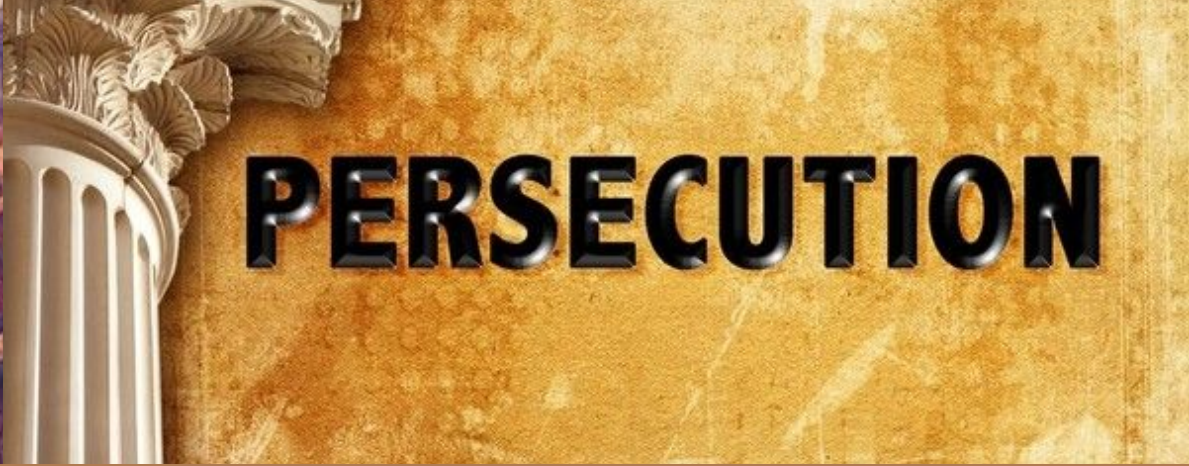




# The holy church up to 5 th century

Persecutions, Synods





## Persecutions

Christianity started spreading outside of Jerusalem following martyrdom of St.Stephen.The Christians faced persecution from both Jews and Romans.

Stoning of St.Stephen is depicted in the picture here..



## Jewish persecution

Did not like something different from their religion growing among them.

Jewish people martyred many christians and apostles.

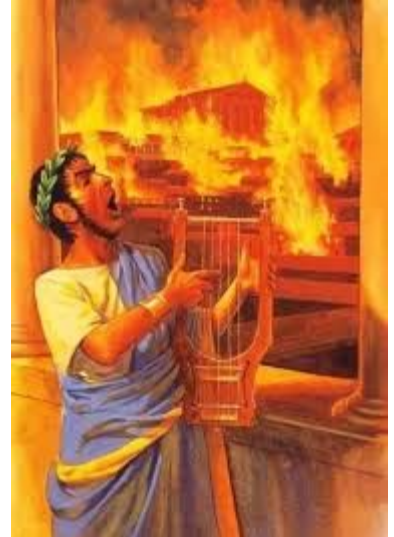
# Roman Persecution

The main persecutors were Nero, Domitian, Trajan, Antoninus Pius, Marcus Aurelius etc.

Christians faced the worst of the persecution from Romans.

Persecutions did not weaken the church rather strengthen the faith and unity of church.

A picture of Emperor Nero playing the fiddle while Rome burned. (Great fire of Rome 64 AD).



# What provoked the Romans?

---

They thought Christians are not obedient to Roman Gods and emperors.

Christians refused to offer sacrifice to Roman Gods.

Unwillingness of christians for military services.

They thought Christians practising cannibalism in worship(The symbolic practice of eating the flesh and drinking the blood of Christ in worship).

---

# Who ended the persecution

MILAN proclamation by  
Emperor Constantine ended  
Christian Persecution.

Also called Edict of Milan in AD  
313.

Established religious toleration  
of Christians in Roman  
Empire..



# Challenges to Christian faith

Emergence of various 'isms' such as

Gnosticism-Salvation through knowledge(Gnostics believed God did not create the world).

Montanism:A heretical movement found by Montanus in 2 nd century.Mountainists believed in spontaneity of Holy spirit.

Schism:A split within church based on belief when persecution happens.

Manikkianism:Body and activities of body are evil.

Monarchianism:Denied trinity of God.

# Universal Synods

Orthodox churches have accepted first 3 holy synods aimed to deal with disturbances within church.

1.The Synod of Nicea

2.The Synod of Constantinople

3.The Synod Of Ephesus.





# Synod Of Nicea

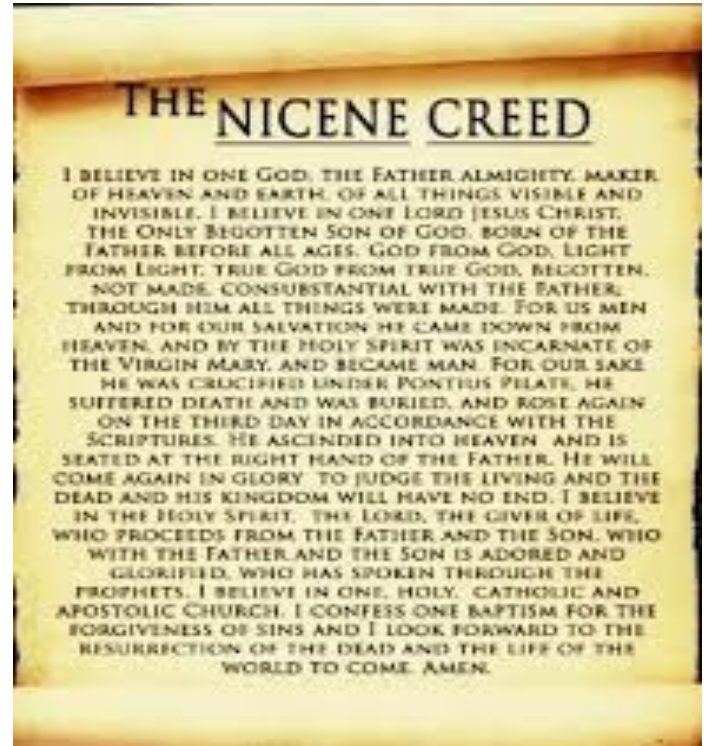
First Synod of the church.

Convened by Emperor Constantine the Great in AD 325.

318 church fathers attended.

Rejected the teachings of Arians.

Formated the first two paragraphs of Nicene creed along with few canons.



# Arian's teachings

Son(Jesus) and Father are not equal.

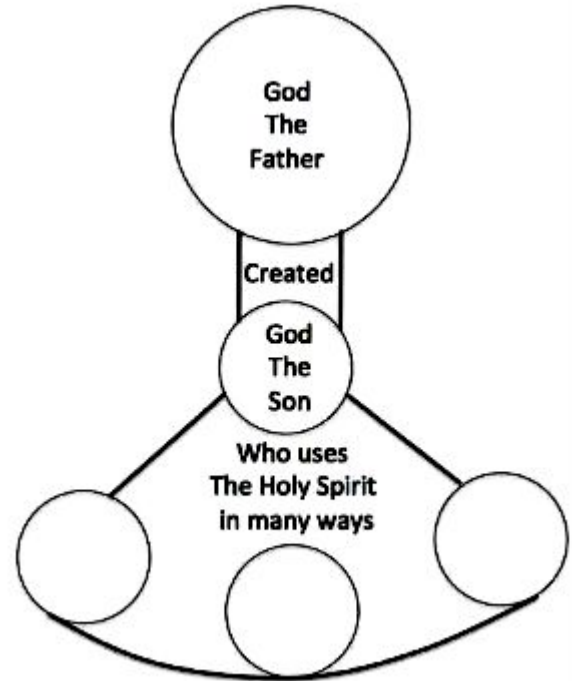
Son and Holy spirit are not absolutely God.

Son is not created eternal.

There was a time when the son was non-existent.

Father is the only real God so son is neither complete God or complete man.

Nicea council rejected these claims



# Synod of Constantinople

Convened in AD 381

Reaffirmed the resolutions of Nicea and modified the faith.

Convened by Emperor Theodosius.

150 church fathers participated.

Rejected the teachings of Apollinaris and Bishop of Constantinople(Macedonianism)





# The heretics

Apollinarianism:

Jesus could not have a human mind

Jesus had a human body but a divine mind

Jesus was a complete God.

Macedonianism:

Holy spirit is not God

Holy spirit is subordinate to Father and Son

# This is what we christians believe in

## Apostle's Creed

*(Nicea 325 AD)*

I believe in God,  
the Father Almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ,  
His only Son, our Lord:  
Who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,  
of the Virgin Mary,  
under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He arose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty,  
whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.

## Nicene Creed

*(Constantinople 381 AD)*

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth,  
*of all that is, seen and unseen.*

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
*eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
one in Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.*

*For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he was born of the Virgin Mary,  
and became man.*

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day he rose again  
in fulfillment of the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
*and his kingdom will have no end.*

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
*who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.*

We believe in ONE HOLY CATHOLIC and APOSTOLIC Church.

We acknowledge *one baptism* for the forgiveness of sins,  
*We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.*

# Synod of Ephesus

Held in AD 431.

Convened by Emperor Theodosius 2.

198 participants from different churches.

Rejected the teachings of Nestorius, Patriarch of Constantinople.

Declared Virgin Mary as Theotokos (Mother of God).

Nestorianism:

Emphasized there is a distinction between human and divine nature of Jesus.

Virgin Mary should be addressed as mother of Christ not Theotokos.

## In summary what we believe?(Few key points)

We believe in one true God, the Holy Trinity(One God in three divine persons).

Father,son and holy spirit present at the time of creation of the world and taken on different roles.

The human and divine nature of Jesus are not separate but one.

Virgin Mary is the mother of God(Theotokos).