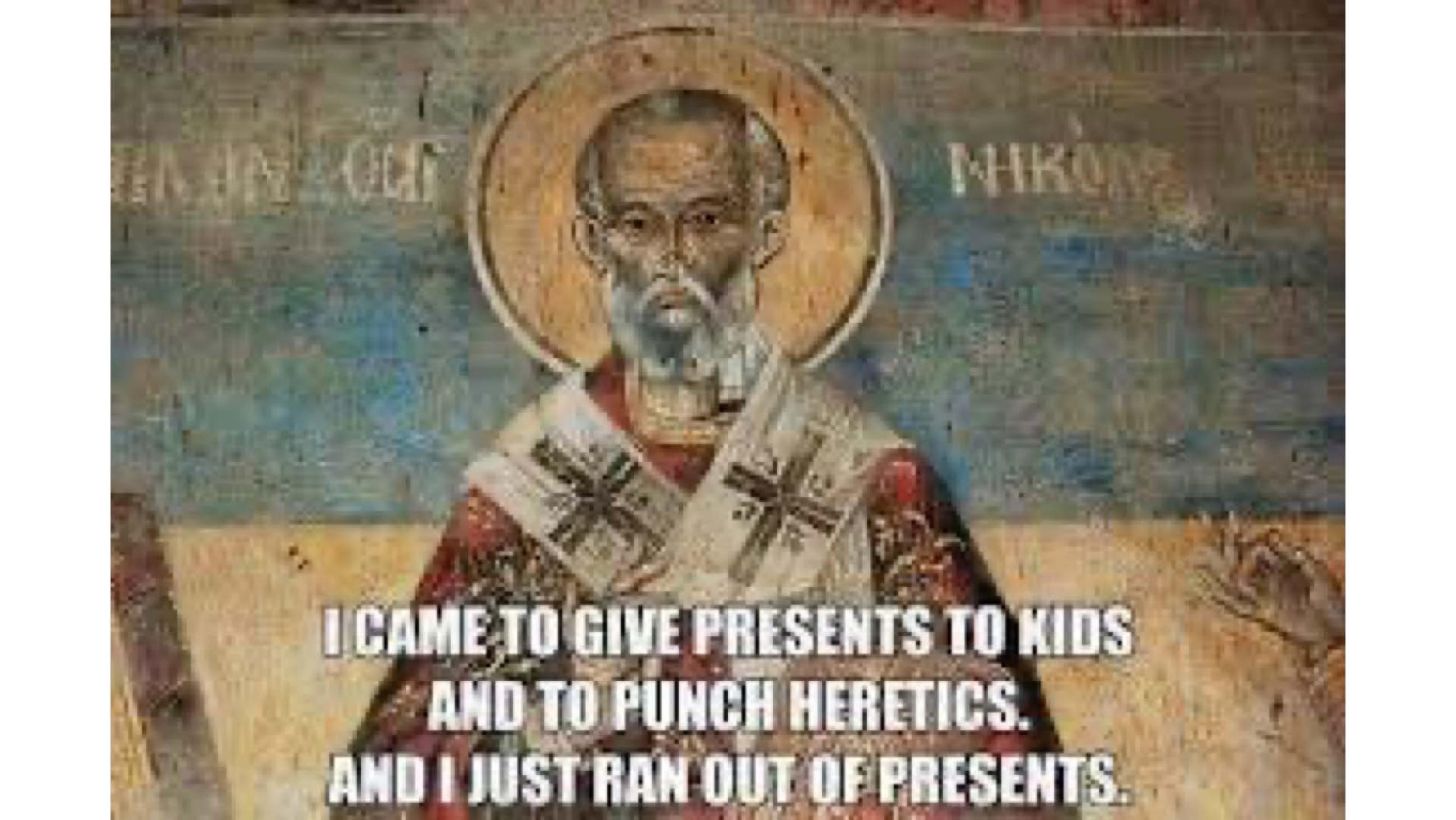


Introduction (Part 2) - What is the Nicene Creed?

Introduction

A meme featuring a painting of a bearded man with a halo, likely a saint, with overlaid text. The man has a grey beard and is wearing a red and white robe with a cross on the chest. The background is a textured blue and brown. The text is in white, bold, capital letters with a black outline.

I CAME TO GIVE PRESENTS TO KIDS
AND TO PUNCH HERETICS.
AND I JUST RAN OUT OF PRESENTS.

Overview of the Study

1. Introduction (Part 1) - Creeds: Ancient, Biblical, Indispensable
2. Introduction (Part 2) - What is the Nicene Creed?
3. The Father: "I believe in one God, the Father..."
4. The Son (Part 1): "One Lord Jesus Christ"
5. The Son (Part 2): "Who For Us Men and For Our Salvation"
6. The Holy Spirit (Part 1): "The Lord and Giver of Life"
7. The Holy Spirit (Part 2): "One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church"
8. Conclusion: Do we really still need the Nicene Creed today?

What is the Nicene Creed? -

Overview

I. Context

II. Council

III. Creed

Context

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:9

ESV

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matthew 28:19

ESV

Why did we need a Nicene Creed?

2 Reasons:

1. Theological Reasons
2. Political Reasons

Why did we need a Nicene Creed?



1. Christian Popstar



2. Roman General

Theological

Who was Arius?

What did Arius teach?

What did Arius teach?

- God the Father has no beginning.
- God the Son not equal to God the Father.
- God the Son had a beginning.
- "There was a time when he was not."

“We acknowledge one God, the only unbegotten, the only eternal, the only one without cause or beginning...the begetter of his only Son.”

“The perfect creation of God... created and established before all ages, did not exist prior to his begetting...For he is not eternal or co-eternal or equally self-sufficient with the Father.”

Why did Arius teach what he taught?

Philosophy



Platonism

Platonism (i.e. Plato) 348 — 100 B.C.

Middle Platonism 100 B.C. — 200 A.D.

“Neoplatonism” 200 A.D. —

3 Divine Forms in Neoplatonism

1. The high god ("One")
2. The "Logos" or "Word"
3. The "World Soul" or "Spirit"



“The perfect creation of God... created and established before all ages, did not exist prior to his begetting...For he is not eternal or co-eternal or equally self-sufficient with the Father.”

The Bible



He is the image of the invisible
God, the firstborn of all creation.

Colossians 1:15

ESV

You heard me say to you, 'I am going away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I am going to the Father, for the Father is greater than I.

John 14:28

ESV

“But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Mark 13:32

ESV

Summary

What effect did Arianism have?

Why did we need a Nicene Creed?

2 Reasons:

1. Theological Reasons
2. Political Reasons

Why did we need a Nicene Creed?



1. Christian Popstar



2. Roman General

Political

Turbulent 3rd Century

Emperor Diocletian (d. 316 A.D.)



Persecution

Tetrarchy

Roman Tetrarchy (293 A.D.): 4 Rulers

- Western Senior Ruler ("Augustus")
- Western Junior Ruler ("Caesar")
- Eastern Senior Ruler ("Augustus")
- Eastern Junior Ruler ("Caesar")

Constantine



Roman Leadership in 313 A.D.

- West: Constantine
- East: Licinius

Emperor Constantine (272-337 A.D.)



3 Reflections (Ford & Wilhite, 2025)

1. Favorability toward Christianity does not make one a true Christian.
2. Moral renovation should follow true Christian profession.
3. Political leaders can provide favorable circumstances for Christians out of selfish motivations.

Summary

Context of the Council of Nicea

1. Fierce debate and widespread confusion about the relationship between God the Father and the Son.
2. Political prudence by a new Christian ruler.

What is the Nicene Creed? -

Overview

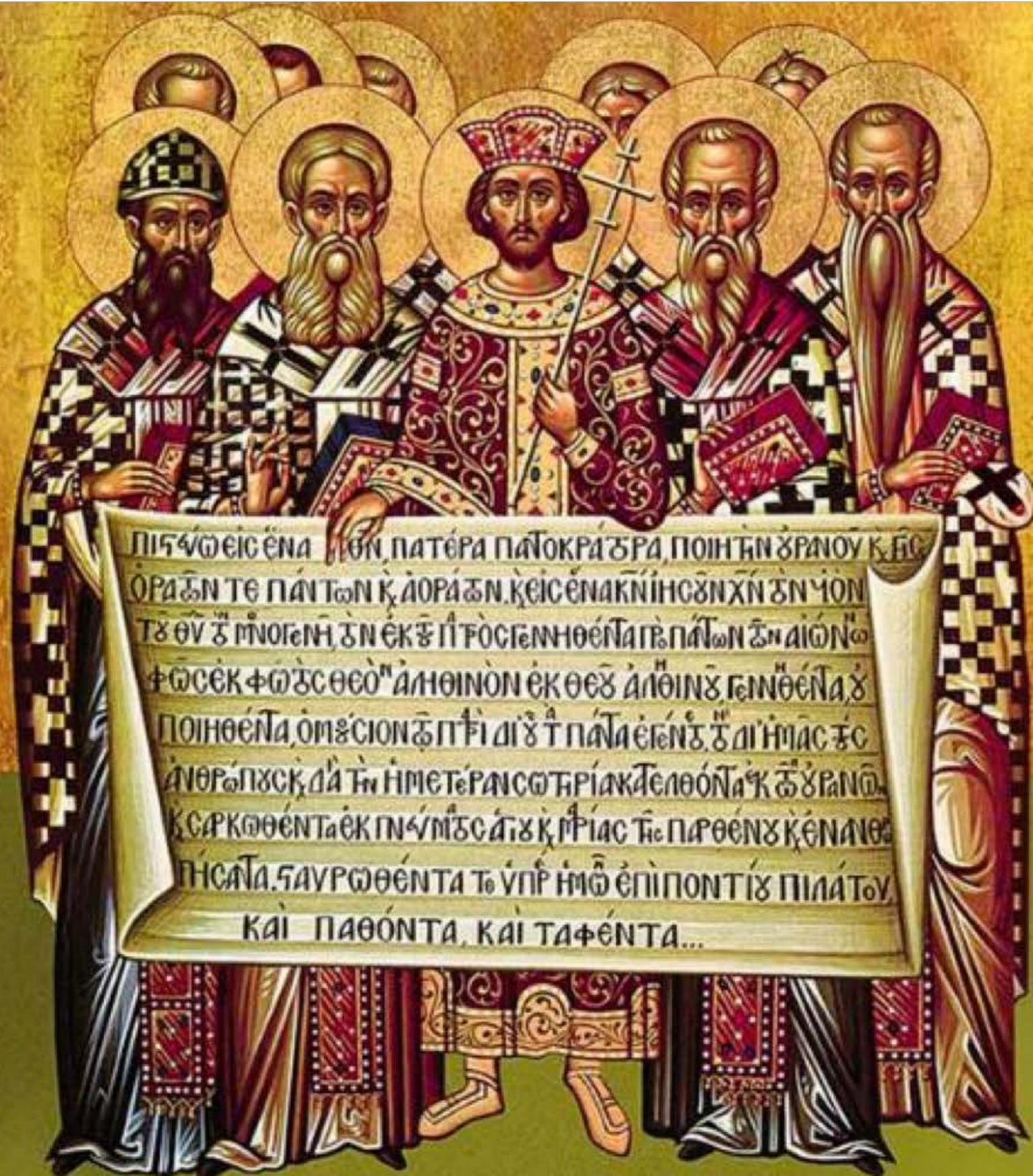
I. Context

II. Council

III. Creed

Council

Introduction



ΠΙΣΤΩ ΕΙΣ ΕΝΑ ΚΥΡΙΟΝ, ΠΑΤΕΡΑ ΠΑΤΟΚΡΑΤΩΡΑ, ΠΟΙΗΤΗΝ ΟΥΡΑΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΓΗΣ,
ΟΡΑΤΟΝ ΤΕ ΠΑΝΤΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΑΟΡΑΤΟΝ, ΚΑΙ ΕΝΑ ΚΝΗΝ ΟΝ ΧΗΝ ΟΝ ΥΙΟΝ
ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ ΜΟΓΕΝΗ, ΟΝ ΕΚ ΤΟΥ ΠΑΤΕΡΟΣ ΓΕΝΗΘΕΝΤΑ ΓΡΗΓΟΡΙΑΝ ΤΩΝ ΔΙΩΝΩΝ
ΦΩΣ ΕΚ ΦΩΤΟΣ ΘΕΟ΄ ΑΛΗΘΙΝΟΝ ΕΚ ΘΕΟΥ ΑΛΗΘΙΝΟΝ ΓΕΝΗΘΕΝΤΑ, Ο
ΠΟΙΗΘΕΝΤΑ, ΟΜΟΙΟΝ ΤΟ ΠΑΤΕΡΙ ΔΙ΄ ΤΑ ΠΑΝΤΑ ΕΓΕΝΕΤΟ, ΟΙ ΔΙ ΗΜΑΣ ΤΕ
ΑΝΘΡΩΠΩΣ ΚΑΙ ΔΙΑ ΤΗΝ ΗΜΕΤΕΡΑΝ ΣΩΤΗΡΙΑ ΚΑΤΕΛΘΟΝΤΑ ΚΑΙ ΟΥΡΑΝΩ
ΚΑΙ ΣΑΡΚΩΘΕΝΤΑ ΕΚ ΓΙΝΩΜΕΝΩΣ ΔΙΣ ΚΑΙ ΜΕΡΙΑΣ ΤΗΣ ΠΑΡΘΕΝΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΕΝΑΝΘΡΩ
ΠΗΣ ΑΤΑ, ΣΤΑΥΡΩΘΕΝΤΑ ΤΟ ΥΠΕΡ ΗΜΩΝ ΕΠΙ ΠΟΝΤΙΩΣ ΠΙΛΑΤΟΥ,
ΚΑΙ ΠΑΘΟΝΤΑ, ΚΑΙ ΤΑΦΕΝΤΑ...

Notable Nicea Attendees:

- Arius
 - Eusebius of Nicomedia
- Hosius of Cordoba (advisor)
- Alexander of Alexandria
 - Athanasius (deacon)

Deity of the Son

God



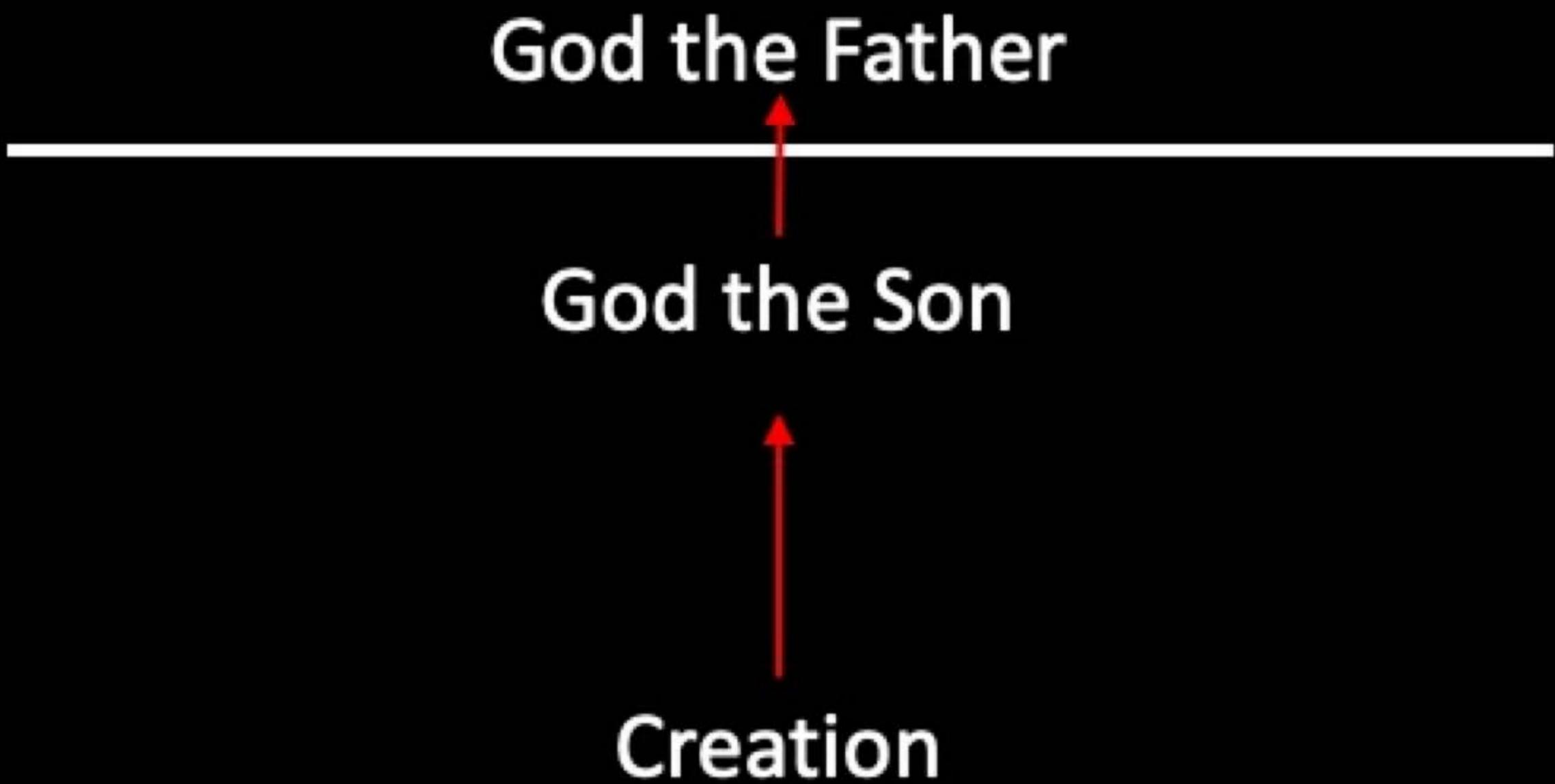
Creation

Arian View

God the Father

God the Son

Creation



Nicene Orthodoxy

God the Father
the Son

Creation

Nicene Orthodoxy

God the Father
the Son

Creation

Non-Biblical Language

Arians “were caught whispering to each other and winking with their eyes...”

“...But the bishops discerning in this too the dissimulation, were again compelled on their part to collect the sense of the Scriptures, and to re-say and re-write what they had said before, more distinctly still, namely, that the Son is ‘one in essence’ with the Father.” -
Athanasius

homousios

- “consubstantial”
- “coessential”
- “one in essence”

Conclusion

What is the Nicene Creed? -

Overview

I. Context

II. Council

III. Creed

Creed

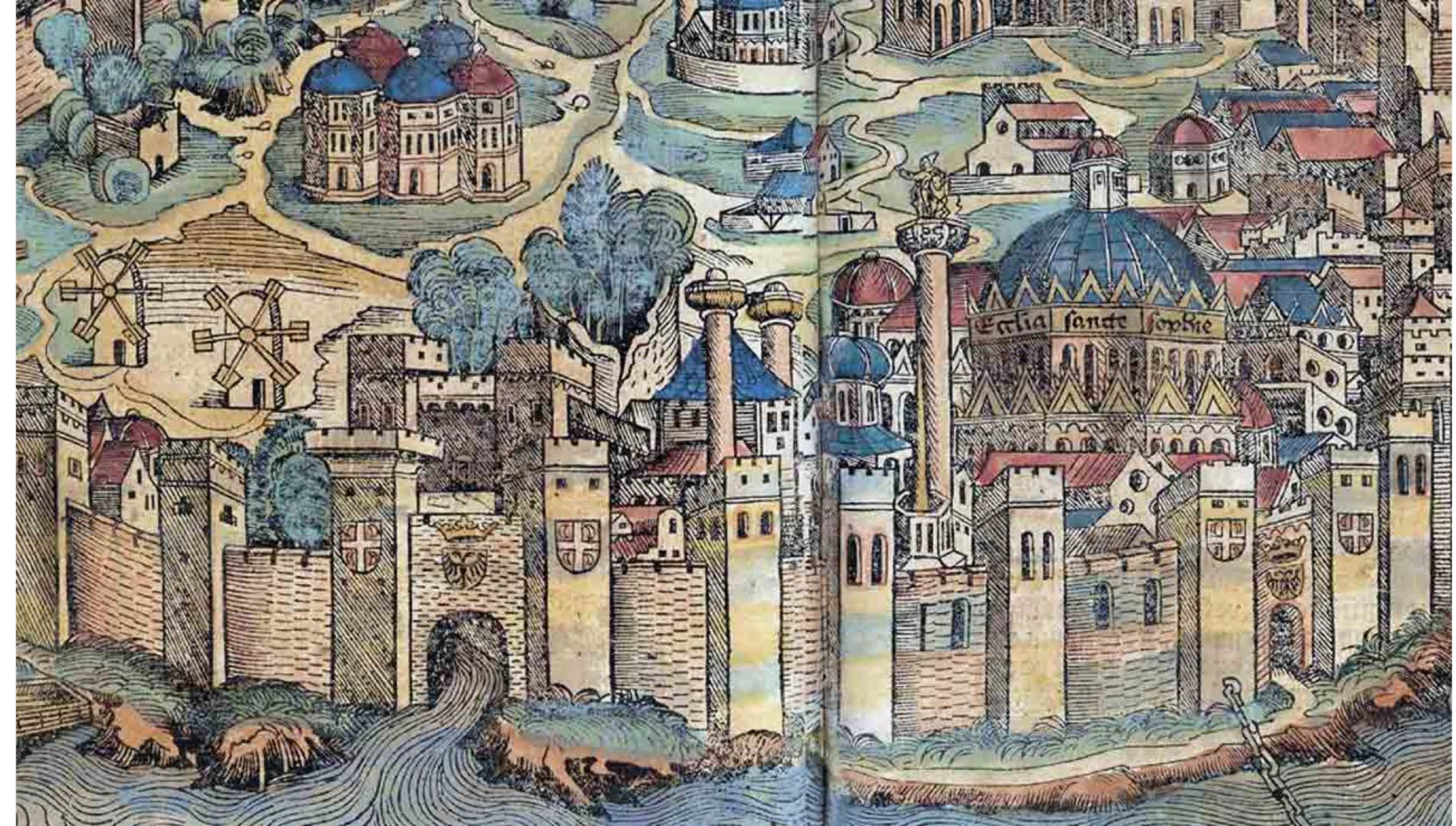
The Creed of Nicea

vs.

The "Niceno-Constantinopolitan"
Creed (the Nicene Creed)

The Creed of Nicea

The “Niceno-Constantinopolitan” Creed (The Nicene Creed)



Why does this matter?

1. 1700-year-old encouragement
2. Old tools that are still effective.
3. Another opportunity to cherish Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:12-14

John 1:1-18

God the Father
the Son

Creation