nicene Creed and the WESTERN belief that clerics should remain celibate. These religious disagreements were made worse by a variety of political conflicts, particularly regarding the power of Rome. Rome believed that the pope—the religious leader of the WESTERN church—should have authority over the patriarch—the religious authority of the EASTERN church. Constantinople disagreed. Each church recognized their own leaders, and when the WESTERN church eventually excommunicated Michael Cerularius and the entire EASTERN church. The EASTERN church retaliated by excommunicating the Roman pope Leo III and the Roman church with him. While the two churches have never reunited, over a thousand years after their split, the WESTERN and EASTERN branches of Christianity came to more peaceable terms. In 1965, Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras I *lifted the longstanding mutual excommunication decrees made by their respective churches*. Today, the two branches of Christianity remain distinct expressions of a similar faith. Roman Catholicism is the single largest Christian denomination, with more than a billion followers around the world. EASTERN Orthodoxy is the second-largest Christian denomination, with more than 260 million followers. EASTERN Orthodoxy includes national churches, such as the Greek Orthodox Church and Russian Orthodox Church. (**Orthodox Church in Biloxi: <https://www.holytrinitybiloxi.org/>**)

(See HO #2-Chart of Christian Beliefs)

Based on the numbers of adherents, the Eastern Orthodox Church (also known as Eastern Orthodoxy) is the second largest Christian communion in the world, after the Roman Catholic Church, with the most common estimates of baptized members being approximately 220 million. The

numerous Protestant groups in the world, if taken all together, substantially outnumber the Eastern Orthodox, but they differ theologically and do not form a single communion.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Orthodoxy_by_country