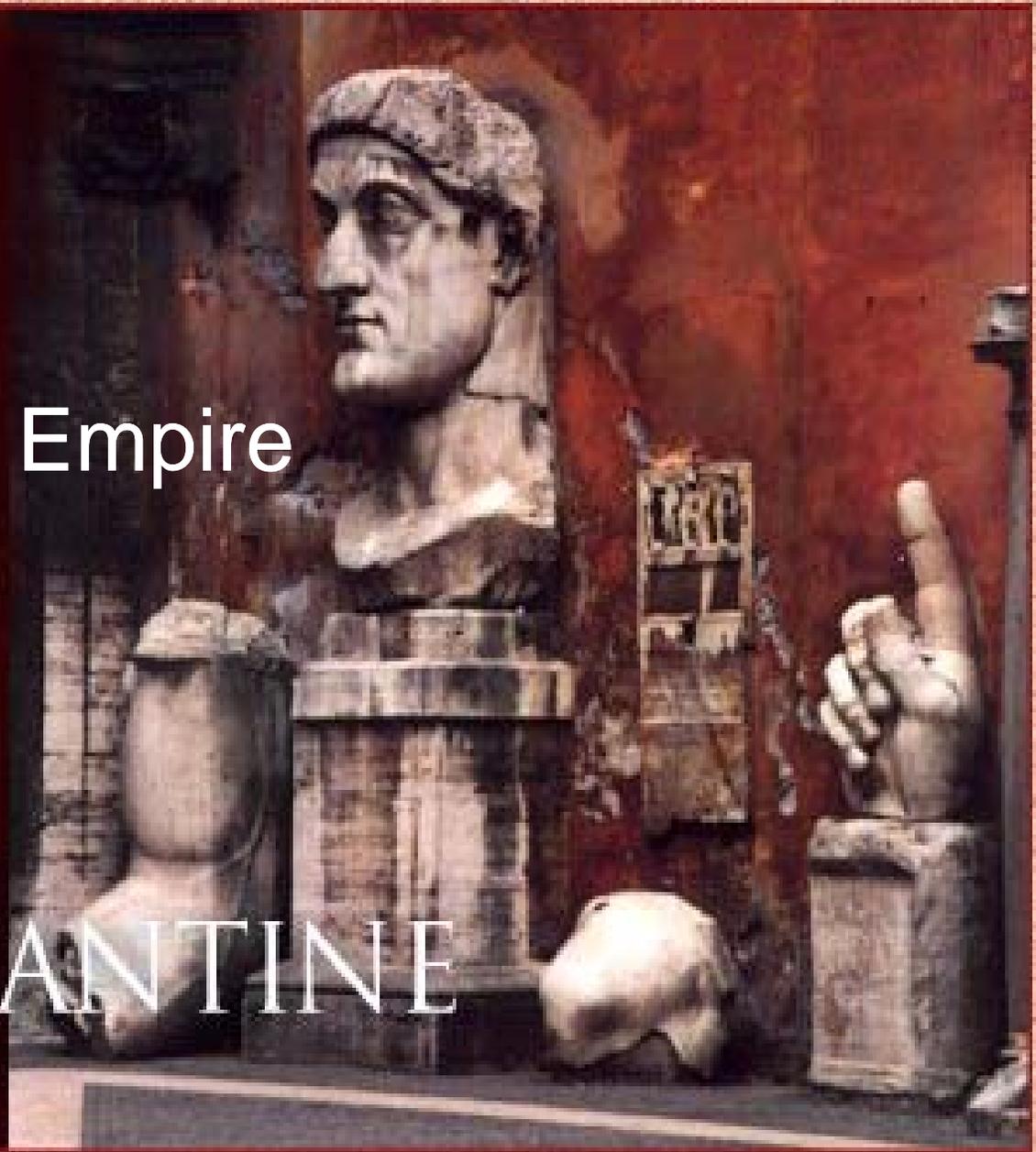
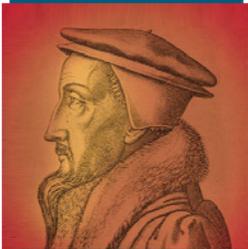
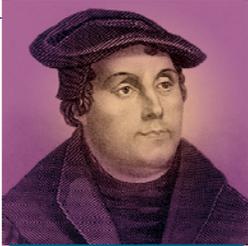
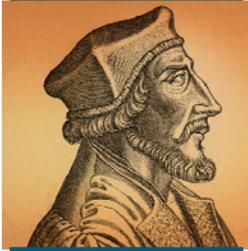
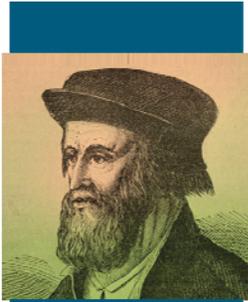


312-590 AD  
The Christian Empire

CONSTANTINE



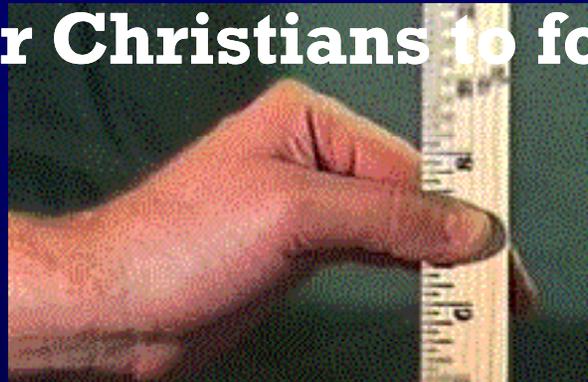


# Church History in Plain Language

30-70	Jesus and the Apostles
70-312	Catholic Christianity
312-590	Christian Empire
590-1517	Middle Ages
1517-1648	Reformation
1648-1789	Reason and Revival
1789-1914	Progress
1914-2008	Ideologies

# Christianity and Gnosticism

- How did Christians respond to Gnosticism?
  - 1. A list of authoritative writings (a “canon”) for Christians to follow.



- “**Canon**” was a Greek word that meant “**measuring stick.**”

## Christianity and Gnosticism

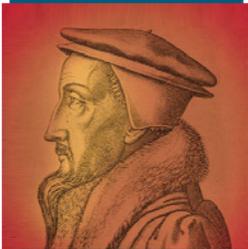
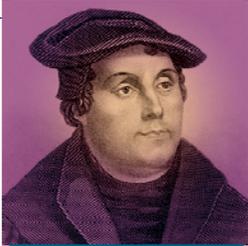
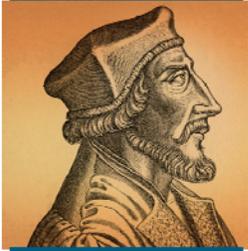
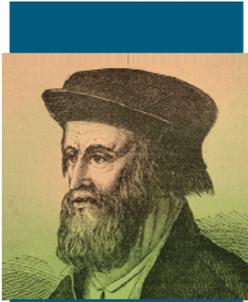
- Christians asked **three questions** about Christian writings that could have been included in the canon:
  - 1 **Is the book connected to an apostle?**
  - 2 **Do churches throughout the world use the book?**
  - 3 **Does the book agree with what we already know about God?**



# Christianity and Gnosticism

- **How did Christians respond to Gnosticism?**
  - 1. A list of authoritative writings (a “canon”) for Christians to follow.
  - 2. The Rule of Faith
  - 3. More powerful overseers

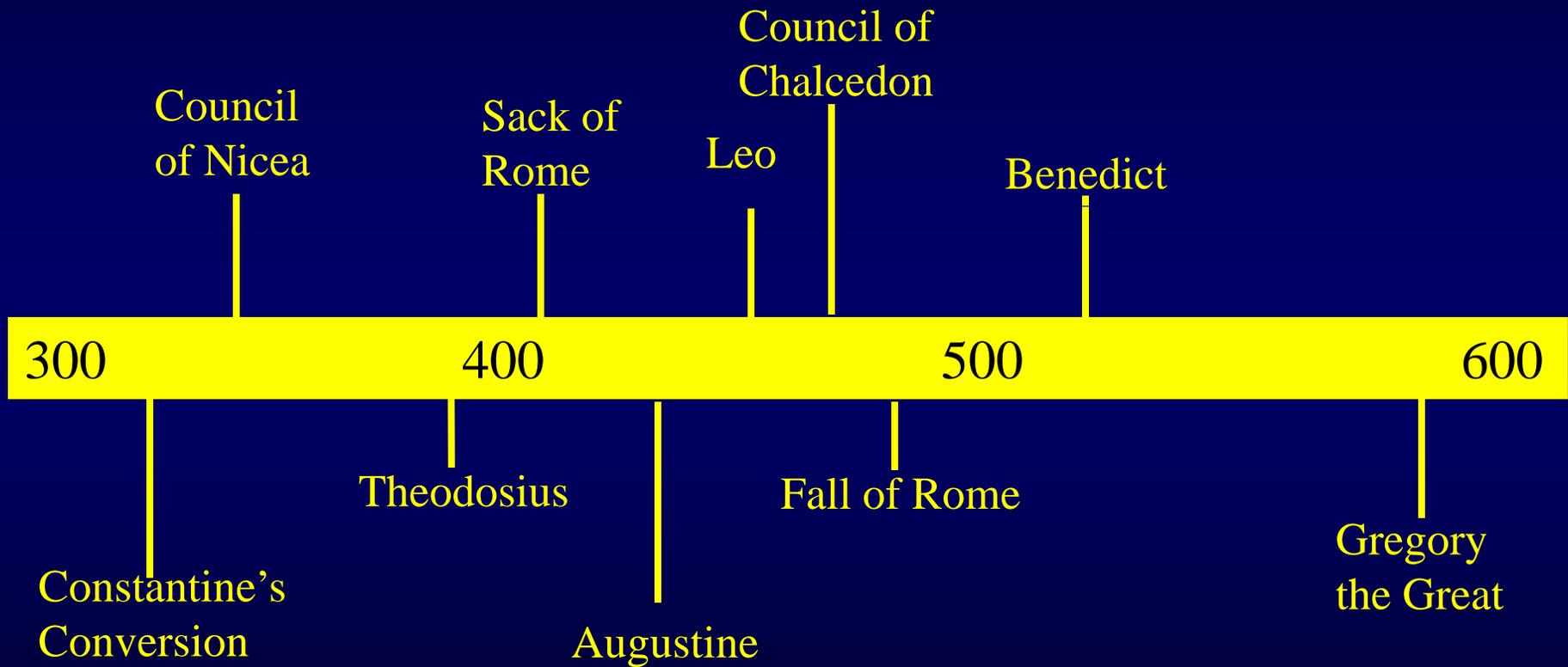




# Church History in Plain Language

30-70	Jesus and the Apostles
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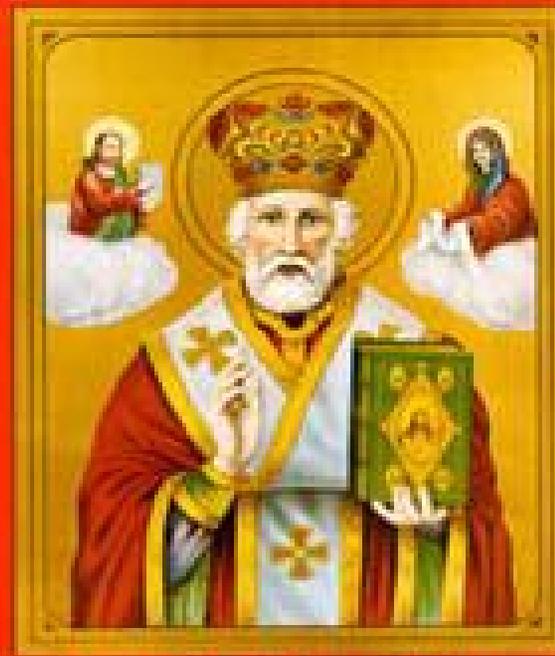
# AD 312-590 Christian Roman Empire



# Persecutions

- When **Diocletian** became emperor in AD 284, Christians experienced severe **empire-wide persecution.**

**St. Nicholas of Myra—**  
better known as “**Santa Claus**”—  
was imprisoned during **Diocletian’s** reign.



Saint Nicholas of Myra  
*“More Blessed to Give than to Receive”*

# Persecutions

- On his deathbed, **Emperor Galerius legalized Christianity**, as long as ...

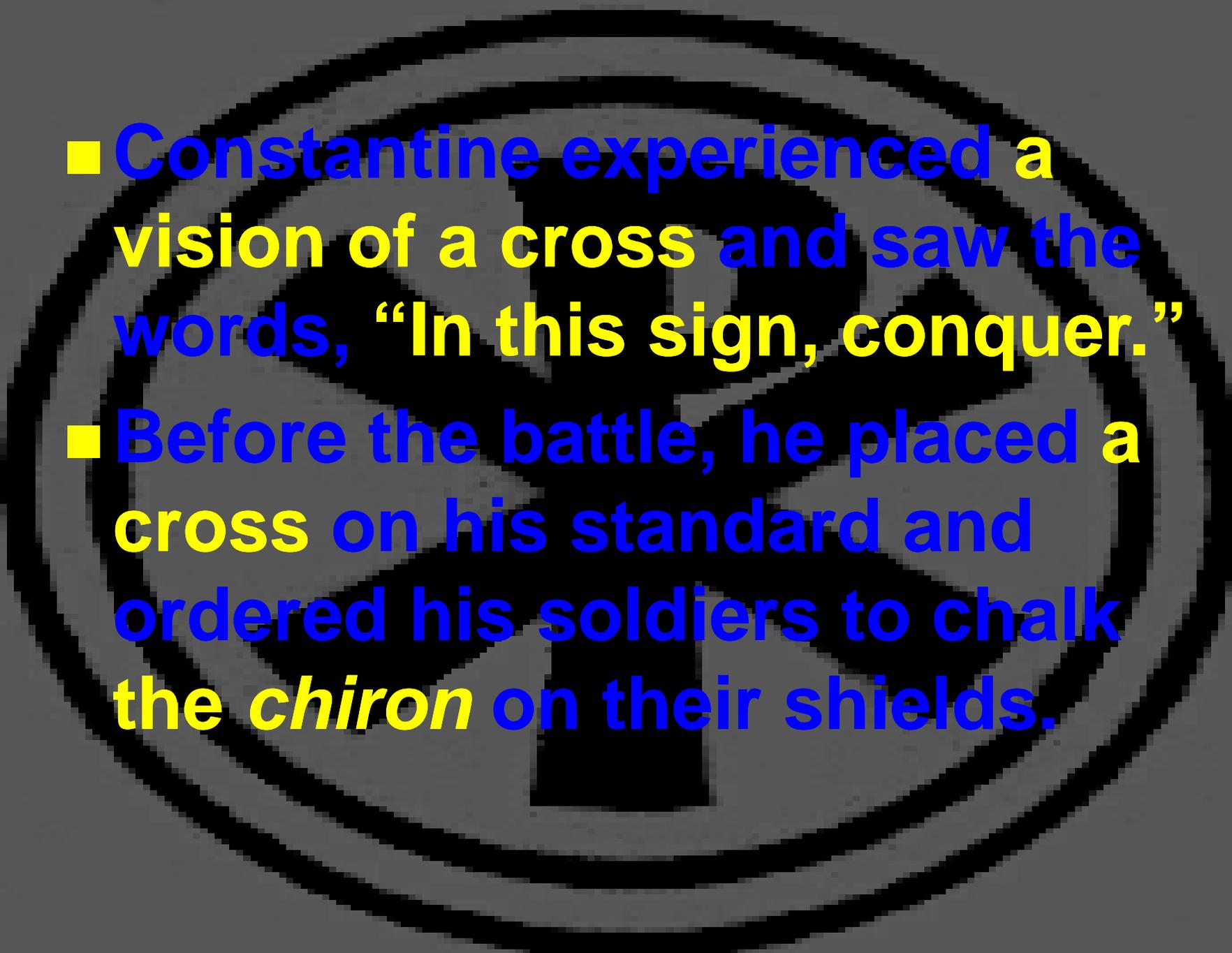
***“... they don't disturb the public order. May they ask their deity for our well-being and for that of the state.”***

# Constantine

- After the death of Galerius, **Constantine and Maxentius** fought for control of the Roman Empire.
- In AD 312, Maxentius retreated to **Rome** as Constantine approached with his army.

CONSTANTINE



- 
- Constantine experienced a vision of a cross and saw the words, “In this sign, conquer.”
  - Before the battle, he placed a cross on his standard and ordered his soldiers to chalk the *chiron* on their shields.



# Constantine

- One year after the Battle of Milvian Bridge, **Constantine** issued **the Edict of Milan**, legalizing Christianity throughout the Roman Empire.

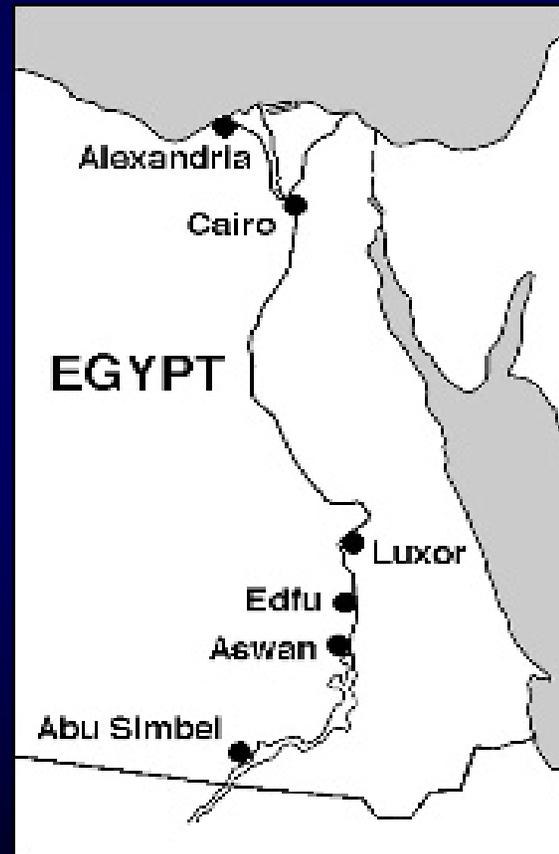


## THE EDICT OF MILAN

**“Our purpose is to allow Christians and all others to worship as they desire, so that whatever Divinity lives in the heavens will be kind to us.”**

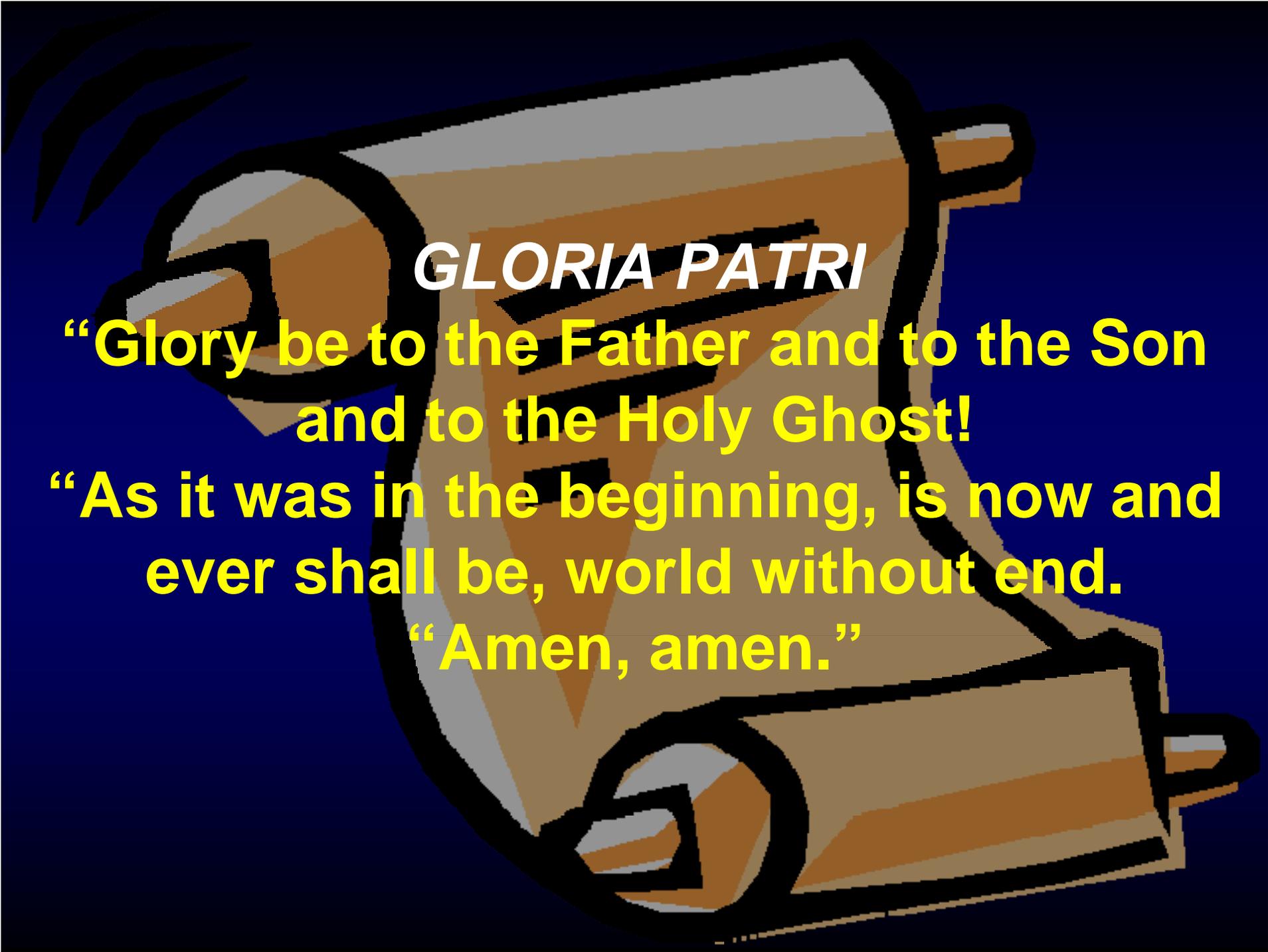
# Arius

- **Arius** was an elder in a church in Alexandria, Egypt.
- Around AD 320, Arius began to teach that **Jesus was a created being**, not fully divine.



# Arius

- The followers of Arius sang, “**There was a time when the Son did not exist!**”
- Those who disagreed with Arius expressed their beliefs in a song that Christians still sing—***Gloria Patri.***



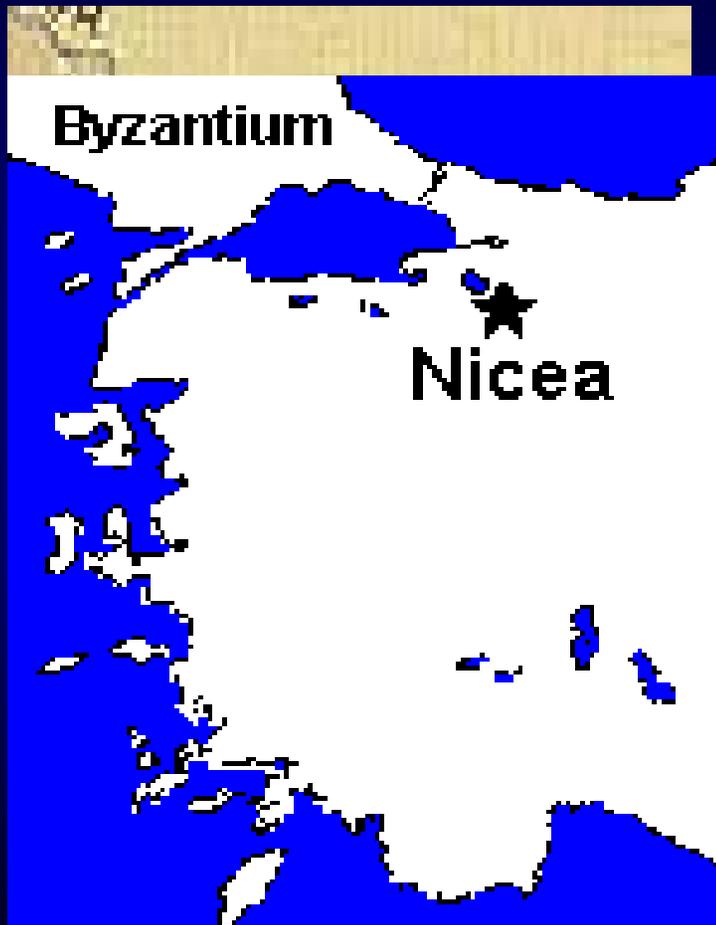
***GLORIA PATRI***

**“Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost!**

**“As it was in the beginning, is now and  
ever shall be, world without end.**

**“Amen, amen.”**

# Council of Nicea



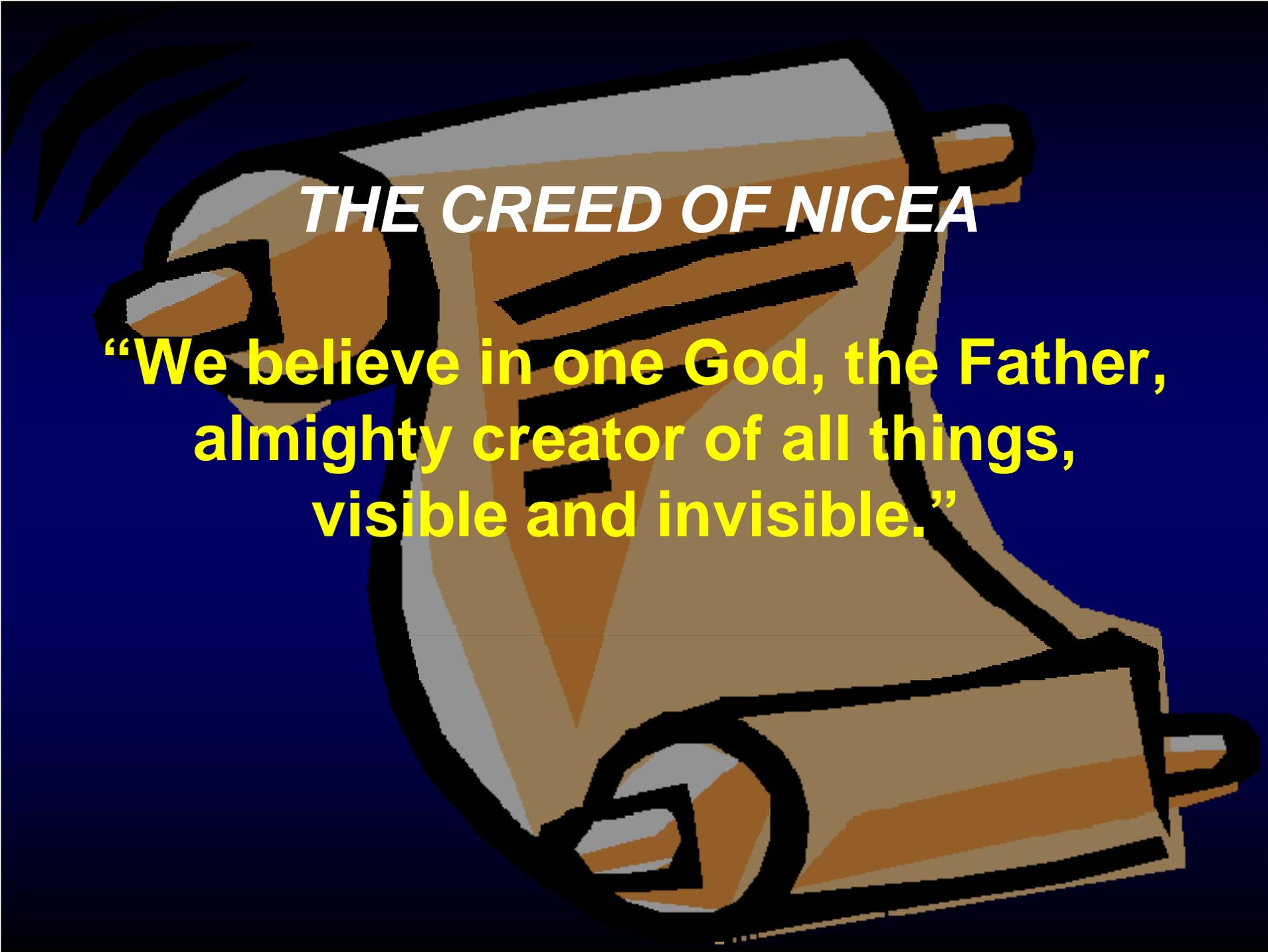
- To end the strife in the churches, **Emperor Constantine** convened a church-wide council.
- Constantine invited **every overseer** in the known world to gather in **Nicea**, a village in Asia Minor.

# Council of Nicea

- On July 4, 325, **three hundred overseers and 2,000 elders and deacons** met Emperor Constantine in Nicea.
- In less than three centuries, the church moved from **a persecuted minority to the favored religion** of the Roman Empire.

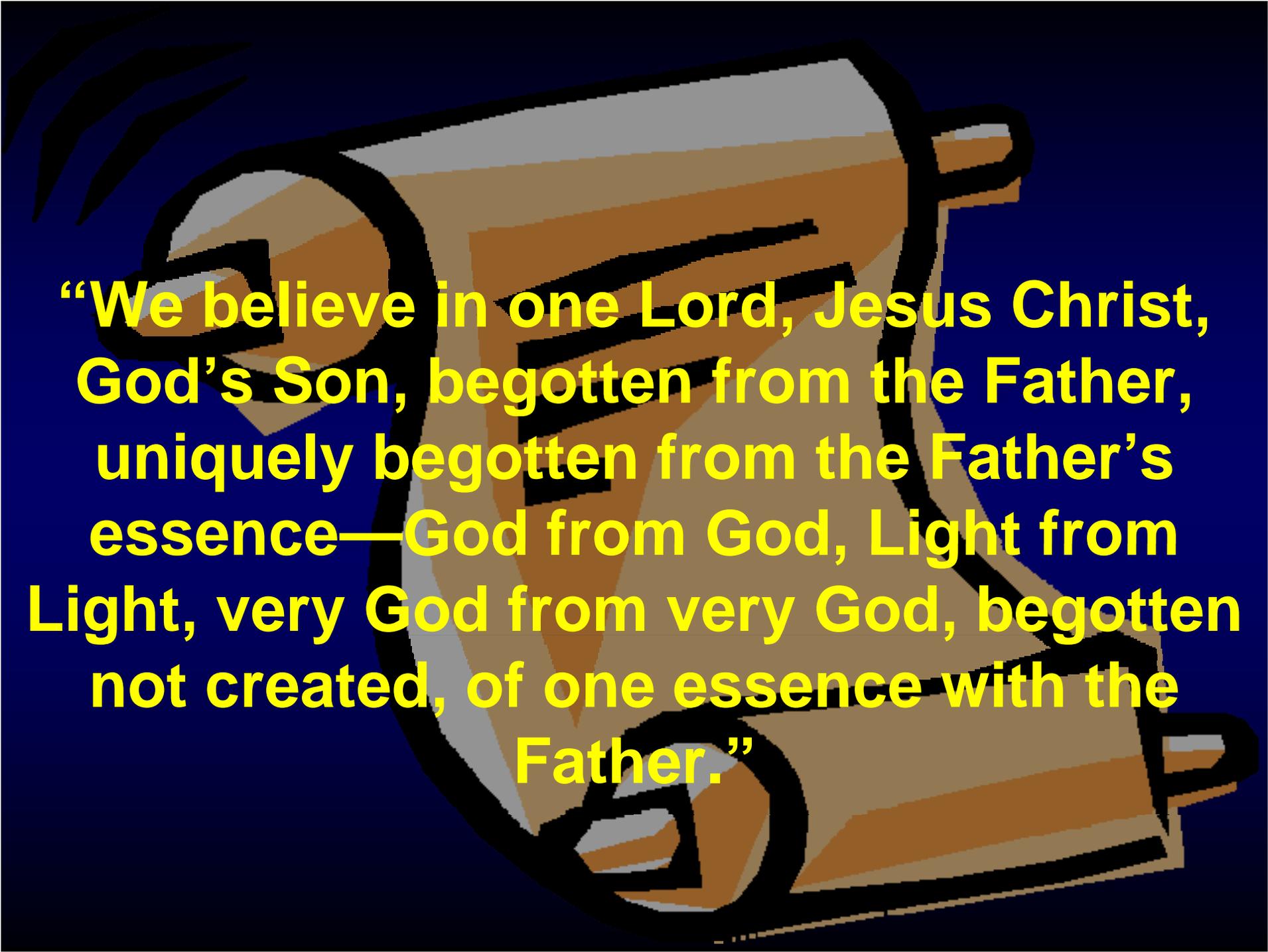
# Council of Nicea

- Most overseers at the Council of Nicea recognized that **Arius's teachings were false.**
- To clarify the church's beliefs about God, **the Council of Nicea** formulated **the Creed of Nicea.**

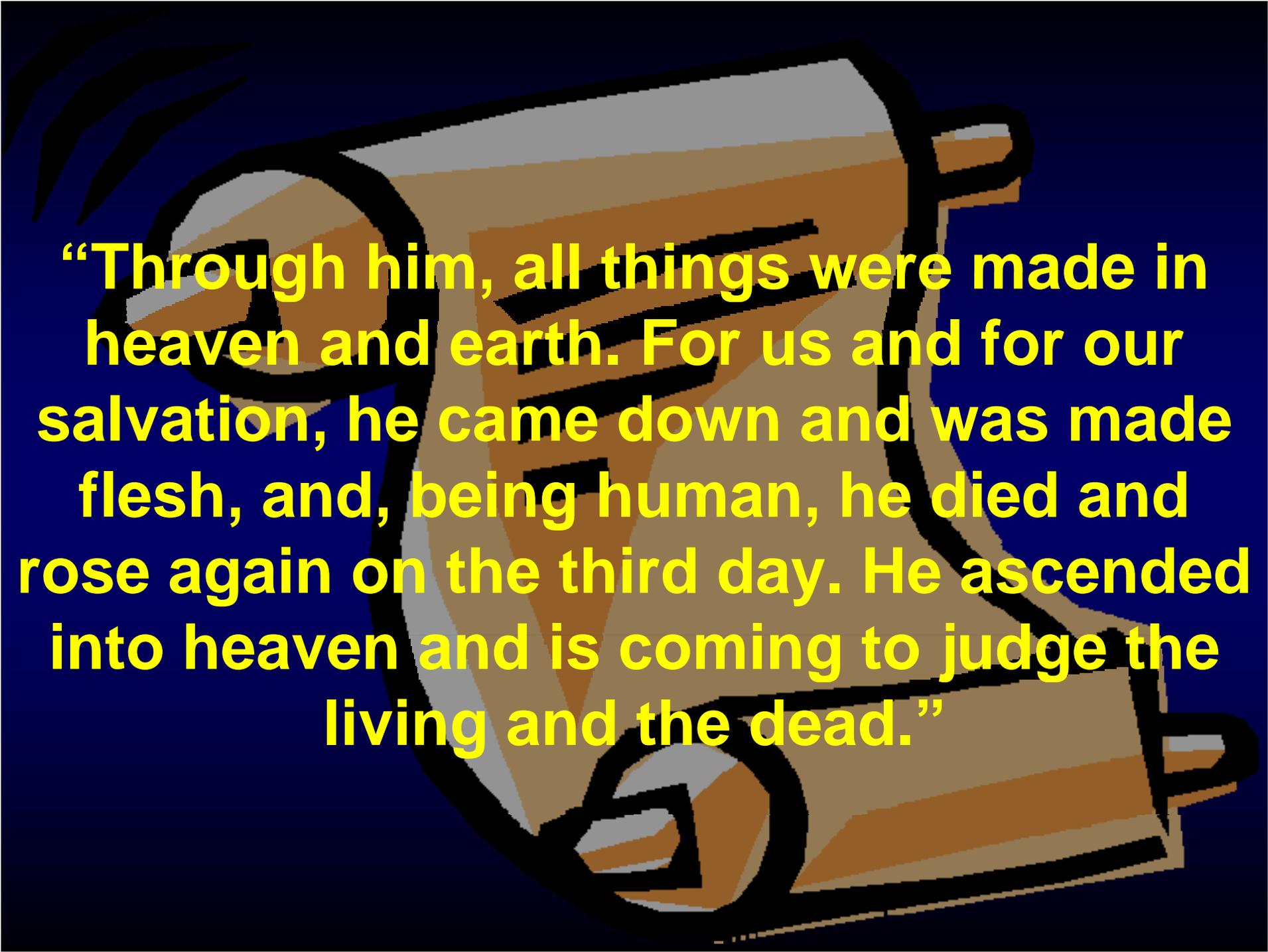


***THE CREED OF NICEA***

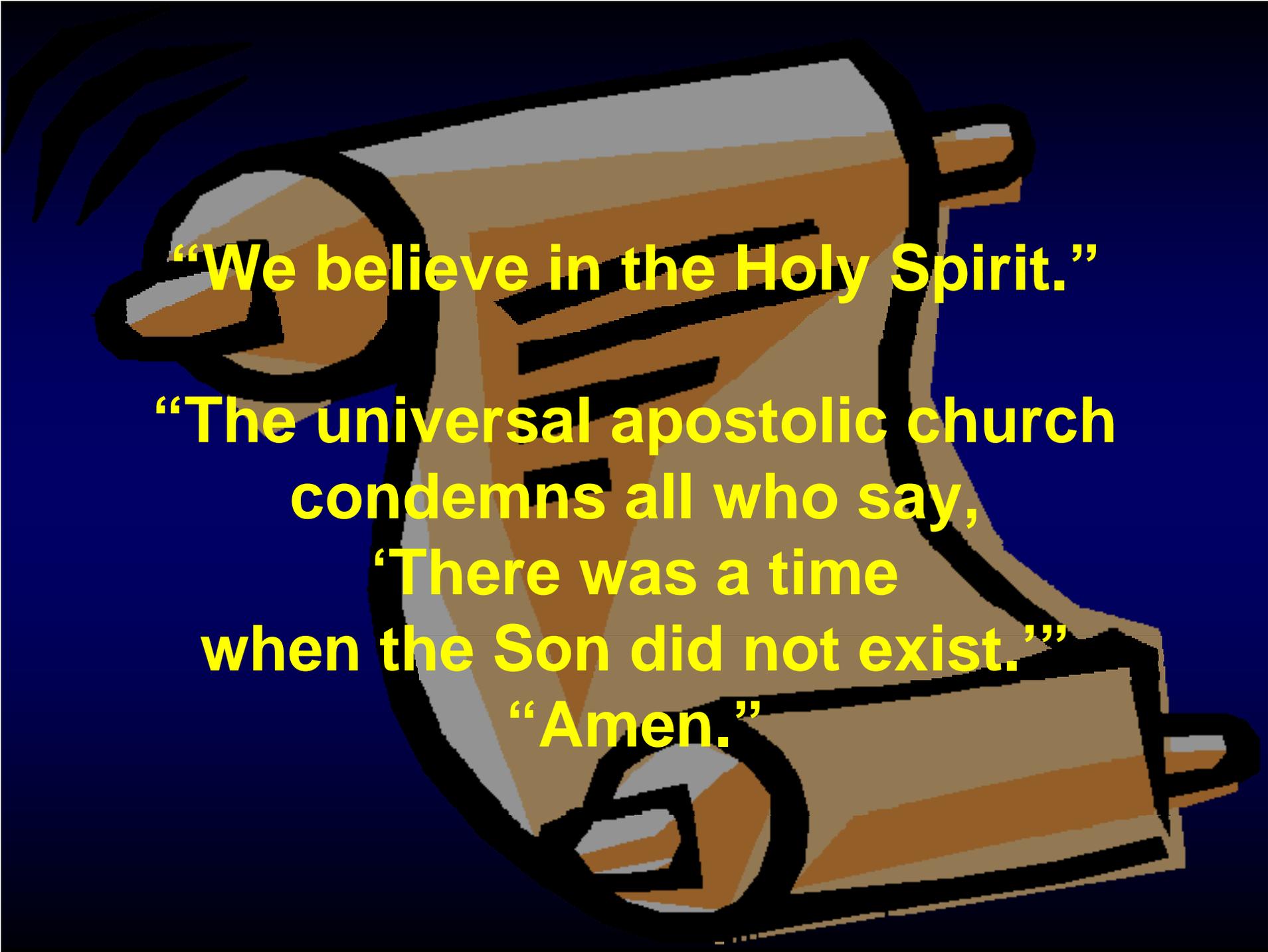
**“We believe in one God, the Father,  
almighty creator of all things,  
visible and invisible.”**



**“We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
God’s Son, begotten from the Father,  
uniquely begotten from the Father’s  
essence—God from God, Light from  
Light, very God from very God, begotten  
not created, of one essence with the  
Father.”**



**“Through him, all things were made in heaven and earth. For us and for our salvation, he came down and was made flesh, and, being human, he died and rose again on the third day. He ascended into heaven and is coming to judge the living and the dead.”**



**“We believe in the Holy Spirit.”**

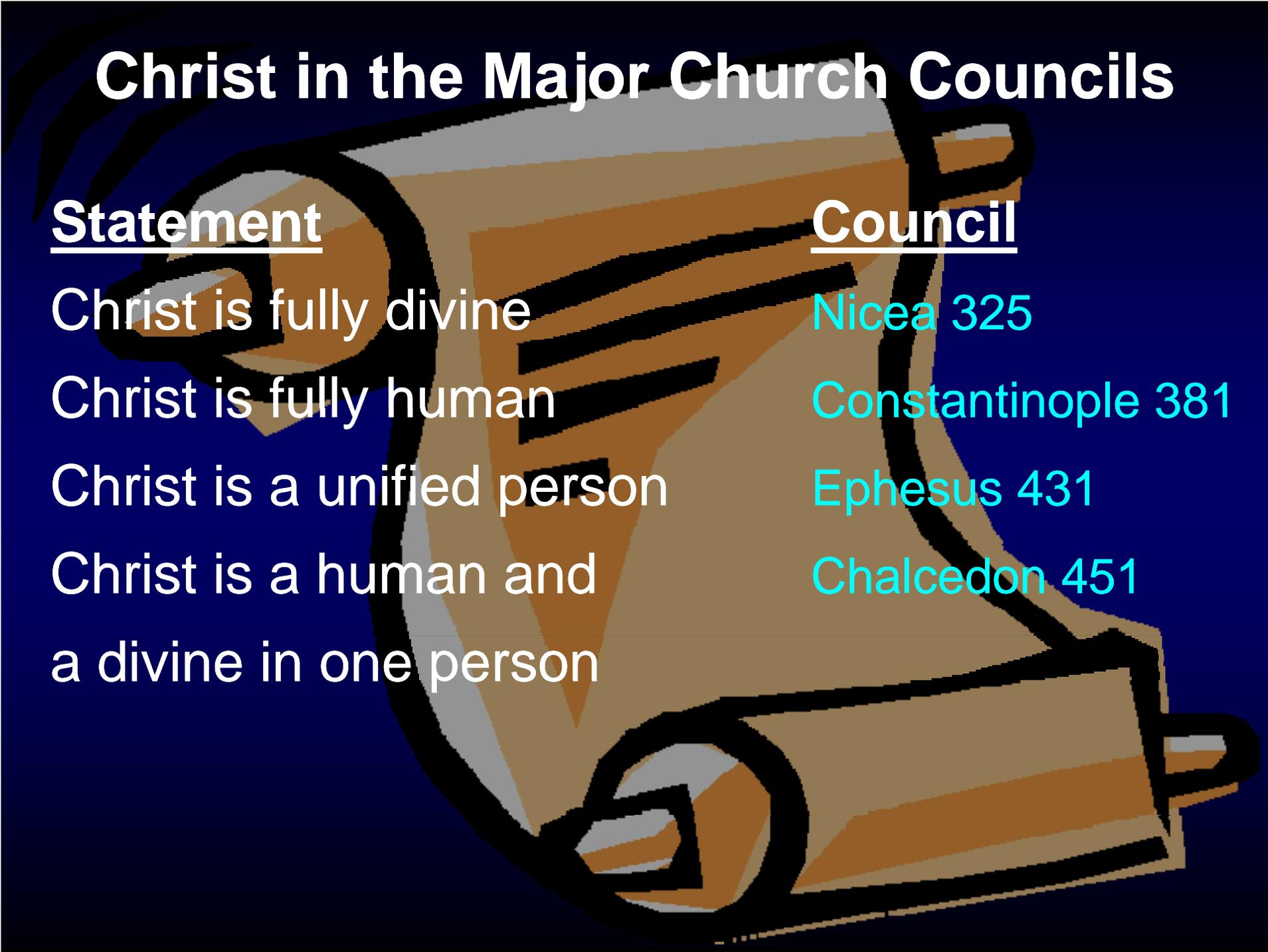
**“The universal apostolic church  
condemns all who say,  
‘There was a time  
when the Son did not exist.’”**

**“Amen.”**

# Council of Nicea

- After the Council of Nicea, **the emperor exiled Arius and two overseers** who refused to sign the Creed of Nicea.
- For the first time, **the power of the Empire was used to enforce the church's beliefs.**

# Christ in the Major Church Councils



## Statement

Christ is fully divine

Christ is fully human

Christ is a unified person

Christ is a human and  
a divine in one person

## Council

Nicea 325

Constantinople 381

Ephesus 431

Chalcedon 451

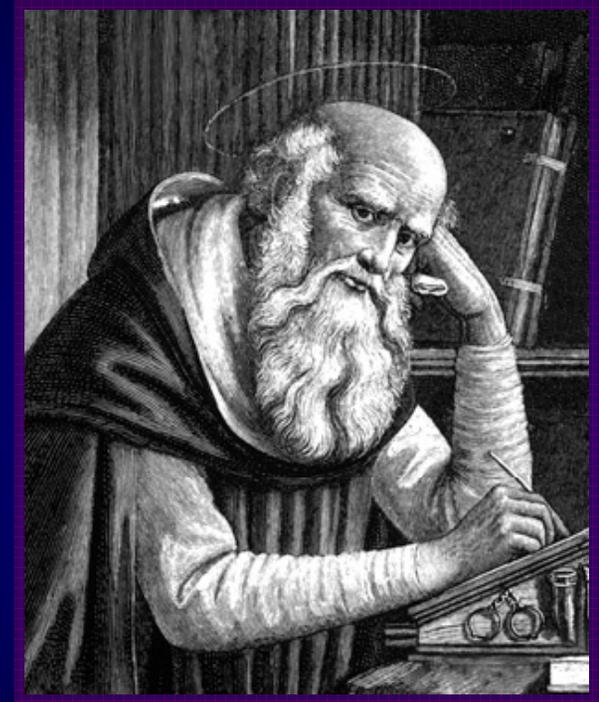
# Monks

- As Christianity became more popular, many Christians who wanted **deeper relationships with God** formed **isolated communities in the deserts**.
- These Christians—who typically vowed to remain celibate for life—became known as **“monks”** and **“nuns”** (from the Latin word for “alone”).

AD 400

# Jerome

Jerome starts translating the Scriptures into Latin in AD 410 and finishes 25 years later. This translation, called the Latin Vulgate, remains the basic Bible for many centuries.



Jerome



1500 BC

500 BC

AD 1

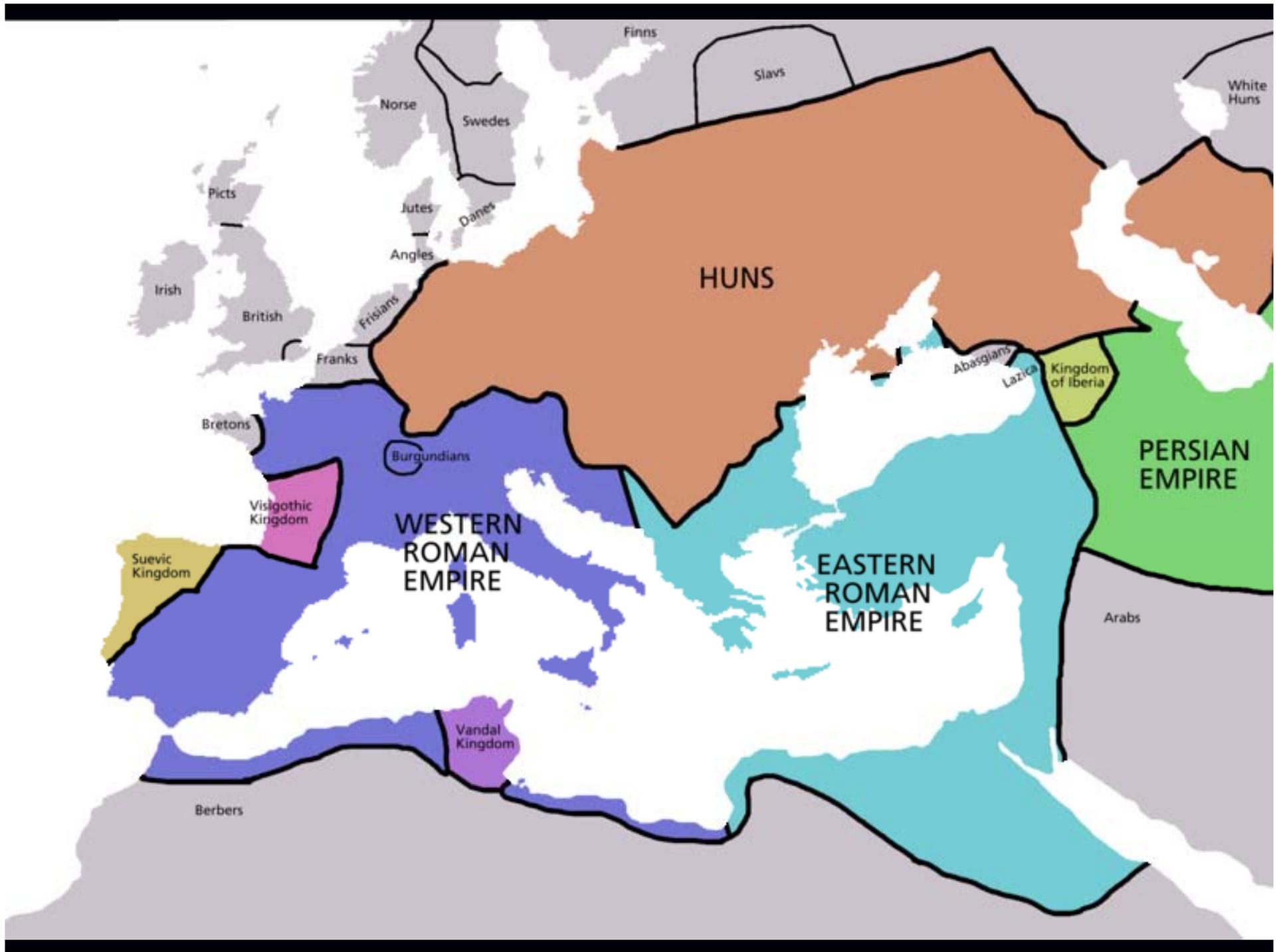
AD 500

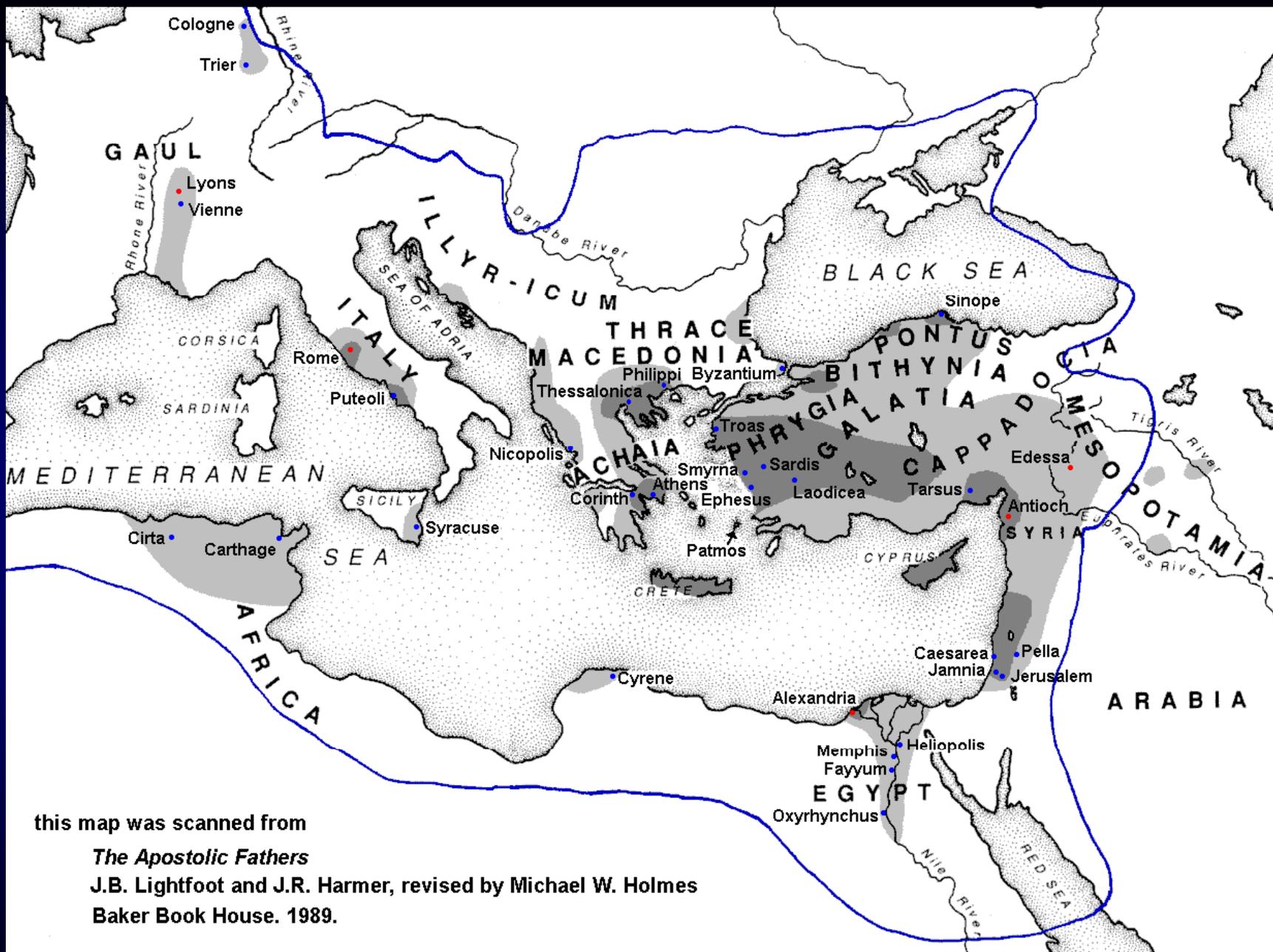
AD 1000

AD 1500

AD 1900

AD 2000



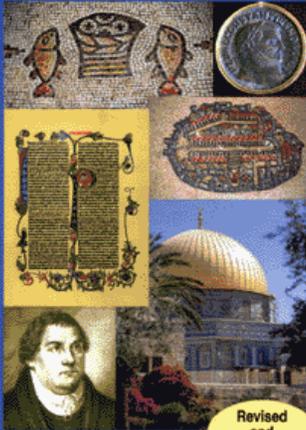


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*The Apostolic Fathers*  
J.B. Lightfoot and J.R. Harmer, revised by Michael W. Holmes  
Baker Book House. 1989.

# Recommended Resources

13 Weeks to a Better Understanding of Church History

## CHRISTIAN HISTORY MADE EASY



- Key events and people every Christian should know
- From the time of Jesus to today
- How the Bible came to us
- Time lines, worksheets, websites
- Photos, maps, and illustrations
- 13 Lessons with Leader's Guide
- For churches, schools, small groups, homeschoolers & individuals

by Dr. Timothy Paul Jones

Foreword by Dr. A. Kenneth Curtis  
and Mark Galli, Managing Editor, Christianity Today

*"Here you have a beautifully simple,  
beginner-friendly telling of Christian  
history: a precious heritage."  
—J.I. Packer*

Revised  
and  
updated

100 Fascinating Events in Church History

## Christian History Time Line



ROSE  
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